



**GUIDE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELORS
2024-25**

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ELIGIBILITY CENTER

Information

Visit

eligibilitycenter.org
ncaa.org/playcollegesports

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Contact

High School Administrators Only
877-622-2321, Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

College-Bound Student-Athletes Only
U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):
877-262-1492, Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

International (including Quebec):
on.ncaa.com/intlcontact

Certification Processing

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7110

Overnight Delivery

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Have a question about NCAA eligibility?

- » Read this guide.
- » Search frequently asked questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- » Check the Help section of eligibilitycenter.org.
- » Visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
- » Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.

What is the NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. Over 1,000 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. These schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support more than 500,000 college athletes who make up over 20,000 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA's diverse members include schools ranging in size from hundreds of students to tens of thousands. The NCAA's current three-division structure was adopted in 1973 to create a fair playing field for teams from similar schools and provide college athletes more opportunities to participate in national championships.

Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies, manage the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community. The Division III experience offers participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

To learn more about the pathways, visit on.ncaa.com/3divisions.

Are initial-eligibility standards similar in all three divisions?

Division I and II schools require students to meet academic and amateurism standards and be certified by the Eligibility Center. While Division III schools set their own academic standards on campus, the Eligibility Center certifies the amateur status of Division III **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers). All other Division III student-athletes are certified on campus.

NCAA FACTS

1906

Year established

1,073

Active schools

355

Active Division I members

293

Active Division II members

425

Active Division III members



NCAA Sports

The NCAA conducts 90 national championships in 24 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 45 championships for women, 42 for men and three coed national championships. Nearly 54,000 student-athletes participate in NCAA championships each year.

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness® basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle and skiing, the NCAA administers championships to ensure student-athletes have a first-class experience. But the NCAA is also committed to quality events for everyone involved, from the coaches to the fans and broadcast audiences.

It is important to the NCAA that our championships have a positive impact on the communities that host them. The NCAA hosts youth clinics and various fan events to complement the competition – creating a championship experience for everyone involved.

FALL SPORTS		WINTER SPORTS		SPRING SPORTS		EMERGING SPORTS
MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	WOMEN:
Cross Country	Cross Country	Basketball	Basketball	Baseball	Beach Volleyball	Acrobatics and Tumbling
Football	Field Hockey	Fencing	Bowling	Golf	Golf	Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
Soccer	Soccer	Gymnastics	Fencing	Lacrosse	Lacrosse	Rugby
Water Polo	Volleyball	Ice Hockey	Gymnastics	Outdoor Track and Field	Outdoor Track and Field	Stunt
		Indoor Track and Field	Ice Hockey and Field	Tennis	Rowing	Triathlon
		Rifle	Rifle	Volleyball	Softball	Wrestling
		Skiing	Skiing		Tennis	
		Swimming and Diving	Swimming and Diving		Water Polo	
		Wrestling				



Scholarships

NCAA Division I and II schools provide nearly \$4 billion in athletics scholarships annually to 197,000 student-athletes. (**Division III schools** do not offer athletics scholarships.)

Division I schools may provide a student with a multiyear scholarship. **Division II schools** may only provide a student with a one-year scholarship. Additionally, Division I and II schools may provide funding for degree completion to finish a bachelor's or master's degree after the student's time playing NCAA sports ends.

If a school plans to reduce or not renew a student's aid, the school must notify the student in writing by July 1 before the start of the impacted school year and provide an opportunity for the student to appeal. In most cases, the head coach













decides who receives a scholarship, the scholarship amount and whether it will be renewed.

Many student-athletes also benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs, and need-based aid such as **federal Pell Grants**. A student must report all financial aid they receive to their NCAA school's financial aid office. If students have questions about what financial aid can be accepted, they should contact their NCAA school's financial aid office or athletics department for more detailed information about NCAA financial aid rules.



Our Three Divisions

The NCAA's three divisions were created in 1973 to align like-minded campuses in the areas of fairness, competition and opportunity.

DIVISION	 DIVISION I	 DIVISION II <i>MAKE IT YOURS</i>	 DIVISION III <i>DISCOVER DEVELOP DEDICATE</i>
ACTIVE SCHOOLS*	355 (32%)	293 (27%)	425 (39%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,883	2,169	1,617
STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES	1 in 23 	1 in 7 	1 in 5 
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19	17	19
PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION	 37%	 24%	 38%
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS	Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available. 59% of athletes receive athletics aid.	Partial athletics scholarship model. 64% of athletes receive athletics aid.	No athletics scholarships. 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid.
DID YOU KNOW?	 Division I student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.	 Division II is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.	 Division III's largest school has 28,692 undergraduates. <i>The smallest? 270.</i>

*The number of schools for each division is current as of the 2024-25 academic year. All other figures are based on 2023-24 data. Percentages shown for schools and student-athletes represent numbers at active NCAA schools, so they do not add up to 100%.

How is each division governed?

NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own divisions. Groups of presidents and chancellors lead each division in the form of committees with regularly scheduled meetings. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/governance.

What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

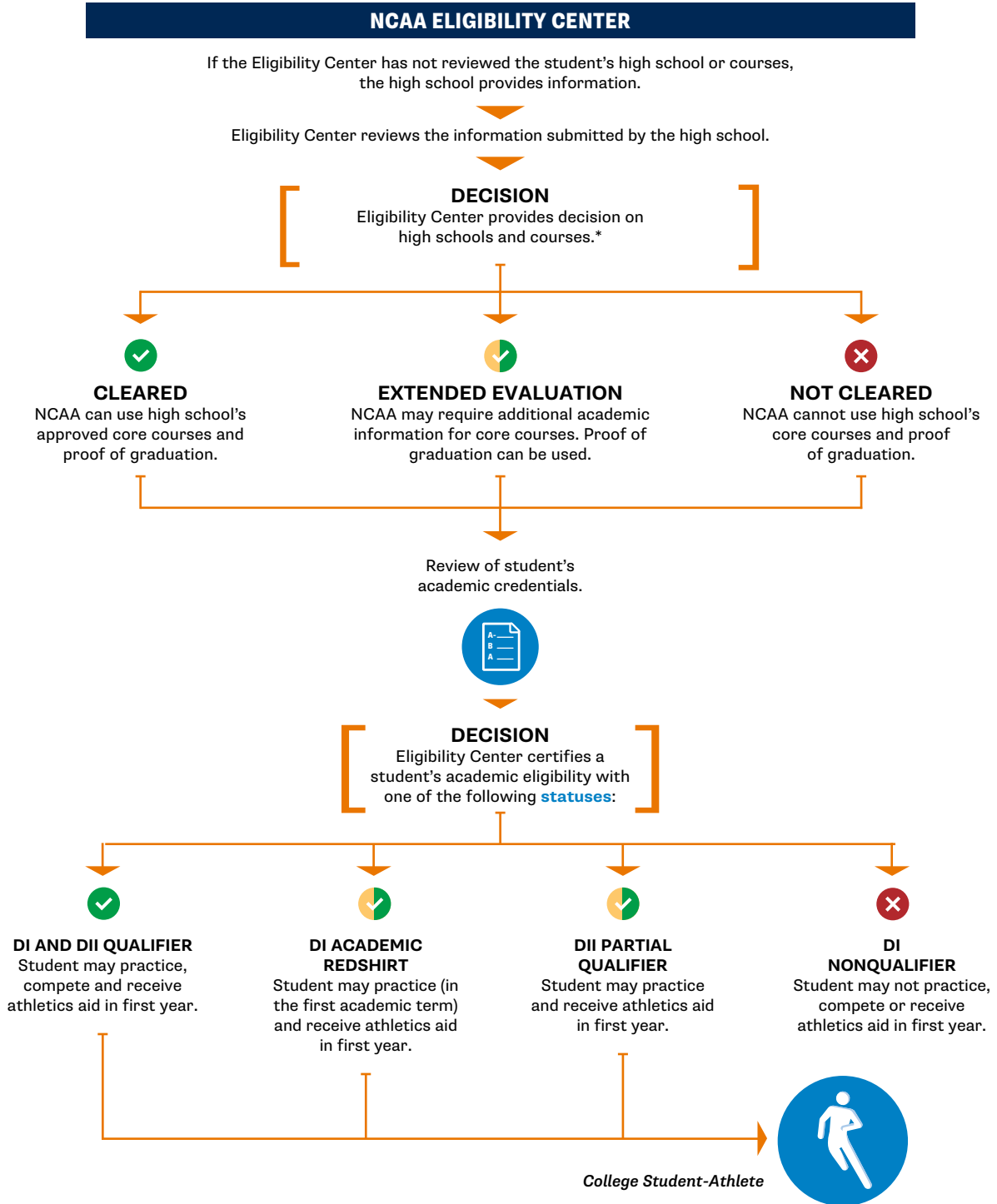
If students want to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school, they must meet academic and amateurism standards set by NCAA members. [Academic standards](#) and [amateurism standards](#) are outlined in this guide and can be found on each division's page on ncaa.org.



NCAA Initial-Eligibility Process

This chart presents a general overview to help students and their families better understand the components of the initial-eligibility process.

An NCAA school recruits students by placing them on its *institutional request list*, which begins a request for certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.



*The Eligibility Center also certifies student-athletes' amateurism statuses. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Registration Checklist

Do your students want to compete in NCAA sports? Advise them to register with the Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org before the ninth grade (year nine of secondary school).

Which account type is right for your students?

1. Profile Page Account: Students who are younger or are not being recruited, are unsure in which division they want to compete, or are **domestic students** who plan to compete at a **Division III school**, should register for a free Profile Page account. They can **transition** their account to a **certification account** as needed, once they start being **actively recruited** by an NCAA school.

2. Academic and Amateurism Certification Account: Students must receive academic and amateurism certifications from the Eligibility Center to compete at a Division I or II school. They must complete the Academic and Amateurism Certification account registration (including payment or **fee waiver**) before they go on Division I official visits, sign for athletics aid, receive an athletics scholarship or compete at a Division I or II school.

3. Amateurism-Only Certification Account: **International student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers) enrolling at a Division III school must register with an Amateurism-Only Certification account (or use an existing Academic and Amateurism Certification account, if they have one) and receive their final amateurism certification before they can compete.

This account may also be right for students transferring from a non-NCAA college or university to a Division I or II school who do not require an Eligibility Center academic certification. These students should check with the compliance office at the NCAA school they may attend to determine their required account type.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT TYPES			
In which division do your students plan to compete?	Profile Page* Account	Academic and Amateurism Certification Account	Amateurism-Only Certification Account
Division I or II			
Before recruiting begins or middle school and younger students (domestic or international). Can be transitioned to the right certification account when needed.	✓		
High school student (domestic or international) enrolling for the first time at an NCAA school.		✓	
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. (Your students should check with the compliance office at the school they plan to attend.)		✓	OR ✓
Division III			
Domestic high school student enrolling for the first time at a Division III school.	✓		
High school student with a permanent residence outside of the U.S.			✓
High school student who attended secondary or postsecondary school outside of the U.S. for any time (excluding U.S.-based students who study abroad).			✓
International high school student enrolling for the first time at a Division III school.			✓
High school student who was based and competed outside of the U.S. or participated on a sports team who was based and competed outside of the U.S.			✓
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university; attended domestic high school(s) only.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university; attended at least one international high school . (U.S. territories are considered domestic.)			✓
Division Undecided/Unknown			
Never enrolled full time at a two- or four-year college or university. Best before recruiting begins or for middle school and younger students. Can be transitioned to the right certification account when needed.	✓		

Once students have determined the right account for them, they should visit eligibilitycenter.org to register. A list of information they will need to complete their account is outlined below. For a Profile Page account, allow 15 minutes to complete. For certification accounts, allow between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. If they need to exit and come back at a later time, they can save and exit once their account is created.

***Unsure which account type is right for a student?** Have all students start with our [free Profile Page account](#), then check with the compliance office at the NCAA school they may attend. If the student needs assistance, have them contact the Eligibility Center's customer service team at 877-262-1492, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. International students (including Quebec) should use the [International Contact Form](#) to submit questions.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items students should have with them when creating an account at eligibilitycenter.org:

Valid Email

To register, students need a valid email address that they check regularly and will have access to **after** high school. The Eligibility Center uses email to update students about their account throughout the process. **Note:** If they have a sibling who has previously registered, the student will need to use a different email address than the one in their sibling's account.

Basic Student Personal Information

This includes information such as their name, gender, date of birth, primary and secondary contact information, address and mobile number.

Basic Student Education History

When registering, students will be required to provide details about all secondary and high schools and additional programs they attended in the U.S. and internationally. All schools, regardless of whether students received grades or credits must be included. If they attended ninth grade at a junior high school located in the same school system in which they later attended high school, the ninth-grade school should not be listed.

Student Sports Participation History

Students should select each sport they plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For [certification accounts](#), students will be required to provide details on any expenses or awards they received,

any teams they have practiced or played with, or certain events in which they participated. Students will also list any individuals who have advised them or marketed their skills in a particular sport. This information helps the Eligibility Center certify their amateur status once they [request their final amateurism certification](#).

Payment (Certification Accounts Only)

Registration for a certification account is complete only after their registration fee is paid (or upon requesting a [fee waiver](#), if eligible). Students may pay online by debit, credit card or echeck. For an Academic and Amateurism Certification account, the fee for college-bound student-athletes attending a high school in the U.S., [U.S. territories](#) or Canada is \$100; the fee for international students is \$160. For students for which an Amateurism-Only Certification account is the right choice, the fee for all students is \$70. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee.

All fees are nonrefundable 30 days after the certification account fee is paid. If a student completed a duplicate registration and paid their registration fee twice, they may be eligible for a refund. To receive a refund, they will need to complete and submit an [NCAA refund form](#).

Unsure if they've already created an account?

Encourage students to contact customer service at 877-262-1492, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eastern time, before creating a new account to avoid duplicate account issues during recruiting.



Sending Transcripts

The **primary and secondary contacts** in each high school's Eligibility Center account have the capability to **upload official transcripts** directly to a student's account for free via the **High School Portal**. This process is much quicker than using the U.S. Postal Service or any overnight delivery method. When transcripts are uploaded directly to a student's account, the Eligibility Center has near real-time access to the transcript. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to use this process.

Best practice is that the high school uploads the student's official four- and six-semester transcripts, and their final official transcript with proof of graduation (once they have completed high school). While transcripts uploaded via the High School Portal are received the same day, electronic transcript submission via a third party may take up to three business days to process. If a student attended more than one high school or took courses from more than one program, the Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from each high school or program the student attended. **Note:** The Eligibility Center does not accept grades from one high school or program transcribed on another high school's transcript. Transcripts can be uploaded or sent electronically through one of the approved e-transcript providers listed below:

- » [Cialfo](#).
- » National Student Clearinghouse.
- » National Transcript Center.
- » Naviance (management tool for schools that use Parchment as the back end for delivering e-transcripts).
- » [NeedMyTranscript](#).
- » [Parchment \(Docufide\)](#).
- » [SCOIR](#).
- » [Scribbles Software](#).
- » State of Georgia comes via DIRECT.
- » USMO ET (Speede).
- » [XAP](#).

To send a transcript by U.S. mail or through an overnight or express delivery service, use the appropriate address on [page 2](#). Allow four days for processing from the day of receipt. (Uploading via the [High School Portal](#) is considered best practice.)

What is High School Review?

High school review is a unit within the Eligibility Center that determines which high schools and courses may be used in the academic certification process. The high school review staff partners with high schools and districts, as well as leading secondary education organizations, for educational outreach and to stay current with changes in educational policies and practices. The staff also collaborates with NCAA committees regarding legislation and policy. This team is staffed by individuals with professional understanding of and experience with the high school and postsecondary school communities.

For High Schools New to the NCAA

If you would like your high school reviewed for use in initial-eligibility certifications and your high school does not have an account with the Eligibility Center (or your high school's account status is "None"), call our high school support line at 877-622-2321, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. The customer service team will need basic demographic information, including contact names, phone numbers and emails. An email with login and PIN information will be sent to the contacts provided to begin the account review process.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the high school account review process.



NCAA-Approved Core Courses

The NCAA **core course** requirement ensures college-bound student-athletes are taking high school courses that prepare them for the academic expectations in college. **Note:** Not all high school courses are NCAA-approved core courses and may not count toward the 16 core-course credit requirement.

What is a Core Course?

A core course must meet the following requirements to be used in an academic certification:

Meet high school graduation requirements in one or more of the following subject areas:

English	Math (Algebra I or higher)	Science (Including one year of lab, if offered)	Social Science	World Language	Comparative Religion	Philosophy	✓
Be on your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses .							✓
Be completed in alignment with your high school's policies related to instruction, pacing, etc.							✓
Be completed at a high school with a "Cleared" or "Extended Evaluation" Eligibility Center account status .							✓

What criteria are used to evaluate core courses?

Courses that meet NCAA core-course requirements must be submitted to and approved by the Eligibility Center. Course submissions are reviewed and decisions are rendered using NCAA legislation and core-course criteria for review outlined in Appendix A of the **High School Review Committee's Policies and Procedures**.



Maintaining Your High School's NCAA Core-Course List

If you are your high school's [primary or secondary contact](#) with the Eligibility Center and your high school is not part of a unified curriculum NCAA district account, you are responsible for keeping your high school's NCAA core-course list up to date. This includes submitting updates to your high school's existing list, archiving old course titles and uploading core-course documentation for review (when applicable). If you believe your school's list is accurate, please log in to the [High School Portal](#) to verify you have no updates. This will refresh your account and let the Eligibility Center know your school's core-course list is correct. **Note:** If your high school is part of a unified-curriculum district account, your high school's core-course list is managed by the contacts for the district account.

Adding Course Titles

After your high school implements new course offerings, you should update your high school's list of courses promptly so course decisions may be made by the Eligibility Center before you schedule students. You can update your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses through the [High School Portal](#), which also includes a [tutorial](#) on how to update your list.

Courses submitted through the High School Portal will be reviewed within three to five business days. Your high school's contacts will be notified by email of the status of courses submitted.

Changing Course Titles

If the title of a course is substantively changing, you should update your list in the [High School Portal](#). Course title changes may require submission of [additional information](#) to determine if the new course title meets NCAA core-course legislation and criteria. If it is simply a matter of word order, there is no need to submit the change. For example, Honors Biology, Biology Honors, H/Biology, HBio, BioH and Bio-H are all titles used to represent the same honors course in biology.

The following course title changes *SHOULD* be updated:

- » *Freshman Composition to English 1.*
- » *Biology to Living Environment.*
- » *Ancient Cultures to World History I.*

The following course title changes *DO NOT* need to be updated:

- » *Algebra 1 to Algebra I.*
- » *H Chem to Chem/H.*
- » *Econ to Economics.*

Archiving Course Titles

You may choose to archive courses that are no longer taught, leaving them visible on your high school's archived list. For example, if your high school stops teaching a course on Shakespeare at the end of the 2024-25 school year, you may archive it, even though students who took the course may still be working through the NCAA eligibility process. Students who complete the Shakespeare course in the 2024-25 school year or before would still be able to use the course in their certification.

Some schools prefer to keep courses on their active list until the last students who could have taken the course graduate. Other schools prefer to archive their courses once they are no longer taught. *What difference does it make?* A more concise list can help students, families and coaches find active courses more easily. Archiving your courses and updating your list of courses can be done via the [High School Portal](#).

What happens when courses are designated “Additional Information Required”?

When a course is designated “[Additional Information Required](#),” it means the review staff needs more documentation about the course to determine if it meets the criteria for review. Documentation may be uploaded for review via the Submit Pending Course Documents tab on the [High School Portal](#). **Note:** Courses with this designation are on hold. If no action is taken, courses in this category cannot be used for NCAA initial-eligibility certification.

What happens when courses are designated “Not Approved”?

Courses that do not appear to meet core-course legislation or criteria for review will be designated as “Not Approved” with an assigned reason code including decision rationale.

For courses that are designated as “Not Approved” and have a specific reasoning code assigned to it (i.e., RC5, RC12 and RC17), you may also submit **additional information** for review if your high school believes the course meets the NCAA core-course legislation and criteria. Make sure you read and understand the **core-course criteria for review** before taking the time to gather and submit documentation. **Note:** You have 60 days from the decision date to submit all required core-course documentation. If the upload link has expired, you must resubmit the course(s) via the Submit Updates to My School’s List option in the NCAA Courses dropdown on the **High School Portal**.

REASON CODE	DECISION RATIONALE	EXAMPLE COURSES
RC1	The course does not meet graduation requirements in one of the specified areas.	Excel, band and physical education.
RC5	The course is considered doctrinal in nature.	Apologetics, theology and spiritual life.
RC12	The course is not considered a four-year college preparatory.	Technical math, career prep and writing for the workplace.
RC17	The course does not meet NCAA core-course criteria noted within specific discipline.	Accounting, theatre and yearbook.

Audited Courses

There may be times when a course erroneously appears on a high school’s list of NCAA courses. This may be due to changes in NCAA legislation or a course mistakenly submitted or approved.

When it becomes necessary to audit and remove a course from a list, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff works to ensure students who have taken such a course in the past are not negatively impacted by the removal. For example, if “Health” appeared on a high school’s list of NCAA courses and was subsequently audited, it would appear as “Not Approved” beginning the next academic year with a notation that the course may be used through the school year it was audited. Therefore, students who took the course before it was audited and removed still would be able to use the course in their NCAA academic certification.

Dual-Enrollment Coursework

Dual-enrollment coursework may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the courses appear on the student’s **official transcript** with grade and high school credit and meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**. College courses must be placed on the student’s high school transcript with a designation that the course was completed through a two- or four-year college. Courses completed at a college should not be submitted for your high school’s list of NCAA courses. However, dual-enrollment courses that meet core-course requirements and are taught by your high school’s instructors should be submitted for inclusion on your high school’s core-course list.

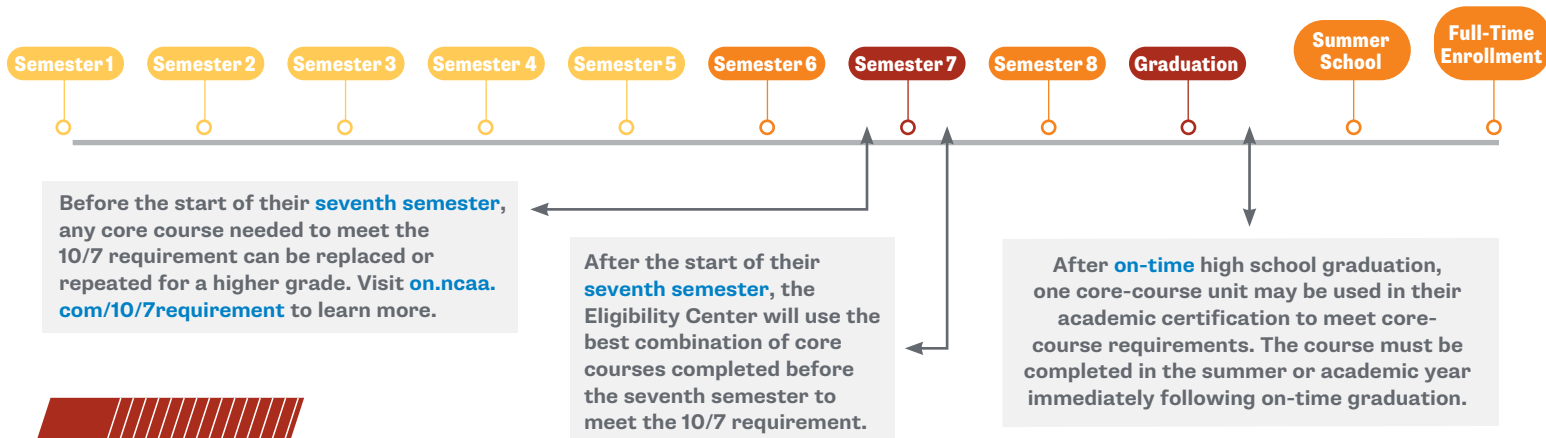
Courses Taken Before High School

High school courses taken prior to ninth grade may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the course appears on the student’s official transcript with grade and high school credit and appears on your high school’s list of **NCAA-approved core courses**. For example, if students take a high school course such as Algebra I or Spanish I before high school, the course may count toward their 16 core-course credits requirement as long as the course title is on the high school’s list of approved NCAA courses.

Courses Taken After High School

A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward a student's initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from their college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on their high school transcript). It must appear on the student's official transcript with grade and high school credit and meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**.

For **Division I**, only core courses completed in the first eight semesters from a student's initial start of ninth grade will be used in their academic certification. However, if a student graduates from high school on time (in eight semesters) with their incoming ninth-grade class, they may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) and before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. They may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which they graduated as long as the course is taken before full-time enrollment at any college or university.



For **Division II**, a student may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) and before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. They may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which they graduated.

Credit Recovery Courses

Many high schools offer credit recovery or credit retrieval courses for students to receive credit for a course they previously failed. These courses are also reviewed by the high school review staff.

For credit recovery courses to be approved:

1. Courses must meet NCAA core-course requirements.
2. Repeated courses must be substantially comparable (qualitatively and quantitatively) to the previously attempted course.

Test Scores

In January 2023, NCAA **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to **remove standardized test scores** from initial-eligibility requirements. Encourage students to check with the NCAA school they plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.



Grade-Point Average

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates a student's **core-course grade-point average** based on the grades they earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only the best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on a student's high school transcripts could be different than the NCAA core-course GPA used in their certification. Their core-course GPA is based solely on the grades they received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses, visit eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

A student's core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are converted to letter grades such as A or B based on the high school's grading scale on file with the Eligibility Center. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned "quality points."

The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating a core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- are each worth three quality points. Weighted honors or Advanced Placement courses may improve the student's core-course GPA, but the **high school must notify** the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these courses. (The high school's course-weighting policy must align with acceptable NCAA course-weight policy.) **Note:** Your high school may have multiple grading scales on file. For more information, review the High School Grading Period section of [your high school's account](#).

In "Pass/Fail" grading situations, the Eligibility Center will assign the high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which the student received a "Pass" grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade.

Calculating a Student's Quality Points

To determine the quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:

- » An A grade (4 points) for a trimester course (0.34 unit):
4 points x 0.34 unit = 1.36 total quality points
- » An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 unit):
4 points x 0.50 unit = 2.00 total quality points
- » An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 unit):
4 points x 1.00 unit = 4.00 quality points

Use the [Division I and II Worksheets](#) to help determine a student's core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

- A = 4 points
- B = 3 points
- C = 2 points
- D = 1 point

UNITS OF CREDIT

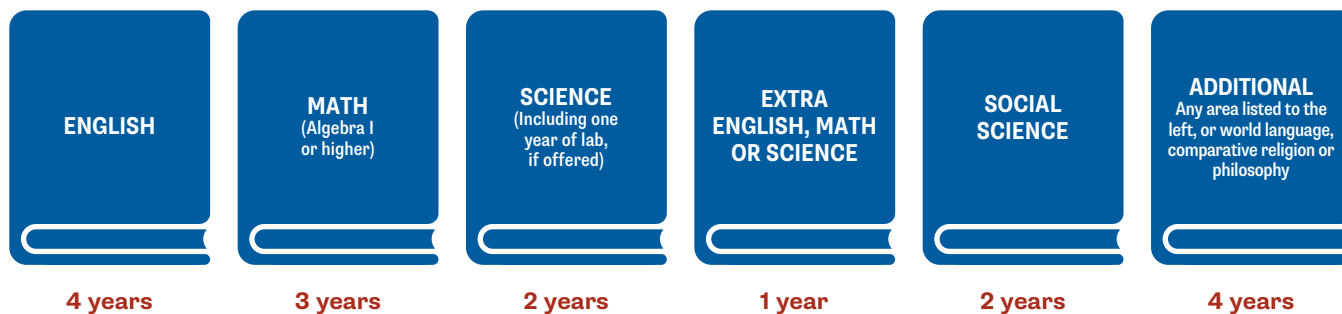
- 1 quarter unit = 0.25 unit
- 1 trimester unit = 0.34 unit
- 1 semester unit = 0.50 unit
- 1 year = 1.00 unit

Division I Academic Standards

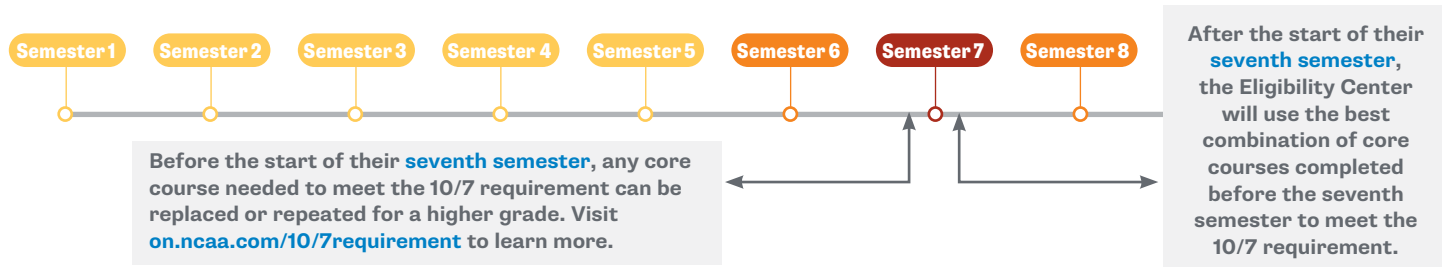
Division I schools require your student-athletes to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of **full-time enrollment**, students must meet the following requirements:



1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



- Complete their 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight semesters from their initial start of ninth grade. If students graduate from high school early, they still must meet core-course requirements.
- Meet the **10/7 requirement** by completing 10 of their 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of their **seventh semester**.



» Students with solely **international** academic credentials (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

- Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
- Request that their high school's **primary or secondary contact** upload their **final official transcript** with **proof of graduation** via the **High School Portal**.
- Receive academic and amateurism certifications from the Eligibility Center.

Example Schedule

How to Plan High School Courses to Meet the 16 Core-Course Requirement

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

9th GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social science and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

10th GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social science and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

11th GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social science and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

12th GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social science and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES



What if a student doesn't graduate on time?

In Division I, if students do not graduate on time (eight semesters from their initial start of ninth grade), the Eligibility Center will still use their grades and coursework for the first eight semesters for their certification. They will still need to provide proof of graduation (once they graduate) but may not use any coursework taken after their eighth semester.

What if a student doesn't meet Division I standards?

If students have not met all the Division I academic standards, they may not compete in their first year of **full-time enrollment** at a Division I school. However, if they qualify as an **academic redshirt**, they may practice during their first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division I Worksheet

Use the **Division I Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring a student's progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the courses they have taken or plan to take.



ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division I school. If students are being recruited by Division I schools, below are the most common decisions they may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If they meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

They may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

They may practice during their first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment but may **NOT** compete during their first year of full-time enrollment. They must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

NONQUALIFIER

They will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Academic Standards

Division II schools require your student-athletes to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of **full-time enrollment**, students must meet the following requirements:

NCAA DIVISION II

MAKE IT *YOURS*

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL Any area listed to the left, or world language, comparative religion or philosophy
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

- Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
- Request that their high school's **primary or secondary contact** upload their **final official transcript** with **proof of graduation** via the **High School Portal**.
- Receive academic and amateurism certifications from the Eligibility Center.

What if a student doesn't meet Division II standards?

If students have not met all the Division II academic standards, they may not compete in their first year of **full-time enrollment** at a Division II school. However, they will be deemed a partial qualifier. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship but may NOT compete during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Worksheet

Use the **Division II Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring a student's progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the courses they have taken or plan to take.



ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division II school. If students are being recruited by Division II schools, below are the most common decisions they may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If they meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

They may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER

They may practice and receive an athletics scholarship but may NOT compete during their first year of full-time enrollment.





Division III Amateurism Standards

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. Division III rules minimize potential conflicts between athletics and academics and focus on regional in-season and conference play to maximize academic, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities. While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

While Division III schools set their own academic standards on campus, the Eligibility Center certifies the amateur status of Division III **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers). All other Division III student-athletes are certified on campus. Students should contact the Division III school they plan to attend for information about its academic requirements.

International Students



For Divisions I and II, **international students** have taken coursework outside the U.S. (not including **Department of Defense Dependent Schools or American schools abroad**) at any point from the initial start of school year nine through secondary school graduation. For student-athletes planning to enroll at a **Division III** school, check with the compliance office to determine status. International students enrolling at a Division I or II school must submit:

- » Transcripts for years nine and up in the native language.
- » Proof of graduation in the native language, which may include certificates, diplomas and/or final leaving exams.
- » Certified line-by-line English translations of these documents if they are issued in a language other than English.

Students enrolling at a Division III school should monitor their **task list** to determine if any academic documentation is needed to certify their amateur status.

In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may request additional documentation to clarify that a student's academic information is complete, valid and accurate. The task list within their Eligibility Center account is used to communicate these requests, so be sure they check their email often for tasks.

- » For information on how to submit international documentation, visit on.ncaa.com/intldocs.

- » All documents submitted to the Eligibility Center become the property of the Eligibility Center and cannot be returned. This includes any mailed original documents.

Failure to include any of these items will delay the review of the student's records, so be sure to understand the documents required for the country in which they attended school by reviewing the current **Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility**. *Have international students wondering what to expect when attending an NCAA school?* Check out the **International Student-Athlete Handbook**.

Need help? For specific questions that you can't find the answer to in our other resources, use our International Contact Form, found at on.ncaa.com/intlcontact.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit your country's specific information page at ncaa.org/countries. For a list of non-English-language resources for future student-athletes, visit on.ncaa.com/translated.



Homeschooled Students

Learning at home is not necessarily the same as being homeschooled. Because of ongoing growth in online and virtual education, a student may be able to learn at home through an online school with online teachers, which would not be considered a parent-directed tutor.

Homeschooled courses are those in which a parent or parent-directed tutor:

- » Plans and delivers actual instructional activities such as lectures, discussions, tutorials, feedback or assistance.
- » Determines the student's comprehension of the material by grading and evaluating student performance and achievement on assignments and assessments and providing appropriate reteaching and feedback.
- » Determines the overall grade the student achieved in the course.
- » Places the grade on a transcript or grade report, or reports the grade to a **homeschool umbrella program**.

How to Register

Homeschooled students who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students.

Once they have completed their registration, students should visit on.ncaa.com/homeschool and download the **Homeschooling Toolkit**. This resource provides the directions and guidance homeschooled students and families need to understand the initial-eligibility process.

High School Counselor Quick Tips

As a high school counselor, one of the main tools you will use to help your student-athletes is the Eligibility Center's [High School Portal](#). (Click here for a tutorial on using the portal.) To start, there are three main concepts to understand:

Who are your high school and district's primary and secondary contacts?

Each high school and district with an Eligibility Center account has **one primary and one secondary contact**. These contacts should have access to curriculum and student records and the bandwidth to have ongoing engagement with the Eligibility Center.

High School Primary and Secondary Contacts

- » On the portal, your school's primary and secondary contacts can **manage your school's core-course list**, **upload official transcripts** and **proof of graduation**, **submit fee waivers**, respond to open tasks, view student reports and update contacts.
- » To find your school's primary and secondary contacts, visit on.ncaa.com/ccl and search for your school by high school code/CEEB, state, city or school name. (Names of the contacts are listed in the High School Summary section.) To learn how to update your school's primary or secondary contacts, review the [How to Reset High School Contact Information](#) resource.

District Primary and Secondary Contacts

- » Depending on how your district is set up, primary and secondary contacts can **manage your district's core-course list**, respond to open tasks and update contacts.
- » To find your district's primary and secondary contacts or set up an Eligibility Center account, contact customer service at 877-622-2321, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. To learn how to update your district's primary or secondary contacts, review the [How to Reset District Contact Information](#) resource.

How can you help your students?

- » Know **Division I academic standards**, **Division II academic standards** and **Division III amateurism standards**.
 - Advise students to enroll in and complete courses listed on **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses.
 - Help students calculate their NCAA **core-course GPA** using the **Division I and II worksheets**.
- » Encourage **incoming freshmen** student-athletes to register for a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- » Help students with a Profile Page account who are being **actively recruited** by an NCAA Division I or II school **transition** their account to the right **certification account**.

Which responsibilities may be delegated to other individuals?

- » *Who determines if students should and should not register with the Eligibility Center?*
 - Students and their families should make the final decision to register with the Eligibility Center. Students must complete their certification account registration (including payment or **fee waiver**) before they go on Division I official visits, sign for athletics aid, receive an athletics scholarship or compete at a Division I or II school.
 - High school and club coaches should provide advice on how likely it is that the student will play NCAA sports. Encourage your coaching staff to subscribe to the Eligibility Center's **coaches newsletter**.
- » *How are students noticed or recruited for college sports?*
 - High school and club coaches should advise and assist students during the recruiting process.
 - College coaches typically ensure rules are followed when recruiting students. Rules differ by **sport and division**.
 - Students and their families should contact **NCAA schools** the student is interested in attending to understand the full financial impact of attendance and other **recruiting-related questions**.
- » *How do students meet eligibility requirements?*
 - Meeting initial-eligibility requirements is the student's responsibility. High school counselors support that effort.
 - Student-athlete academic achievement begins in the ninth grade (year nine of secondary school). When an academic and amateurism certification is requested by an NCAA Division I or II school, the Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the academic information provided by the student and high school(s), as well as the sports participation information provided by the student-athlete.
 - When an amateurism certification is requested by an NCAA Division III school for an **international student-athlete** (first-year enrollee and transfer), the Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the amateurism information provided by the student.

Want this information in a printable form? Visit on.ncaa.com/hscounquicktips.



Accessing Your High School's Account

If your high school has an Eligibility Center account, log in with your six-digit high school or CEEB code and password. Your high school will also have a five-digit PIN. This will be required as validation for contacts who call the Eligibility Center's customer service team. **Note:** Each high school account has one unique password that is shared among contacts.

You can keep your high school or CEEB code and PIN handy by entering them in the form below:

High School or CEEB Code

PIN

Forgot your high school's password?

- » If you're listed as a current contact in your high school's account and have forgotten your high school's password, please select **Forgot Password** on the [High School Portal](#) login page. A temporary password will be sent to your email. You will use this temporary password to log in and create a new password for your high school's account. If you do not receive a temporary password, please contact our customer service team at 877-622-2321, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
- » If you're a new contact and need access to your high school's account, but the current primary and secondary contacts are no longer at your high school, complete the [High School Contact Change Form](#).
- » If you have forgotten your PIN, log in to your account, click "High School Info," then select "View/Update PIN" from the dropdown.

If you do not yet have an account with courses listed or your account status is "None," call our customer service team at 877-622-2321, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, to start the [high school account review process](#).

High School Counselor Timeline

The purpose of this timeline is to help your school's **primary and secondary contacts** plan the year regarding NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. **Note:** To update your school's primary or secondary contact, log in to the **High School Portal** and visit Update Contact Info. If you're a new contact and need access to your high school's account, but the current primary and secondary contacts are no longer at your school, complete the **High School Contact Change Form**.

FALL: PLAN



- » Help students use NCAA Research's **interactive map** to locate NCAA schools they're interested in attending.
- » Remind students to apply (and be accepted) to the NCAA schools they're interested in attending.
- » Encourage incoming freshmen student-athletes to **register** for a free Profile Page account at **eligibilitycenter.org** if they haven't yet.
- » Help students with a Profile Page account who are being **actively recruited** by an NCAA school **transition** their account to the right **certification account**.
- » Remind students who are graduating midyear and have a winter/spring enrollment period to **request their final amateurism certification** in their Eligibility Center account beginning Oct 1.

WINTER: TRACK



- » Ensure student-athletes are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved **core courses** to graduate on time with their class.
- » Before students register for courses, **update your school's core-course list**. If your school's list has no updates, log in to the **High School Portal** to verify.
- » Monitor your high school's fee waiver report and **submit fee waivers**, when applicable.
- » At the end of the first semester, **upload official transcripts** for student-athletes. Also upload **proof of graduation** for student-athletes graduating early.
- » If student-athletes are falling behind academically, help them find **approved courses** they can take.
- » Monitor the Tasks tab on the **High School Portal** and respond to requests for information within the noted time frames.

SPRING: MONITOR



- » Monitor the Tasks tab on the **High School Portal** and respond to requests for information within the noted timeframes.
- » Remind students with a fall enrollment period to **request their final amateurism certification** in their Eligibility Center account beginning April 1.

SUMMER: UPLOAD



- » At the end of the school year, **upload official transcripts** for incoming senior student-athletes (for preliminary reviews). Also upload final official transcripts with **proof of graduation** for graduating student-athletes.
- » Once final certifications are attempted, monitor the Tasks tab on the **High School Portal** and respond to requests for information within the noted time frames.

High School Counselor Resources

As a high school counselor, you play an important role in helping students understand the requirements to study and compete in college sports at an NCAA school. Below are resources to help answer the most commonly asked questions.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

[How to Use the High School Portal](#)

[Resources for High School Administrators](#)

[Division I Academic Standards](#)

[Division II Academic Standards](#)

[Division III Amateurism Standards](#)

[Core-Course Criteria for Review](#)

[Fee Waiver Submission Tutorial](#)

[High School Presentation Resources](#)

[High School Counselor Quick Tips](#)

[High School Tasks Tutorial](#)

[Homeschooling Toolkit](#)

[What is a Core Course?](#)

FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

[Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)

[Initial-Eligibility Flyer](#)

[NCAA Eligibility Center Registration](#)
(eligibilitycenter.org)

[NCAA Eligibility Center Information](#)
(ncaa.org/playcollegesports)

[Our Three Divisions](#)

[Student FAQs](#)



Important Terms

Celebratory signing form (used by Division III schools): A standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding form after a student has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

Contact: Any time a college coach says more than “Hello” while face-to-face with a student or their family off the college’s campus.

Contact period: Period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/recruitalendars.

Core course: Course that meets NCAA legislation and core-course criteria in the [High School Review Committee’s Policies and Procedures](#) and appears on [your high school’s list](#) of NCAA-approved courses.

Dead period: Period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the college’s campus or to permit official or unofficial visits to the college’s campus. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/recruitalendars.

Education-impacting disability: Current impairment that has a substantial educational impact on a student’s academic performance and requires accommodation.

Emerging sport: NCAA recognized women’s sport that is intended to help schools provide more athletics opportunities for women and more sport-sponsorship options for NCAA schools, as well as help that sport achieve NCAA championship status.

Enrollment period: Season (fall or winter/spring) and year a student plans to enroll full time at any NCAA school for the first time.

Evaluation: When a college coach observes a student practicing or competing.

Evaluation period: Period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess academic qualifications and playing ability. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts may be made during an evaluation period. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/recruitalendars.

Financial aid (scholarship): Any money a student receives from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics ability, financial need, scholarships or academic achievement.

Full-time enrollment: Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, students are full time if they’re enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term.

Institutional request list: A list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA school is interested in recruiting. This informs the Eligibility Center of the school’s interest in having an academic and/or amateurism certification decision for them.

International student: In Divisions I and II, an [international student](#) is any student who is enrolled in a secondary school

outside the U.S., [U.S. territories](#) or Canada. In Division III, an [international student](#) is any student who attended high school outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories or competed individually or as part of a team based outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories; or whose permanent residence is outside of the U.S. This does not apply to U.S.-based students who study abroad unless they also compete while living abroad.

NCAA ID: Ten-digit identification number that an NCAA school recruiting a student uses to place them on its [institutional request list](#). A student’s NCAA ID is located in the top-right corner of their Eligibility Center account.

Official commitment: When a student signs for athletics aid, agreeing to attend a Division I or II school for one academic year.

Official visit: Any visit to a college campus paid by the NCAA school a student is visiting.

Preferred walk-on: Guaranteed a spot on the roster. “Preferred” status means a college coach wants the student on their team, but doesn’t have a scholarship for them.

Quiet period: Period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the college’s campus. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during the quiet period. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/recruitalendars.

Recruited: When a college coach contacts students off campus, pays their expenses to visit the campus, or (in Divisions I and II) issues them athletics aid or written offers of financial aid.

Recruiting calendar: NCAA Division I and II [recruiting calendars](#) promote student well-being and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport.

Recruiting shutdown: Period of time when no form of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or unofficial visits, correspondence, or making or receiving phone calls) is permissible. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/recruitalendars.

Two-year college: Any school from which students can earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science within two years. Often referred to as community or junior colleges.

Unofficial visit: Any visit to a college campus paid for by a student or their family.

Verbal commitment: When students verbally agree to play sports for colleges before they sign or are eligible to sign for athletics aid. The commitment is not binding on the student or the school.

Walk-on: Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive a scholarship from the school but who becomes a member of one of the school’s athletics teams.



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