

**2020-21 GUIDE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 How to Use This Guide**
This guide answers questions for high school counselors and administrators navigating the initial-eligibility process.
- 4 What is the NCAA?**
Find out who makes up the NCAA membership and a description of how the Association works.
- 5 Our Three Divisions**
This infographic provides facts and figures that highlight the differences between the three NCAA divisions.
- 6 NCAA Sports**
Learn about the sports and championships the NCAA sponsors.
- 7 Initial-Eligibility Process**
Follow a general flowchart of the NCAA initial-eligibility process.
- 8 NCAA Student Registration**
Students who want to play at an NCAA Division I or II school need to register for a Certification account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- 10 What are Core Courses?**
Learn the types of courses that help college-bound student-athletes meet the Divisions I and II standards.
- 12 Division I Standards**
Learn the standards needed to compete at a Division I school.
- 16 Division II Standards**
Learn the standards needed to compete at a Division II school.
- 19 Grade-Point Average**
Students' core GPA are based on the grades they earn in NCAA-approved courses.
- Test Scores**
Learn how the NCAA Eligibility Center uses students' SAT and ACT test scores in certification.
- 20 Division III Standards**
Students may register for a free Profile Page account with the NCAA Eligibility Center to play Division III sports, but they will not receive a certification.
- 21 Home School Students**
Useful information for home school students.
- International Students**
Useful information for international students.
- 22 The Role of the High School**
This section provides a valuable checklist for counselors as they guide college-bound student-athletes.
- 24 Counselor Resources**
Find a list of links that will aid you and your student-athletes in their pursuit of playing college sports.
- 25 Sending Transcripts**
Find instructions on how to submit transcripts for college-bound student-athletes to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- 26 What is High School Review?**
Assist your college-bound student-athletes by making sure your school and its courses are listed with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- 27 Nontraditional and Online Courses**
Learn the types of nontraditional and online courses that help college-bound student-athletes meet the Divisions I and II standards.
- Credit Recovery Programs**
See the requirements that must be met for courses from credit recovery programs to count as an NCAA core course.
- 28 Worksheets**
Worksheets are designed to assist you in monitoring your student-athletes' progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards.
- 30 Scholarships**
Learn more about scholarship opportunities at NCAA schools.
- National Letter of Intent**
Useful information about the National Letter of Intent.
- 31 Important Recruiting Terms**
Learn some key terms regarding the initial-eligibility and recruiting processes.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide answers important questions for high school counselors and administrators involved in assisting college-bound student-athletes with the NCAA initial-eligibility process.

Where can you find answers to your questions about NCAA eligibility?

- Read this guide.
- Visit eligibilitycenter.org and click on High School Administrators to view available high school resources.
- View tutorials and webinars on the [High School Portal](#).
- Search [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Review the [High School Counselor Quick Tips](#) flyer.
- Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.



Eligibility Center

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

ONLINE

ncaa.org/playcollegesports

Registration page:
eligibilitycenter.org

FOLLOW US

 [@ncaaec](https://twitter.com/ncaaec)

 [@playcollegesports](https://www.instagram.com/playcollegesports)

 [@ncaaec](https://www.facebook.com/ncaaec)

HIGH SCHOOL PHONE

U.S. callers (toll free):
877-622-2321

CERTIFICATION PROCESSING

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7136

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

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



WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. More than 1,100 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. Those schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support nearly half a million college athletes that make up 19,500 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA's diverse members include schools ranging in size from those with hundreds of students to those with 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 ncaa.org/divisions.

Do schools in all three divisions offer athletics scholarships?

Schools in Divisions I and II provide more than \$2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletically related financial aid, but student-athletes may receive academic or need-based financial aid similar to other students on campus. For more information about scholarships, see [page 30](#).

Are initial-eligibility standards similar in all three divisions?

Students must meet academic and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership to compete in Division I or II. You can learn more about each division's standards in this guide. At Division III schools, students must meet the admission standards set by the school for all incoming students and amateurism standards set by the NCAA membership.

NCAA FACTS

1906

YEAR ESTABLISHED

1,250+

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES,
CONFERENCES AND
ORGANIZATIONS

350

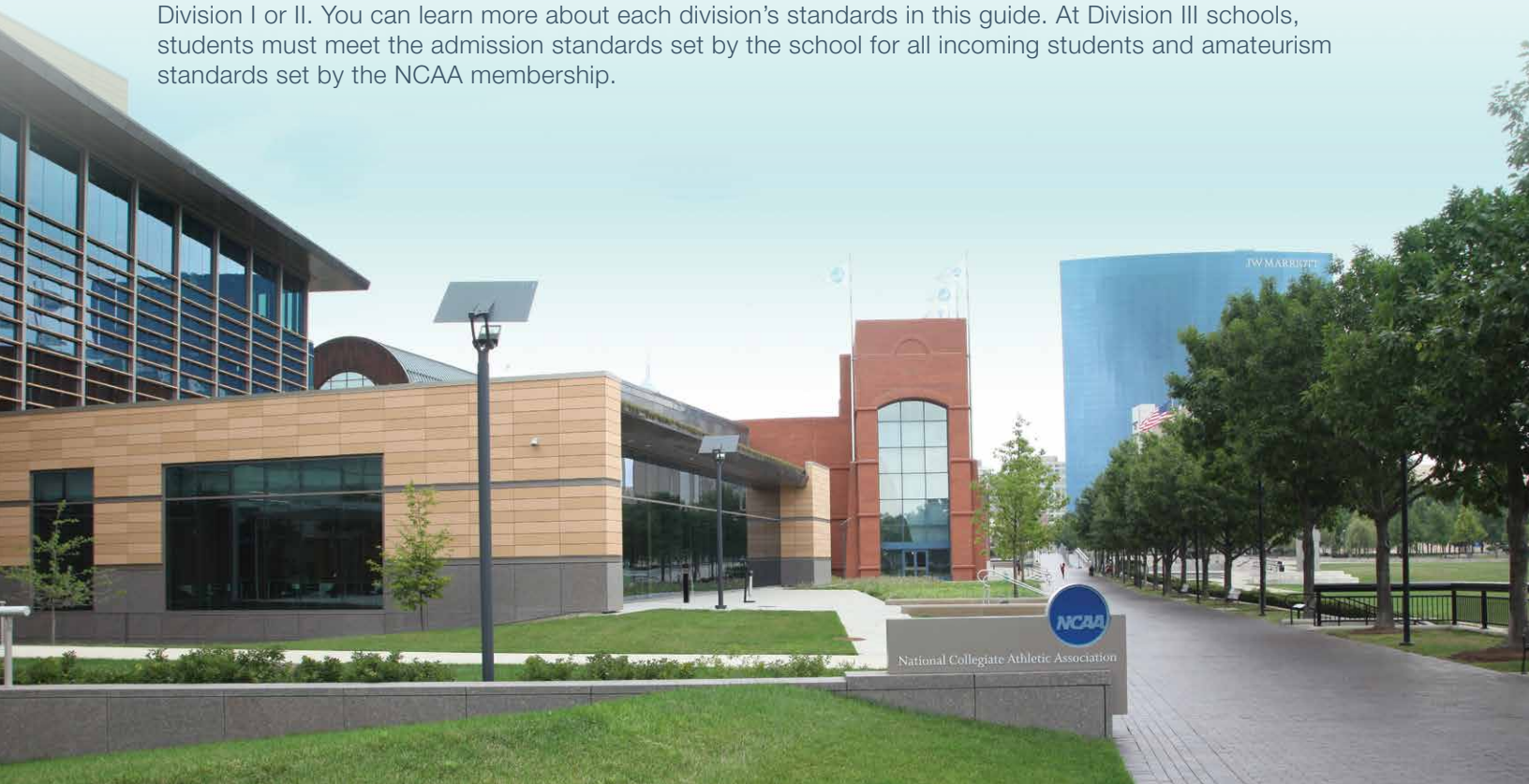
ACTIVE DIVISION I MEMBERS

310

ACTIVE DIVISION II MEMBERS

438

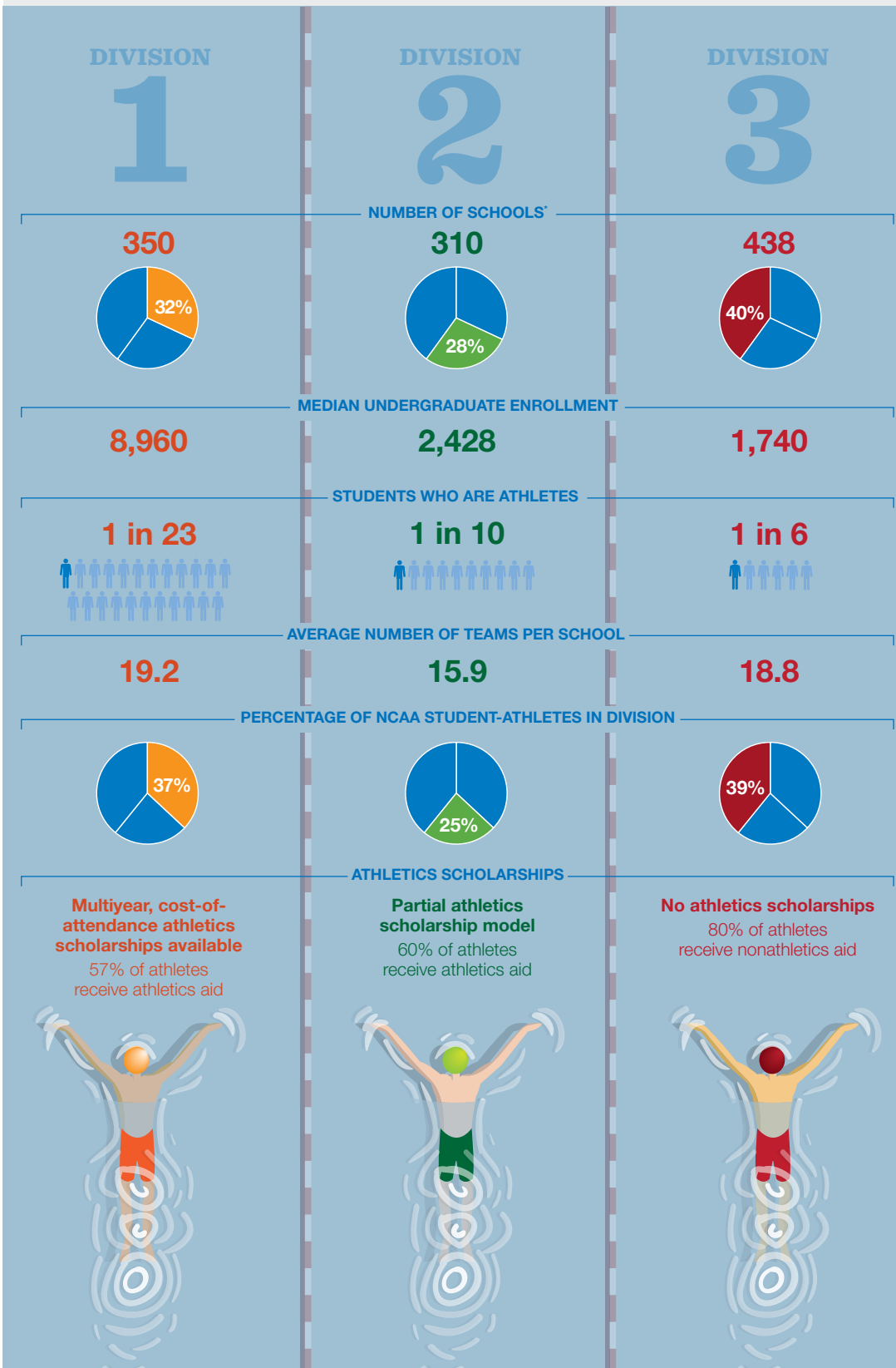
ACTIVE DIVISION III MEMBERS



National Collegiate Athletic Association

Our Three Divisions

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



What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I or Division II school must meet standards set by NCAA members. For Division III, athletes must meet the admissions standards set by the school. Eligibility standards can be found at eligibilitycenter.org.

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.

Did you know?



DI student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.

DII is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.



DIII's largest school has 25,725 undergraduates. The smallest? 285.

Learn more at ncaa.org/about.

*Numbers are from 2019-20. All other figures are from 2018-19.

NCAA SPORTS

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

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness® men's and women's basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle, softball and skiing, the NCAA administers championships to ensure student-athletes have a first-class experience. But the NCAA also is 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 what is hoped to be a championship experience for everyone involved.

FALL SPORTS

MEN:

Cross Country
Football
Soccer
Water Polo

WOMEN:

Cross Country
Field Hockey
Soccer
Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS

MEN:

Basketball
Fencing
Gymnastics
Ice Hockey
Indoor Track and Field
Rifle
Skiing
Swimming and Diving
Wrestling

WOMEN:

Basketball
Bowling
Fencing
Gymnastics
Ice Hockey
Indoor Track and Field
Rifle
Skiing
Swimming and Diving

SPRING SPORTS

MEN:

Baseball
Golf
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track and Field
Tennis
Volleyball

WOMEN:

Beach Volleyball
Golf
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track and Field
Rowing
Softball
Tennis
Water Polo

EMERGING SPORTS

WOMEN:

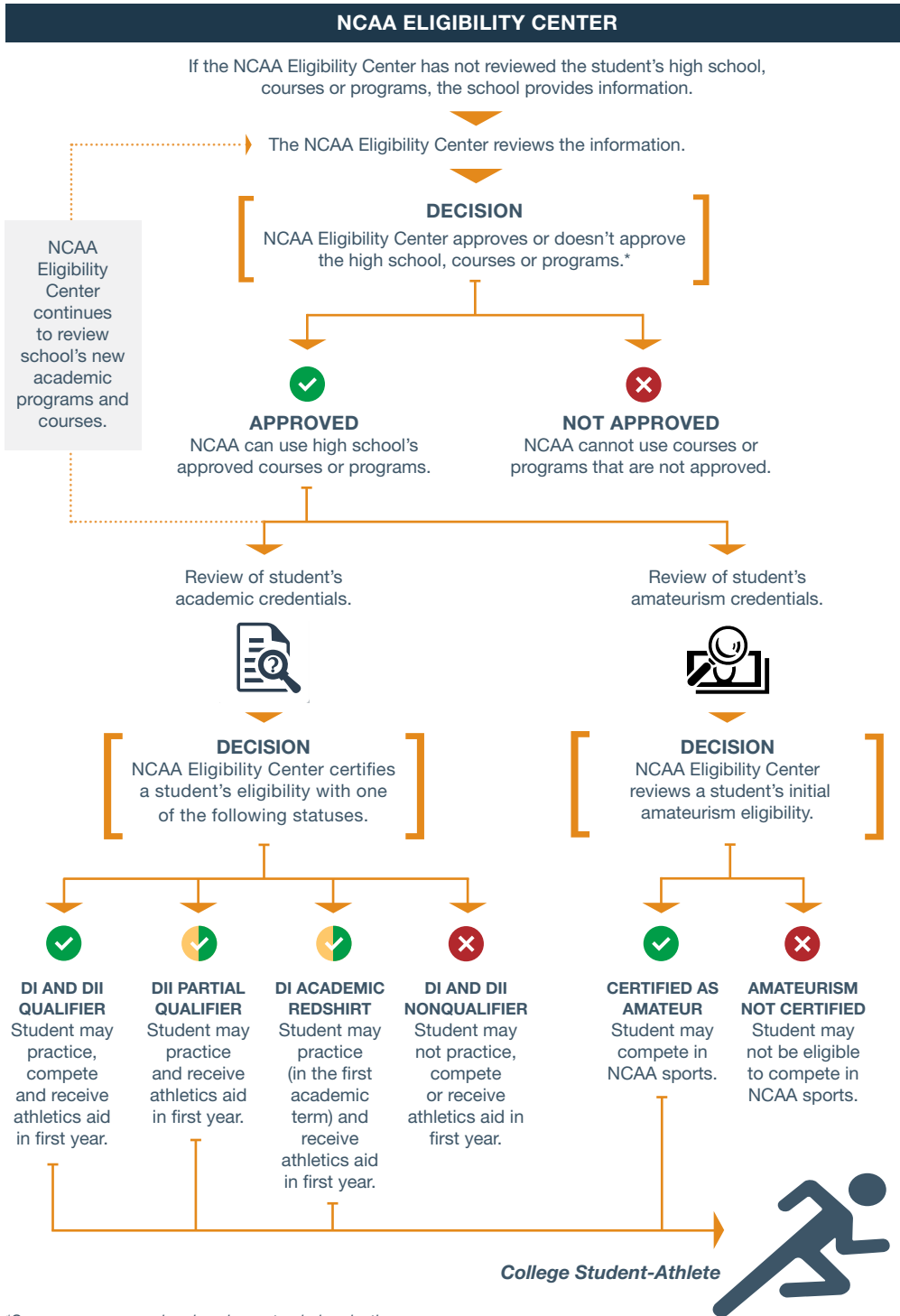
Acrobatics and Tumbling
Equestrian
(Divisions I and II only)
Rugby
Triathlon
Women's Wrestling



NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

This chart presents a general overview to help you, students and parents to better understand the components of the initial-eligibility process. Please see detailed information throughout the rest of the guide to supplement this overview.

NCAA institution recruits students by placing him/her on their institutional request list, which begins a request for certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.



*Some programs may be placed on extended evaluation.

GRADE 9

- Student finds their high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/counselist.
- Student signs up for a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org.

GRADE 10

- Student registers for a Certification account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- At the end of the year, counselor uploads student's official transcript to their Eligibility Center account.

GRADE 11

- Student checks with counselor to make sure they will graduate on time with all required NCAA core courses.
- Student takes the SAT or ACT, submitting their scores to the NCAA using code **9999**.
- At the end of the year, counselor uploads student's official transcript to their Eligibility Center account.

GRADE 12

- Student finishes last NCAA core courses.
- Student takes the SAT or ACT again, if necessary, submitting their scores to the NCAA using code **9999**.
- After April 1, student requests final amateurism certification decision in their Eligibility Center account.
- After graduation, counselor uploads student's final official transcript with proof of graduation to their Eligibility Center account.

NCAA STUDENT REGISTRATION

College-bound student-athletes who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. Students should plan to register during their freshman year of high school.

Students can choose from two account types to get started:

- 1. Profile Page Account:** If students plan to compete at a Division III school or are not sure in which division they want to compete, they can create a free Profile Page account. If at any time they wish to pursue a Division I or II path, they will be able to transition to a Certification account. Students may not move from a Certification account to a Profile Page account.
- 2. Certification Account:** Students need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Students also need to be fully registered with a Certification account before they can make official visits or sign a National Letter of Intent in Division I or II.

For Certification accounts, please allow 30 to 45 minutes to register completely and 15 to 30 minutes to register for a Profile Page account. If students need to exit and come back at a later time, they can save and exit once their account or profile is created.

Students can reference the “Help” section (located in the top task bar) at any time to answer their questions as they work through registration. Below is a list of items we recommend students have before beginning their registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center:

Valid Student Email

To register, students need a valid email address that they check regularly and will have access to *after* high school. This is important for updating college-bound student-athletes about their account. If students have a sibling that has previously registered, they will need to use a different email address than the one on their sibling’s account.

Basic Student Personal Information

This includes information such as a student’s name, gender, date of birth, primary and secondary contact information and address.

Basic Student Education History

Students will need to provide details about all high schools or secondary schools they have attended in the United States or internationally, and additional programs they have attended. Students should include ALL schools, regardless of whether they received grades or credits. If a student attended ninth grade at a junior high school located in the same school system in which the student later attended high school, they should not list the ninth-grade school.

If students need to edit or add schools after they have completed their registration, they can log back in to eligibilitycenter.org and visit the Schools section. They can select their schools listed and edit the information or add another school.

Student Sports Participation History

Students can select the sport(s) in which they plan to participate at an NCAA school. For Certification accounts, we will ask students to provide details for any expenses or awards they received, any teams they have practiced or played with or certain events in which they participated. It also includes information about any individuals who have advised or marketed their skills in a particular sport. This information helps the NCAA Eligibility Center certify a student’s amateur status once an NCAA school adds the student to its institutional request list.

Payment

A student's Certification account will be complete when their registration fee is paid (or a fee waiver has been submitted). Payment can be made online by debit, credit card or e-check. The registration fee for students in the United States, U.S. territories (including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and Canada is \$90. The fee for all other international students is \$150. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee. Students who create a Profile Page account and wish to transition to a Certification account will need to complete the payment process to transition their account successfully.

All fees are nonrefundable once students have successfully registered. If they completed a duplicate registration and paid the registration fee twice, they may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee. To receive a refund, students will need to complete and submit an [NCAA refund form](#).



WHAT ARE CORE COURSES?

To be considered college preparatory, a course must provide students the academic foundation for successful completion of academic work at the four-year college level. This includes a balanced evaluation of (a) a course's contents and (b) the rigor of performance tasks and assessments.

Course Content

This refers to what students are expected to know and do by the end of the course (e.g., content standards, desired learning outcomes, competencies, scope and sequence of topics, etc.). Specific examples of the criteria used for reviewing a course's contents are available in Appendix A of the [High School Review Committee Policies and Procedures](#).

Rigor of Performance Tasks and Assessments

To be approved, a course must include the application of knowledge through higher-order thinking and skills. Generally, this means a course shall include (a) the application of skills and concepts, (b) strategic thinking and/or (c) extended thinking. Performance tasks and assessments may include quizzes, tests, projects-based assessments, midterm examinations, capstone experiences, final examinations, etc.

- **Application of Skills and Concepts:** Assignments and assessments that require learners to apply information, conceptual knowledge and procedures to demonstrate subject matter mastery.
- **Strategic Thinking:** Assignments and assessments that require learners to dissect large-scale knowledge and information into its smaller conceptual components.
- **Extended Thinking:** Assignments and assessments that require linking multiple informational and knowledge-based elements to evaluate a concept as a whole.

Keep Your Course List Up to Date

After your school determines new course offerings, you should update your school's list of courses. If your school determines new course offerings in January and you promptly update your NCAA course list, course decisions will be made by the NCAA Eligibility Center in time for you to schedule students for the next academic year. You may update your school's list of NCAA 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 the submitted courses.

Changing Course Titles

If the title of a course is substantively changing, you should update your list in the [High School Portal](#). 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, 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; and
- 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; or
- Econ to Economics.

Archiving Course Titles

You may choose to archive courses that are no longer taught, leaving them visible on your school's archived list. For example, if your school stopped teaching a class on Shakespeare at the end of the 2017-18 school year, you may archive it, even though students who took the class may still be working through the NCAA eligibility process. A student who completed Shakespeare in the 2017-18 school year or before may 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, parents 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. The documentation may be uploaded through the [High School Portal](#) for review.

For courses that are not approved using specific reasoning codes (i.e., RC5, RC11, RC12 and RC17), you may also submit additional information as listed above if your school believes the course meets the NCAA core-course definition. Make sure you read and understand the the criteria for review for core courses before taking the time to gather and submit documentation.

Audited Courses

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

When it becomes necessary to audit 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, noting 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.

College Courses, Dual-Enrollment Courses and Dual-Credit Courses

College courses may be used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements if the courses are awarded a grade and credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. College courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript with a designation that the course was completed through a two-year or four-year college. Courses completed at a college should not be submitted for your high school's list of NCAA courses. Dual-enrollment courses that meet core-course requirements and are taught by your high school instructors should be submitted for inclusion on your school's core-course list.

INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY BASICS – KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes who want to compete at a NCAA Division I or II school need to meet certain division-wide academic and amateurism standards. Students who plan to attend a Division III school need to meet the admission standards of the school they plan to attend.

Division I Initial Eligibility

Division I schools require students to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships in their first full-time year at a Division I school, students must graduate from high school and meet *all* of the following requirements:

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:



2. Complete 10 out of their 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, **before the start of the seventh semester**. Once a student begins their seventh semester, they must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used to meet the 10/7 requirement. Students whose academic credentials are solely international (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.
3. Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If students graduate from high school early, they still must meet core-course requirements.
4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I qualifier sliding scale.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement: **4 X 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
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Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification, students must have on file with the Eligibility Center:

- A final official transcript with proof of graduation.
- Official transcripts from all high schools attended.
- Test scores.
- No open academic tasks.
- Be on a Division I school's institutional request list.

Being placed on a school's institutional request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for students once all their appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once an academic certification has been completed, students will receive one of the following decisions if they are being recruited by a Division I school:

Early Academic Qualifier

If students 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 enrollment. Students will need:

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 OR minimum ACT sum score of 75; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses:

- Three years of English.
- Two years of math.
- Two years of science.
- Two additional years of English, math or natural/physical science.
- Five additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript is required to be submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center after high school graduation for all early academic qualifiers.

Qualifier

Students may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Academic Redshirt

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

Nonqualifier

Students will not be able to practice, receive an athletics scholarship or compete during their first year of enrollment at a Division I school.

What if a Student Doesn't Graduate on Time?

In Division I, if students don't graduate on time (in four years/eight semesters), the NCAA Eligibility Center will still use the grades and coursework for the first four years/eight semesters for certification. Students still need to provide proof of graduation (once they graduate) but may not use any coursework taken after their expected date of high school graduation toward their certification.

Courses Taken After High School

For Division I, only courses completed in the first eight semesters will qualify as core courses. Students who graduate from high school on time (in four years/eight semesters) with their incoming ninth-grade class may use one core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. Students may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which they graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course. A college course taken after high school graduation can be used toward their initial eligibility, will be awarded 0.5 units (unless awarded one full unit by the home high school), and must appear on their home high school transcript with grade and credit.

An additional core-course unit taken after on-time high school graduation cannot replace a course used to meet the core-course progression (10/7) requirement, but an additional core course after on-time graduation may replace one of the remaining six core-course units necessary to meet core-course requirements.

What if a Student Doesn't Meet the Division I Standards?

If a student has not met all the Division I academic standards, they may not compete in their first year at a Division I college. However, if a student qualifies as an academic redshirt, they may practice during their first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

To qualify as an academic redshirt, a student must graduate high school and meet *all* the following academic standards:

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division I sliding scale.



Sliding Scale for Division I

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances the student's test score with their core-course GPA. To find more information about test scores, visit ncaa.org/test-scores.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.550	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	430	39
3.475	440	40
3.450	460	41
3.425	470	41
3.400	490	42
3.375	500	42
3.350	520	43
3.325	530	44
3.300	550	44
3.275	560	45
3.250	580	46
3.225	590	46
3.200	600	47
3.175	620	47
3.150	630	48
3.125	650	49
3.100	660	49
3.075	680	50
3.050	690	50
3.025	710	51
3.000	720	52
2.975	730	52
2.950	740	53
2.925	750	53
2.900	750	54
2.875	760	55
2.850	770	56
2.825	780	56
2.800	790	57
2.775	800	58

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
2.750	810	59
2.725	820	60
2.700	830	61
2.675	840	61
2.650	850	62
2.625	860	63
2.600	860	64
2.575	870	65
2.550	880	66
2.525	890	67
2.500	900	68
2.475	910	69
2.450	920	70
2.425	930	70
2.400	940	71
2.375	950	72
2.350	960	73
2.325	970	74
2.300	980	75
2.299	990	76
2.275	990	76
2.250	1000	77
2.225	1010	78
2.200	1020	79
2.175	1030	80
2.150	1040	81
2.125	1050	82
2.100	1060	83
2.075	1070	84
2.050	1080	85
2.025	1090	86
2.000	1100	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

*Full sliding scale research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

DIVISION II INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA core courses, core-course GPA and test scores.

To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first full-time year at a Division II school, students must graduate from high school and meet all the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or natural/physical science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches the student's core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II final qualifier sliding scale.

Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification decision, students must have on file with the Eligibility Center:

- A final official transcript with proof of graduation.
- Official transcripts from *all* other high schools attended.
- Test scores.
- No open academic tasks.
- Be on a Division II school's institutional request list.

Being placed on a school's institutional request list notifies the NCAA Eligibility Center to complete an academic evaluation for students once all their appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once an academic certification has been completed, students will receive one of the following decisions if they are being recruited by a Division II school:

Early Academic Qualifier

If students meet specific criteria listed below after six semesters, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship. Students will need:

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 820 on the old SAT or 900 on the redesigned SAT OR minimum sum score of 68 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 2.5 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses in the following areas:

- Three years of English.
- Three years of math.
- Two years of natural or physical science.
- Six additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript is required to be submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center after high school graduation for all early academic qualifiers.

Qualifier

Students may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

Partial Qualifier

Students may receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first year of enrollment, but may NOT compete.

Nonqualifier

Students will not be able to practice, receive an athletics scholarship or compete during their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school.

Core-Course Timeline

Students who plan to attend a Division II school must complete 16 NCAA core courses after starting grade nine and before their first full-time college enrollment.

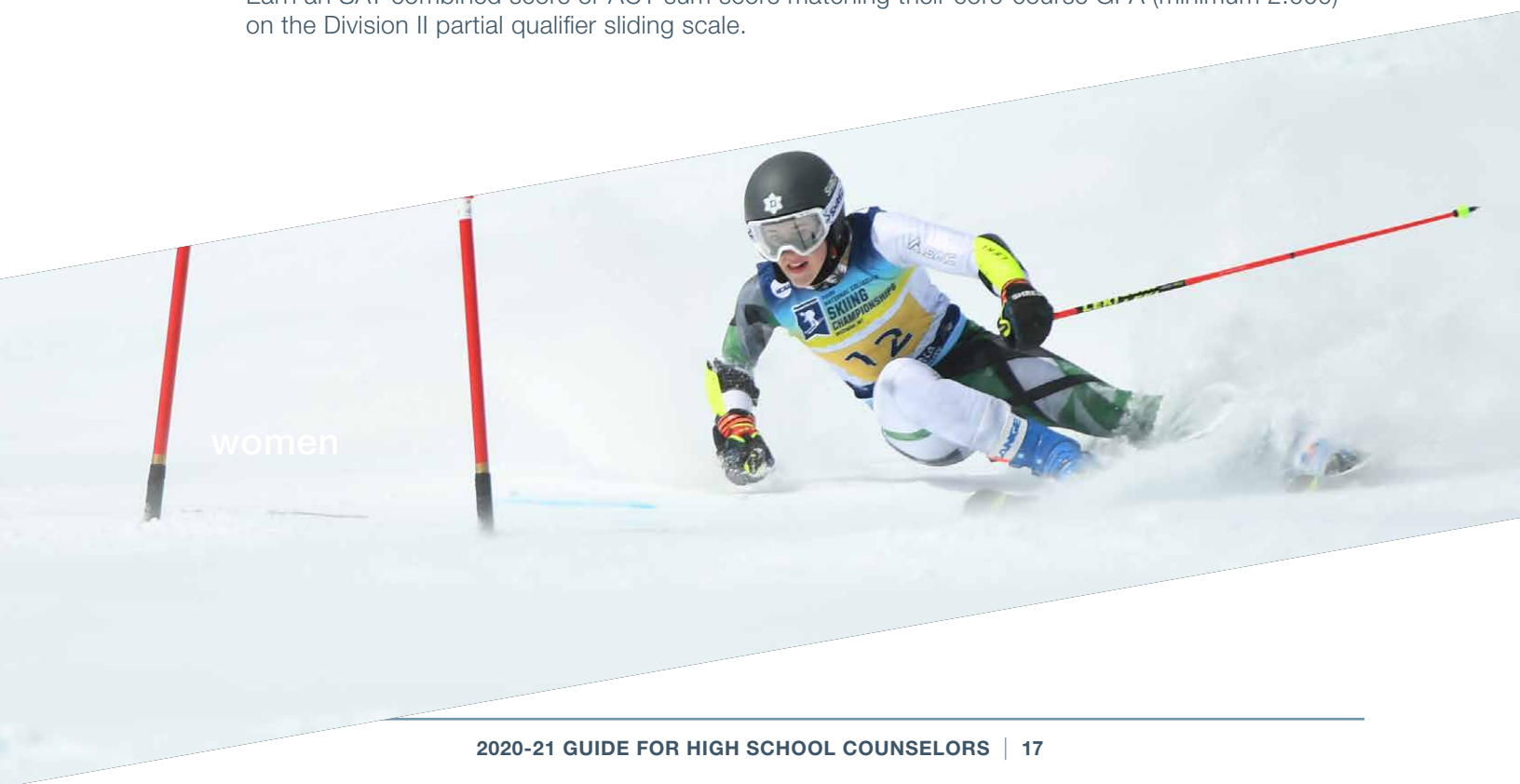
Courses Taken After High School

For Division II, students may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) before full-time collegiate enrollment. They may complete the core course(s) at a location other than the high school from which they graduated. A college course taken after high school graduation can be used toward their initial eligibility, will be awarded 0.5 units (unless awarded one full unit by their home high school), and must appear on their home high school transcript with grade and credit.

What if a Student Doesn't Meet the Division II Standards?

If a student enrolls full time at a Division II school and has not met all Division II academic standards, they may not compete in their first year. However, if they meet the standards to be a partial qualifier, they may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year at college. To be a partial qualifier, they must graduate high school and meet *all* the following standards:

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching their core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division II partial qualifier sliding scale.



Sliding Scale for Division II

Division II uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances the student's test score with their core-course GPA. To find more information about test scores, visit ncaa.org/test-scores.

DIVISION II FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	430	39
3.225	440	40
3.200	460	41
3.175	470	41
3.150	490	42
3.125	500	42
3.100	520	43
3.075	530	44
3.050	550	44
3.025	560	45
3.000	580	46
2.975	590	46
2.950	600	47
2.925	620	47
2.900	630	48
2.875	650	49
2.850	660	49
2.825	680	50
2.800	690	50
2.775	710	51
2.750	720	52
2.725	730	52
2.700	740	53
2.675	750	53
2.650	750	54
2.625	760	55
2.600	770	56
2.575	780	56
2.550	790	57
2.525	800	58
2.500	810	59
2.475	820	60
2.450	830	61
2.425	840	61
2.400	850	62
2.375	860	63
2.350	860	64
2.325	870	65
2.300	880	66
2.275	890	67
2.250	900	68
2.225	910	69
2.200	920	70 & above

DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	430	39
2.975	440	40
2.950	460	41
2.925	470	41
2.900	490	42
2.875	500	42
2.850	520	43
2.825	530	44
2.800	550	44
2.775	560	45
2.750	580	46
2.725	590	46
2.700	600	47
2.675	620	47
2.650	630	48
2.625	650	49
2.600	660	49
2.575	680	50
2.550	690	50
2.525	710	51
2.500	720	52
2.475	730	52
2.450	740	53
2.425	750	53
2.400	750	54
2.375	760	55
2.350	770	56
2.325	780	56
2.300	790	57
2.275	800	58
2.250	810	59
2.225	820	60
2.200	830	61
2.175	840	61
2.150	850	62
2.125	860	63
2.100	860	64
2.075	870	65
2.050	880	66
2.025	890	67
2.000	900	68 & above

*Full sliding scale research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates core-course GPAs based on the grades students earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only the best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used.

GPA's are calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned "quality points," as shown in the scale below. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating a GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- each will be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or Advanced Placement courses may improve a student's core-course GPA but the high school must notify the NCAA Eligibility Center that it weights grades in these classes.

In Pass/Fail grading situations, the NCAA 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 NCAA Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. For Spring/Summer 2020 "Pass/Fail" grades, please see the [COVID-19 FAQ](#).

Calculating a Student's Quality Points

In order 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 units):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.34 \text{ units} = 1.36 \text{ total quality points}$
- An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 units):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.50 \text{ units} = 2.00 \text{ total quality points}$
- An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 units):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 1.00 \text{ units} = 4.00 \text{ quality points}$

Use the worksheets on [pages 28](#) and [29](#) 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 units
- 1 trimester unit = 0.34 units
- 1 semester unit = 0.50 units
- 1 year = 1 unit

TEST SCORES

Divisions I and II both require students to have an SAT or ACT score for their certification. When students register for the SAT or ACT, they can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code **9999** to send their scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will **NOT** be used in their academic certification.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. Students may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before they enroll full time in college. If students take either test more than once, the best subscores from different tests are used to meet initial-eligibility requirements.

DIVISION III INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY 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.

If students are planning to attend a Division III school, they can create a free Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org to learn more about college sports. Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards. Students can visit ncaa.org/d3 or contact the Division III school they are planning to attend to learn more.



HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Courses that will be evaluated as home school 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 re-teaching 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 transcription agency.

Home school courses must meet all of the requirements of NCAA-approved core courses, and, when appropriate, nontraditional courses.

Learning at home is not necessarily the same as being home schooled. Because of recent 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 home school.

If you know home school students who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, they will need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students. Find more information about home-schooled students [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you are assisting international college-bound student-athletes or students who attended secondary school outside of the United States, please refer to the [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#) to determine when the student began year nine in their former pattern of education, and the impact of reclassifying this student. You can also contact the NCAA Eligibility Center through our [International Contact Form](#). International students can also access our [country-specific web pages](#) with the academic requirements for that country.

International college-bound student-athletes must submit the following academic documents:

- Academic records for years nine and up in the student's native language with certified line-by-line English translations.
- Proof of graduation, including certificates, diplomas or final leaving exams.
- SAT or ACT test score.

Failure to include any of these items may delay review of the student's records. In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may ask for additional academic documentation to clarify that the student's academic information is complete, valid and accurate. Click [here](#) for more information about international registration and document submission.



THE ROLE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

We know that high school counselors are pulled in many different directions every day. We would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You!” for the efforts that you put forth for student-athletes. When working with future NCAA student-athletes, we suggest you do the following:

What Students Need From Their Counselors

- Maintain your school’s account to ensure it is accurate and up to date. We recommend you update your NCAA list of core courses after your school determines new course offerings, but before you begin registering students for courses.
- Upload official transcripts for all registered students at the end of each academic year and when they graduate high school.
- Submit fee waivers online for student registrations, when applicable.
- Respond to “tasks” assigned by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

How Counselors Can Help Their Students

- Know the Divisions I and II initial-eligibility standards and where to find them.
- Encourage your college-bound student-athletes to create an account at eligibilitycenter.org during their freshman year of high school.
- Help students calculate their core-course GPA with the worksheets on [pages 28 and 29](#).

One of the main tools you will use as a counselor is the [High School Portal](#). Through the portal, you may submit core-course changes, upload official transcripts, [submit fee waivers](#), search for students from your high school who have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center and update your school’s contact information. You can find a tutorial on using the portal [here](#).

Responsibilities That May Be Delegated to Other Individuals

- Who determines who should and should not register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?
 - The student’s family should make the final decision on whether their son or daughter should register for a Certification account (Division I or II) or a Profile Page account (undecided or Division III).
 - Coaches should provide advice on how likely it is that the student will play NCAA sports.
- How are students noticed or recruited for college sports?
 - Coaches should advise and assist students during the recruiting process.
 - The student’s family should contact colleges and universities their child is interested in attending.
- Who helps the student and their family understand recruiting rules?
 - The NCAA school(s) recruiting the student should ensure the recruiting rules are followed. Rules differ by [sport and division](#).
- How does a student meet eligibility requirements?
 - The ability to meet initial-eligibility requirements is the responsibility of the student.
 - When an academic certification is requested by an NCAA institution, the NCAA Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the academic information provided by the student and high school(s). This certification determines if the student is eligible to compete in Division I or II.
 - Student-athlete academic achievement begins in grade nine. Eligibility is a four-year process and every semester counts.

Want this information in a printable form? Click [here](#) to access our Quick Tips.

Accessing Your School's Account

If you have an account, please log in with your six-digit high school 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.

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

HS Code

PIN

Forgot Your Password?

- If you are listed as a current contact in the school's account and have forgotten your password, please select 'Forgot Password? Click here to reset it' on the [High School Portal](#) login page. A temporary password will be sent to your email address. You will use this password to log in and create a new password. If you do not receive a temporary password, please contact the Customer Service Center at 877-622-2321.
- If you are a new contact and need to access your high school's account, please complete the [High School Contact Change Form](#).
- If you have forgotten your PIN, log in to your account, click "High School Info" and in the drop-down select "View/Update PIN."

If you do not yet have an account with courses listed, please call the Customer Service Center to start the [high school account review process](#).





COUNSELOR RESOURCES

As a high school counselor, you play an important role in helping students understand the requirements to compete in college sports at an NCAA school. Below are resources to help answer additional questions not answered in this guide:

FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

- [How to Use the High School Portal](#)
- [Online Resources for High School Administrators](#)
- [Division I Initial-Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Division II Initial-Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Fee Waiver Submission Tutorial](#)
- [High School Counselor Quick Resources](#)
- [High School Counselor Quick Tips](#)
- [High School Tasks Tutorial](#)
- [Initial-Eligibility Brochure](#)
- [What is a Core Course?](#)

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete Initial-Eligibility Brochure \(printable version\)](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center Registration Website \(eligibilitycenter.org\)](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center Information Website \(ncaa.org/playcollegesports\)](#)
- [National Letter of Intent](#)
- [Our Three Divisions](#)
- [Student FAQs](#)

SENDING TRANSCRIPTS

High schools have the ability to directly upload transcripts to a student's account from the [High School Portal](#). It's free and easy! When transcripts are uploaded directly to a student's account, the NCAA Eligibility Center has near real-time access to the transcript. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to use this process.

Electronic transcripts are accepted and can be received and processed within 24 hours. The NCAA Eligibility Center will accept official electronic transcripts from any of the following service providers:

- National Transcript Center
- [Parchment](#)
- [Scrip-Safe/Credentials](#)
- [Scribbles Software](#)
- USMO ET
- [XAP](#)
- Naviance
- State of Georgia comes in Direct

Transcripts also may be mailed; please allow four days for processing from the day of receipt. (Uploading via the [High School Portal](#) is considered best practice.) In order to send a transcript by U.S. mail or through overnight express delivery service, please use the appropriate address listed on [page 3](#).





WHAT IS HIGH SCHOOL REVIEW?

The NCAA Eligibility Center's high school review staff partners with high schools and districts to determine which courses, programs and schools can be used in a college-bound student-athlete's academic certification. This process is done in alignment with NCAA legislation, directives, and policies and procedures as they relate to secondary education. The high school review department also collaborates with leading secondary education organizations to stay current with changes in educational policies and practices, and is staffed with individuals from the secondary and post-secondary school communities who have previously served as teachers, administrators, counselors and coaches.

For High Schools New to the NCAA

If you would like your high school or program reviewed for use in initial-eligibility certifications and your school does not have an account with the NCAA Eligibility Center (or your school's account status is "None"), call our toll-free high school line at 877-622-2321 and speak to a customer service representative. The representative will take some basic demographic information from you, including contact names, phone numbers and email addresses. An email will be sent to the contacts you provide, with the login and PIN information, to begin the account review process.

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

NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

Nontraditional courses include classes taught online or through blended learning, distance learning, credit recovery, independent study or similar means. Generally, for a nontraditional program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

- The courses must meet **NCAA core-course requirements**.
- The courses must have ongoing and regular teacher-initiated interaction for the purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance throughout the duration of the course. This may include synchronous or asynchronous instructive interaction, including emails, videoconferencing, online chats, phone calls and feedback on assessments.
- The courses must have a defined time period for completion. This means the nontraditional program must identify the fastest and slowest paths to complete a course.

Please see Nontraditional Courses (NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2.2) for a **complete list of requirements**.

If a nontraditional course or program at your school has not yet been reviewed by the NCAA, please contact NCAA Eligibility Center Customer Service staff at 877-622-2321 to begin the review process.

To find out if a nontraditional program or course is approved, you can go to **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist** to search the school or program's list of NCAA-approved courses. You will find information about any nontraditional programs or courses in the High School Information box as seen below.

High School Information
Coursework from this school/program meets NCAA nontraditional core-course legislation.

CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS

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

For a credit recovery program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

1. The courses must meet NCAA core-course requirements, and in some instances, nontraditional course requirements.
2. The high school must follow its credit recovery policies, regardless if the student is an athlete. The NCAA Eligibility Center may request the high school's policy, if necessary.
3. Repeated courses must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to the previously attempted course.

DIVISION II WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring the progress of your student-athletes in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. Remember to use your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes students have taken.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

ENGLISH (3 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: English 9	.50		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
MATHEMATICS (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: Algebra I	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)					
COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA		/		=	
QUALITY POINTS		/	CREDITS	=	CORE-COURSE GPA

SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA Divisions I and II schools provide more than \$2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships.

Only about 2% of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college. Of the student-athletes participating in sports with professional leagues, very few become professional athletes. A college education is the most rewarding benefit of a student-athlete experience.

Many student-athletes also benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs such as the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund and need-based aid such as Federal Pell Grants. Students 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 and athletics department for help.

If a school plans to reduce or not renew a student's aid, the school must notify them in writing by July 1 and provide an opportunity for them to appeal. In most cases, the head coach decides who receives a scholarship, the scholarship amount and whether it will be renewed. Students should contact the NCAA school they hope to attend for more detailed information about NCAA financial aid rules.

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

A National Letter of Intent (NLI) is signed by a student, agreeing to attend a Division I or II college for one academic year. NLI NCAA institutions agree to provide financial aid to the student for a minimum of one academic year as long as the student is admitted to the school and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.

The NLI is voluntary and not required for students to receive financial aid or participate in sports. Signing an NLI ends the recruiting process because coaches are prohibited from recruiting student-athletes who have signed NLIs with other NLI NCAA institutions.

If a student signs an NLI but decides to attend another college, the signee may request a release. If the release is not granted and the signee attends a different school, the signee will lose one full year of eligibility and must complete a full academic year at the new school before being eligible to compete. If students have questions about the NLI, they should visit the NLI website at nationalletter.org.

IMPORTANT RECRUITING TERMS

Celebratory standardized signing form (*a form used by Division III institutions*): The Celebratory Standardized Signing Form is a standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics celebratory signing form after a college-bound student-athlete has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

Contact: A contact happens any time a college coach says more than “Hello” during a face-to-face meeting with a student or the student’s parents off the college’s campus.

Contact period: During a contact period, a college coach may have face-to-face contact with a student or a student’s parents, watch the student compete or visit the student’s high school, and write or telephone the student or the student’s parents.

Dead period: A college coach may not have any face-to-face contact with a student or the student’s parents on or off the college campus at any time during a dead period. The coach may write and call the student or the student’s parents during this time.

Evaluation: An evaluation happens when a college coach observes a student practicing or competing.

Evaluation period: During an evaluation period, a college coach may watch a student compete, visit the student’s high school and write or telephone the student or the student’s parents. However, a college coach may not have face-to-face contact with a student or the student’s parents off the college’s campus during an evaluation period.

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 or academic achievement.

Five-year clock: If a student plays at a Division I school, the student has five calendar-years in which to play four seasons of competition. A student’s five-year clock starts when the student enrolls as a full-time student at any college. Thereafter, the clock continues, even if the student spends an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decides to redshirt, does not attend school or even attends part time during their college career.

Full-time student: Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, a student is a full-time student if he/she is enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term, but some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12 credit hours in a term.

International student: An international student is any student who is enrolled in a secondary school outside the United States, U.S. territories or Canada (except Quebec). For more information, refer to the [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).

Institutional request list: An institutional request list (IRL) is a list of college-bound student-athletes whom an NCAA Division I and/or II school is interested in recruiting. The action of adding a college-bound student-athlete to the IRL informs the NCAA Eligibility Center of the school’s interest in having an academic and amateurism certification decision for the student-athlete.

Official commitment: When a student officially commits to attend a Division I or II college, the student signs a National Letter of Intent, agreeing to attend that school for one academic year.

Official visit: During an official visit, the college can pay for transportation to and from the college for a student, lodging and meals (Division I allows for up to three meals per day) for the student and the student’s parents or guardians, as well as reasonable entertainment expenses, including three tickets to a Division I home sports event or five tickets to a Division II home sports event. Before a college may invite a student on an official visit, the student will have to provide the college with a copy of their high school transcript and ACT, SAT or PLAN score (test scores are required for Division I only) and register for a Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Quiet period: During this time, a college coach may not have any in-person contact with a student or the student's parents off the college's campus. The coach may not watch the student play or visit the student's high school during this period. The student and their parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or call the student or their parents during this time.

Recruited: If a college coach contacts a student off campus, pays a student's expenses to visit the campus, or in Divisions I and II, issues a National Letter of Intent or a written offer of financial aid, the student is considered to be recruited.

Recruiting calendar: NCAA member schools limit recruiting to certain periods during the year. Recruiting calendars promote the well-being of college-bound student-athletes and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport. For more information, visit [ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars](https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars).

Recruiting shutdown: A recruiting shutdown is a period of time when no forms of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or unofficial visits, correspondence, or marketing or receiving telephone calls) are permissible.

Season of competition: Generally, NCAA rules say that any competition in a season — regardless of the amount of time — counts as having played a season in that sport. If a student plays any time during a season, regardless of how long the student played, it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. A student's season of competition starts when he/she spends one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track.

Ten-semester/15-quarter clock: If a student plays at a Division II or III school, the student has the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which he/she is enrolled as a full-time student to complete four seasons of participation. A student uses a semester or quarter any time he/she attends class as a full-time student or is enrolled part time and competes for the school. A student does not use a term if he/she only attends part time with no competition or is not enrolled for a term.

Two-year college: Any school where students can earn an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Applied Science degree within two years. Some people call these schools community colleges or junior colleges.

Unofficial visit: Any visit by a student and the student's parents to a college campus paid for by the student or the student's parents. The only expense a student may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a Division I home athletics contest or five complimentary admissions to a Division II home athletics contest. A student may make as many unofficial visits as he/she likes and may take those visits at any time, except in the sports of lacrosse, wrestling and women's gymnastics. (Recruiting calendars for these sports are available at [ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars](https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/resources/recruiting-calendars).) The only time a student cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is a **dead period**.

Verbal commitment: A verbal commitment happens when a student verbally agrees to play sports for a college before he/she signs or is eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent. The commitment is not binding on the student or the school and can be made at any time.

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.



Fall 2020

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