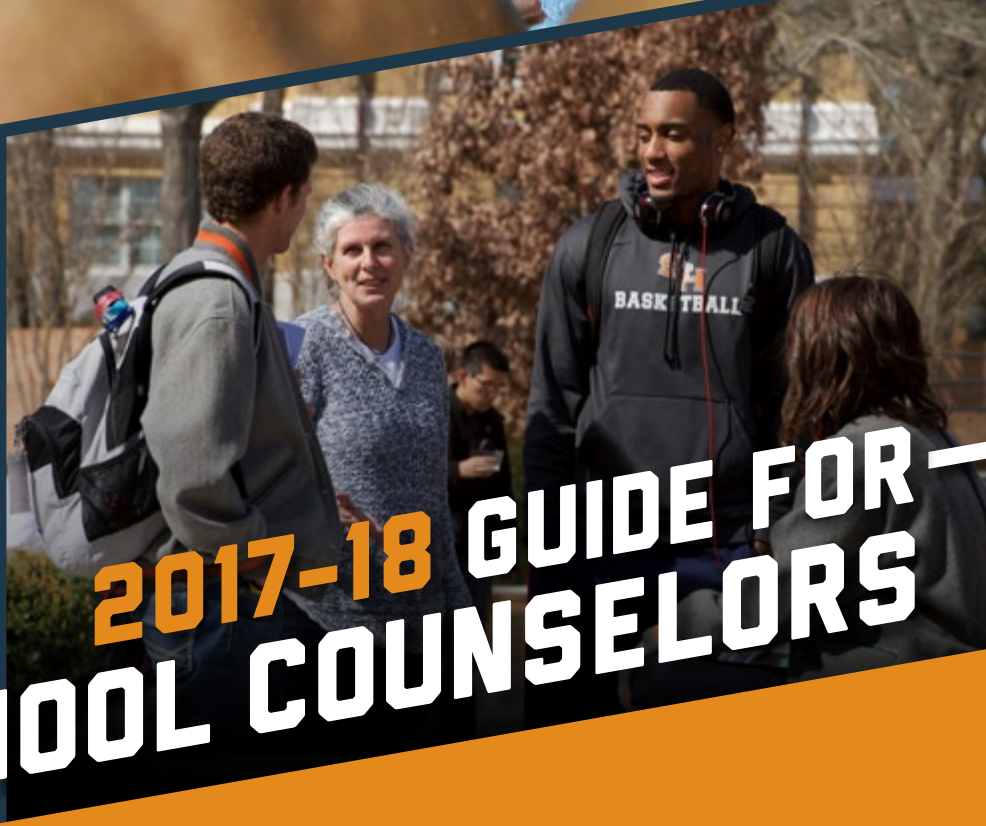




Eligibility Center



2017-18 GUIDE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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Learn some key terms about 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?

- Reading this guide.
- Visiting the high school resources found at eligibilitycenter.org after clicking on High School Administrators.
- Viewing tutorials and webinars on the High School Portal.
- Searching Frequently Asked Questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- Contacting the NCAA Eligibility Center.



NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

ONLINE

ncaa.org/playcollegesports/eligibilitycenter.org

Note: Select "High School Administrators" when visiting our pages.

Follow us on Twitter

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

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 32](#).

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

1,300+

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES,
CONFERENCES AND
ORGANIZATIONS

347

ACTIVE DIVISION I MEMBERS

309

ACTIVE DIVISION II MEMBERS

442

ACTIVE DIVISION III MEMBERS



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

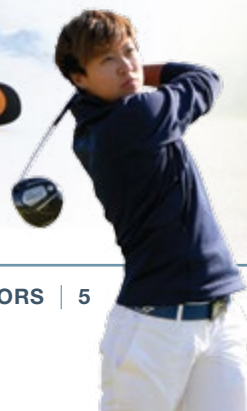
WOMEN:

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

EMERGING SPORTS

WOMEN:

Equestrian
Rugby
Triathlon



OUR THREE DIVISIONS

DIVISION I

Division I schools generally have more students, larger athletics budgets and more athletics department support than schools in Division II or III.

DIVISION II

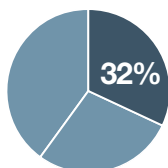
Schools in Division II emphasize a life balance in which academically and athletically gifted students can compete at a high level, while maintaining a traditional collegiate experience.

DIVISION III

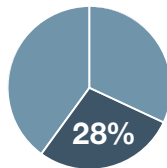
Academics are the primary focus for Division III student-athletes who experience shorter sports seasons, reducing their time away from academic studies and other campus activities.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

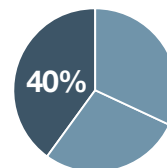
347



309



442



MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

9,970

2,524

1,790

STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES

1 in 25



[180,699]

1 in 13



[120,434]

1 in 6



[191,398]

AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL

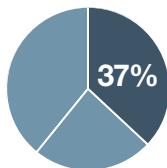
19

16

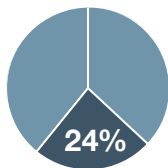
18

PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN DIVISION

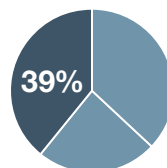
37%



24%



39%



ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS

Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available

53 percent of athletes receive athletics aid

Partial athletics scholarships model

56 percent of athletes receive athletics aid

No athletics scholarships

75 percent of athletes receive non-athletics aid

HIGH SCHOOL REVIEW – WHAT IS IT?

The NCAA Eligibility Center's high school review department supports the academic initial-eligibility certification process in alignment with NCAA legislation, directives, policies, and procedures related to secondary education. The 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. For a course on a student's transcript to be used in an academic certification, it must appear on that school's list of NCAA-approved courses. 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 served previously 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 your contacts with the login and PIN information to begin the account review process.

High School Account Review Process

For the high school review staff to review your school or program, you must provide copies of documentation that may include:

- **Course Catalog:** Also known as a program of studies or course description guide. This document must contain a detailed course description of all courses. A course catalog or program of studies typically satisfies this requirement. The following documents are insufficient: a listing of course titles and/or codes, syllabi, table of contents from texts, state curriculum guidelines.
- **Academic Calendar:** Calendar must outline school start date, all vacation or school not-in-session dates, teacher in-service dates, school end date and graduation date. If your school follows year-round rolling enrollment, the calendar should outline any major dates such as closures, teacher in-service dates and graduation date.
- **Master Schedule:** Master schedule should include course names and corresponding instructors, as well as class location (room number or meeting space), if applicable.
- **Sample Student Transcript:** Provide a sample transcript from the most recent academic school year. Please redact any student-specific information.
- **Transcript Key:** This can be a separate document or you can write explanations on your sample transcript. Required information includes: how courses from other schools are differentiated on your transcript, and an explanation of various designations such as symbols, numbers, etc., which may appear on your transcript.
- **Required Policies:** Policy statements for the following must come from your school's official policy guide or handbook:
 - o Circumstances under which you allow continuing or transfer students to repeat a course or courses.
 - o A list of your graduation requirements.
 - o Policy on academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty).



High School Account Statuses

After the high school review department reviews the information you sent about your school, you will receive one of the following statuses for your account:

Cleared: Courses listed as approved on this account's list of NCAA courses and proof of graduation from this account may be used in the certification process. Some 'cleared' accounts may have coursework that does not meet NCAA core-course legislation.

Extended Evaluation: The use of courses from this account in the initial-eligibility certification process is pending individual review. Proof of graduation from this account may be used in the initial-eligibility certification process.

Not Cleared: Courses and proof of graduation from this account will not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process.

In Review: Courses and proof of graduation from this account will not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process at this time. Upon rendering of a decision, courses and proof of graduation may or may not be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, depending on account status.

Account Suspended: This account did not complete the review process. To determine if courses and proof of graduation can be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, this account must complete the NCAA Eligibility Center review process.

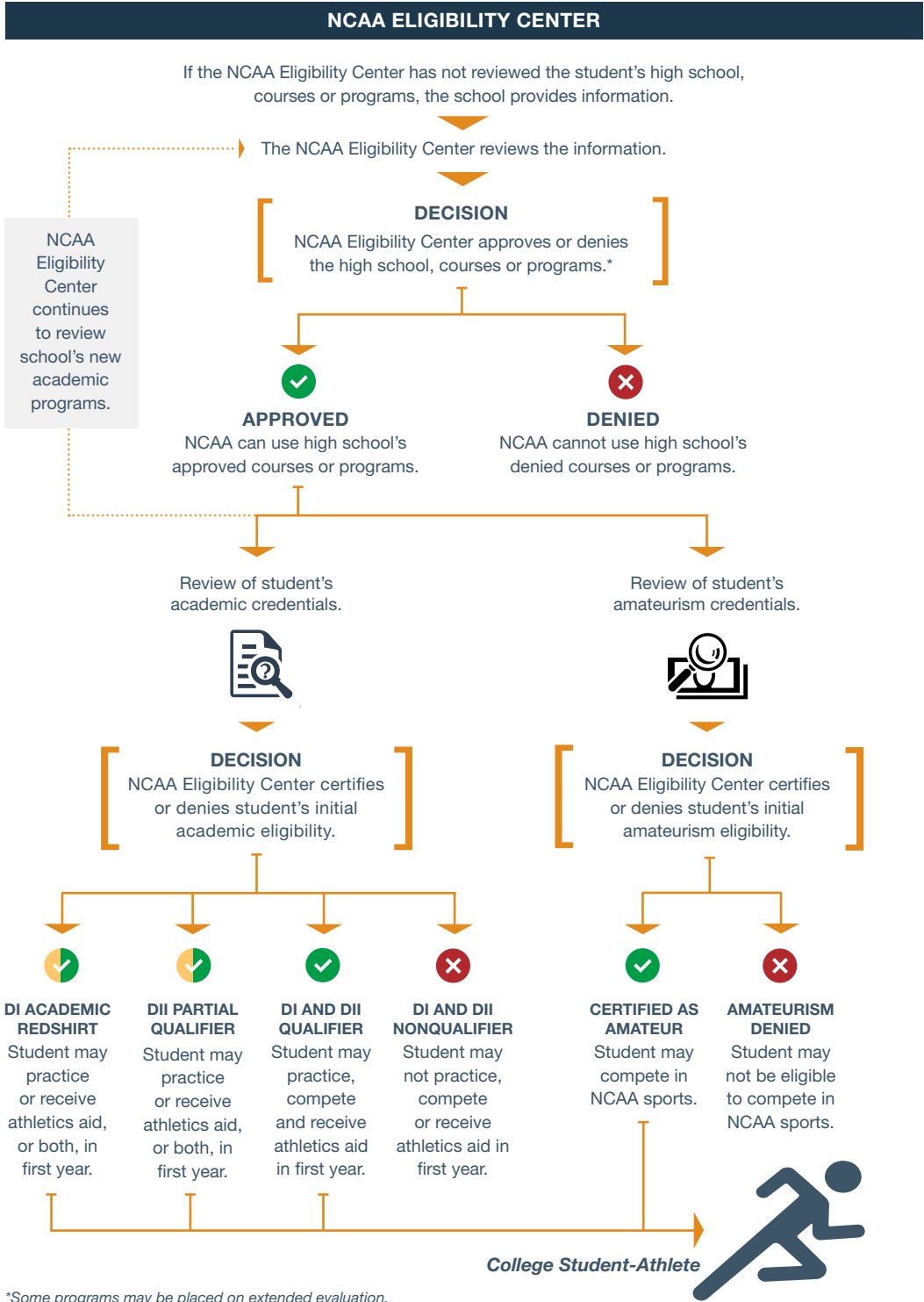
Closed: This account is no longer in operation. Please review the Additional Information and Core Course List for details regarding use of courses and proof of graduation prior to school closure.

None: This account has not been reviewed. To determine if courses and proof of graduation can be used in the initial-eligibility certification process, this account must complete the NCAA Eligibility Center review process.

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 student ...



GRADE 9

- Student asks counselor for a list of high school's core courses to ensure he or she takes the right classes.

GRADE 10

- Student registers with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.

GRADE 11

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

GRADE 12

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

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 that you are aware of the following:

- ❑ Maintain your school's list of [NCAA core courses](#) to ensure it is accurate and up to date. We recommend you update them after your school determines new course offerings and before you begin registering students for courses.
- ❑ Know the Divisions I and II initial-eligibility standards or where to find them.
- ❑ Encourage your college-bound student-athletes to create an account at eligibilitycenter.org at the beginning of their sophomore year.
- ❑ Upload official transcripts at the end of the students' sixth semester (junior year) and when they graduate from high school.
- ❑ Submit fee waivers online for student registrations, when applicable.

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, update your grading scale, 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 (Divisions I or II) or a Profile Page (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 become eligible upon graduation?
 - When an academic certification is requested by a member 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.
 - Ultimately, students are responsible for their own academic decisions, progress and performance.

Accessing Your School's Account

If you have an account, please login with your six-digit high school code and your five-digit PIN.

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

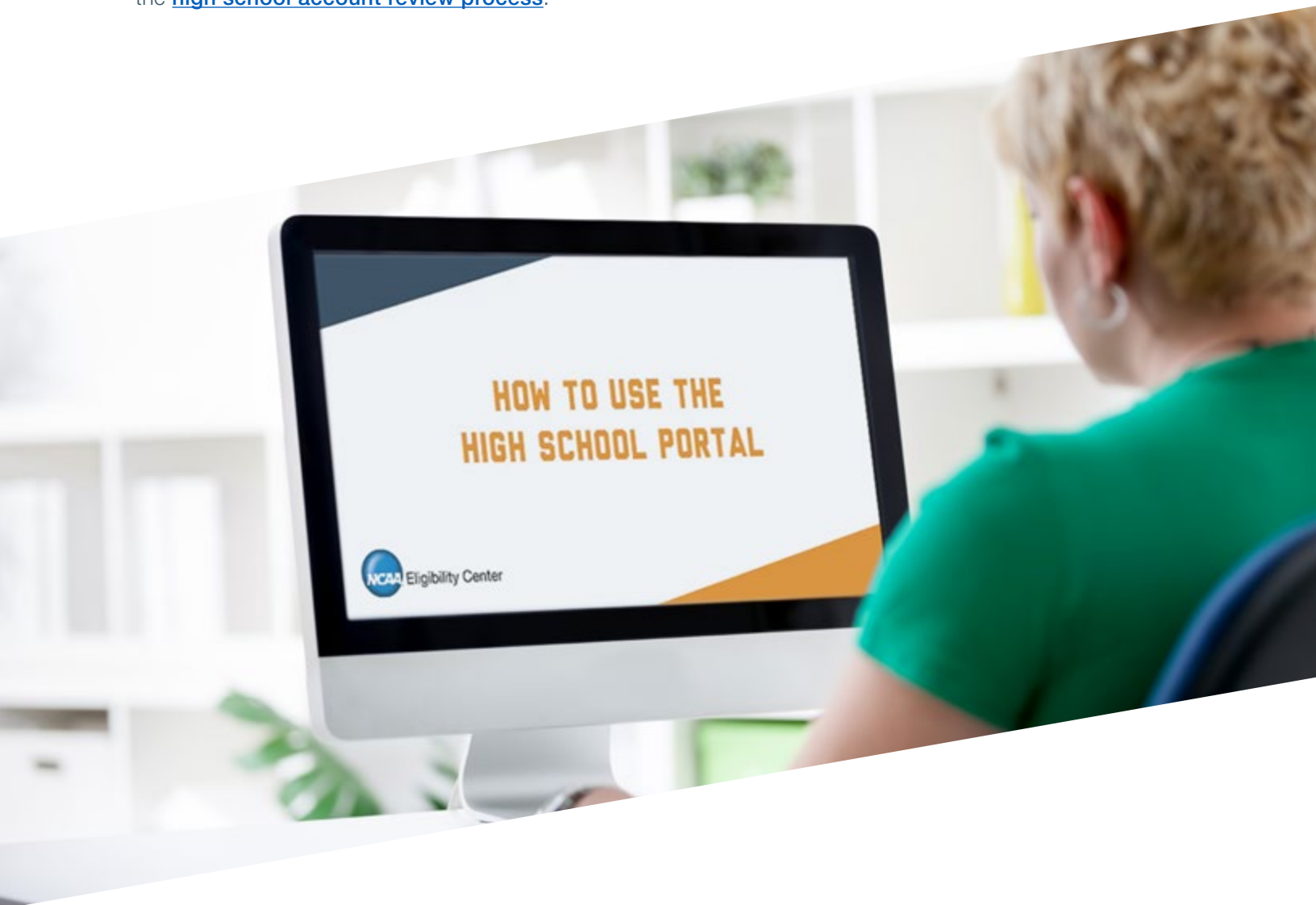
HS Code

PIN

Forgot Your PIN?

- If you are still listed as a current contact in the school's account and have forgotten your PIN, please contact the Customer Service Center at 877-622-2321 to receive the PIN via email.
- If you are a new contact and need to access your high school's account, please complete the PIN request form.

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](#)

[High School Tasks Tutorial](#)

[Fee Waiver Submission](#)

[Initial-Eligibility Brochure \(to order\)](#)

[High School Counselor Presentation Resources](#)

[Division I Initial-Eligibility Requirements](#)

[Division II Initial-Eligibility Requirements](#)

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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

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

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

[Initial-Eligibility Brochure \(printable version\)](#)

[Our Three Divisions](#)

[Student FAQs](#)

[National Letter of Intent](#)

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, mid-term 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.

Updating Your Course List

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 list. For example, if your school stopped teaching a class on Shakespeare at the end of the 2013-14 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 2013-14 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 leaner 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 definition of an NCAA core course. The documentation may be uploaded through the High School Portal for review.

Courses that are denied using specific reasoning codes (i.e., RC5, RC11, RC12 and RC17) also may be reviewed if your school believes the course meets the NCAA core-course definition. Make sure you read and understand the definition of an NCAA core course 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 denied beginning the next academic year, noting that the course may be used through the school year it was audited. However, students who took the course before it was audited 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 clarification of college completion. 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.

NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

Nontraditional courses include classes taught online or through blended learning, distance learning, credit recovery, independent study, or similar means.

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 successfully complete a course (i.e., maximum and minimum time frame for completion).

A nontraditional course could fail to meet NCAA core-course requirements for any of the following reasons:

- Does not require regular and ongoing instructive interaction between the student and teacher throughout the duration of a course.
- Does not require students to complete the entire course.
- Allows students to take numerous courses at the same time, especially courses in the same subject area or that are sequential.
- Does not prepare students for four-year college classwork.
- Does not have official student grade records.

Information for school administrators

If a nontraditional course or program at your school has not yet been reviewed by the NCAA, please contact the NCAA Eligibility Center 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 "Additional Information" box as seen below.

Additional 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. Some students take credit recovery to improve grades for courses that they took previously or to take courses for the first time to catch up.

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 school must follow its credit recovery policies, regardless if the student is an athlete. The NCAA Eligibility Center may request the school's policy, if necessary.
3. The credit recovery courses should be clearly identified as such on the high school transcript.
4. Repeated courses must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to the previously attempted course.

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. For instructions on how to use this process, please follow our [tutorial](#).

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:

- [ConnectEDU](#)
- National Transcript Center/Pearson Edustructure
- [Parchment](#)
- [Scrip-Safe/Credentials](#)
- [Scribbles Software](#)
- USMO ET
- [XAP](#)

The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept faxed or emailed transcripts. In order to send a transcript by U.S. mail or through overnight express delivery service, please use the appropriate address on [page 3](#).



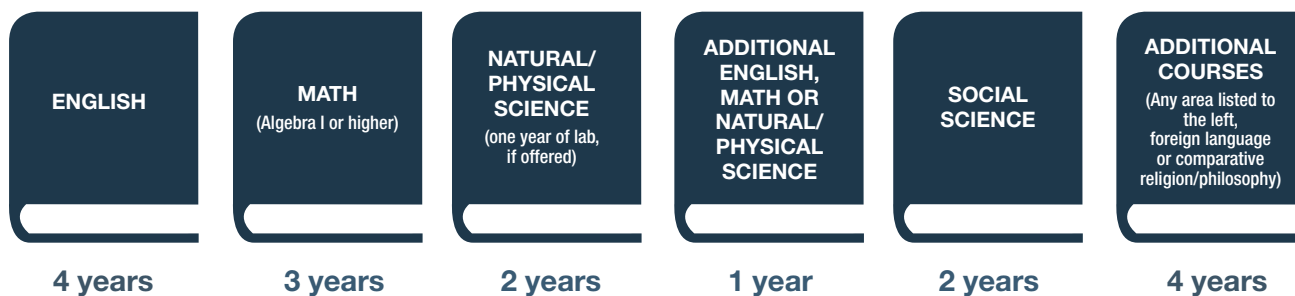
INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY BASICS – KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS

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:



Note: See the core-course progression requirements.

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 sliding scale. SAT scores earned on or after March 2016 will be evaluated based on concordance tables established by the College Board.

How to plan your
high school courses
to meet the
16 core-course
requirement:

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

4 English courses (one per year)
+ 4 math courses (one per year)
+ 4 science courses (one per year)
+ 4 social science (and/or additional) courses (one per year)

16 NCAA core courses

Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification, students must have:

- 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 of their appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once a 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) and may not use any coursework taken after high school graduation toward their certification.

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 of the following academic standards:

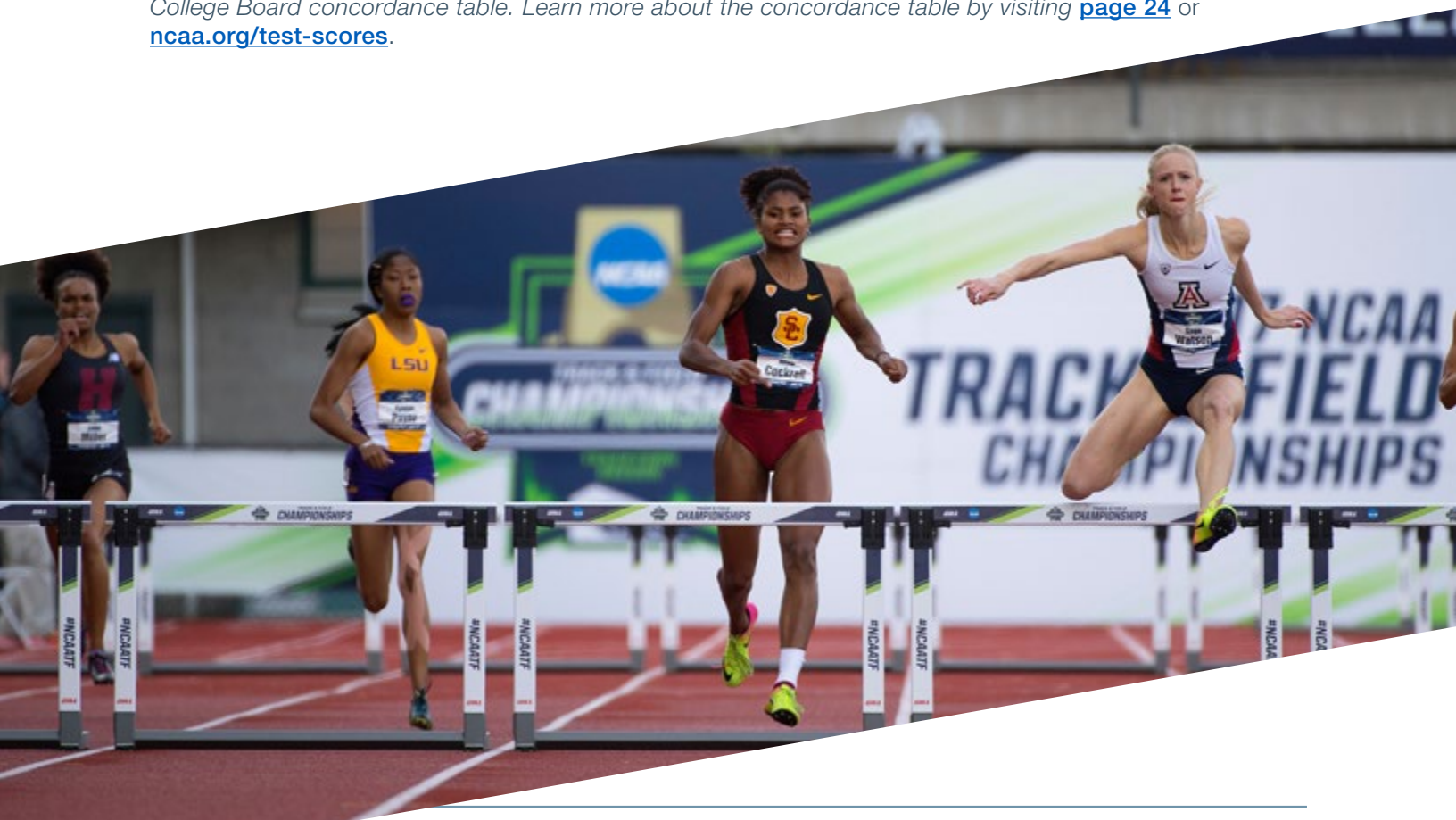
- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score* or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on the Division I sliding scale.

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 and will be awarded 0.5 units unless awarded one full unit by the home high school, and it must appear on the 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.

**Remember, students who took the SAT on or after March 2016 need to compare their score on the College Board concordance table. Learn more about the concordance table by visiting page 24 or ncaa.org/test-scores.*



Sliding Scale for Division I

*Remember, students who took the SAT on or after March 2016 need to compare their score on the College Board concordance table. Learn more about the concordance table by visiting ncaa.org/test-scores.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
CORE GPA	SAT*	ACT SUM
	READING/MATH	
3.550	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
CORE GPA	SAT*	ACT SUM
	READING/MATH	
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

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 of the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:



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 sliding scale.

Academic Certification Decisions

To receive an academic certification decision, students must have:

- 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 of their appropriate documents have been submitted.

Once a 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.

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 of 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.

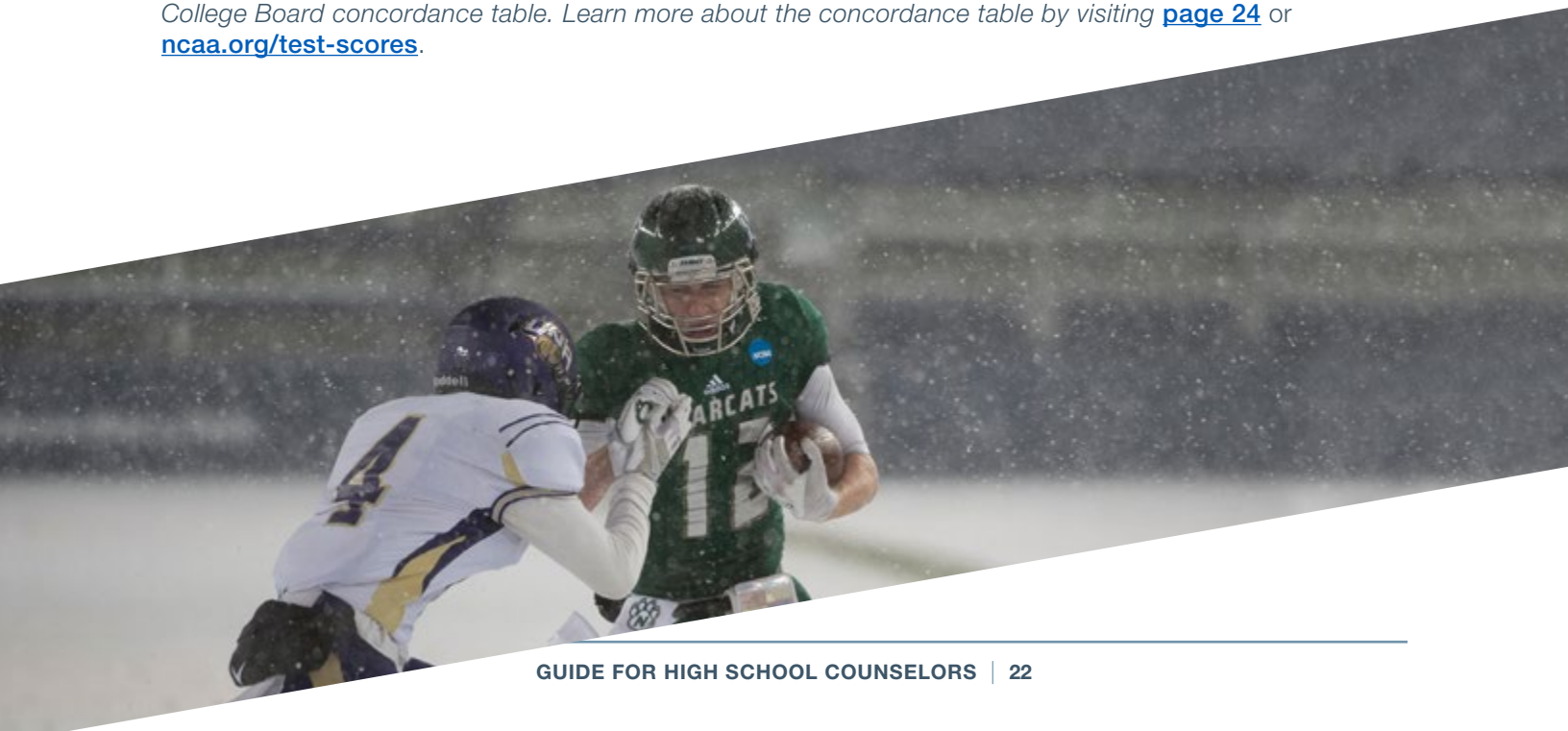
Core-Course Timeline

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 and will be awarded 0.5 units unless awarded one full unit by their home high school, and it must appear on their home high school transcript with grade and credit.

**Remember, students who took the SAT on or after March 2016 need to compare their score on the College Board concordance table. Learn more about the concordance table by visiting [page 24](#) or ncaa.org/test-scores.*

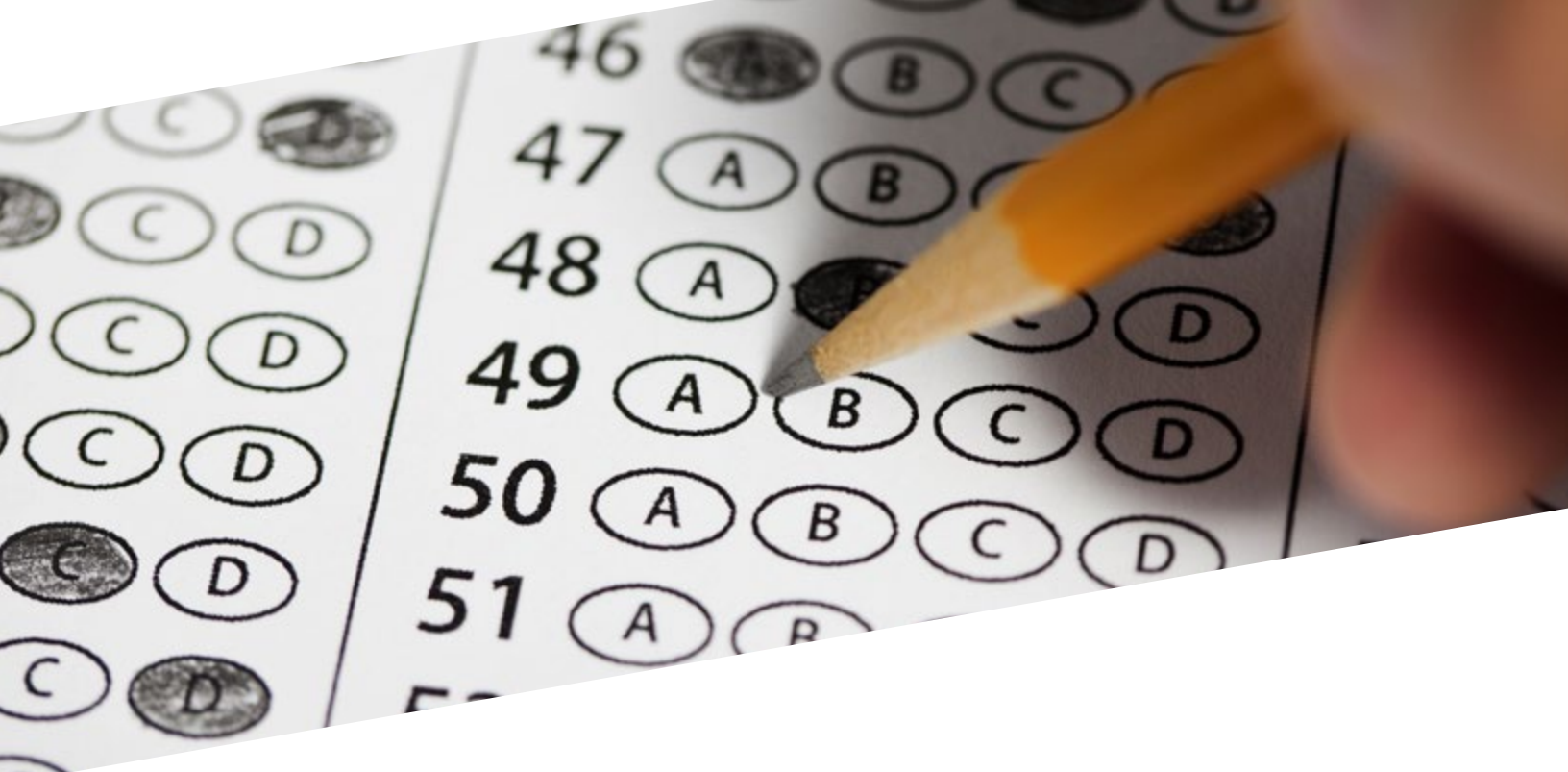


Sliding Scale for Division II

*Remember, students who took the SAT on or after March 2016 need to compare their score on the College Board concordance table. Learn more about the concordance table by visiting ncaa.org/test-scores.

DIVISION II FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018		
CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	420	39
3.225	430	40
3.200	440	41
3.175	450	41
3.150	460	42
3.125	470	42
3.100	480	43
3.075	490	44
3.050	500	44
3.025	510	45
3.000	520	46
2.975	530	46
2.950	540	47
2.925	550	47
2.900	560	48
2.875	570	49
2.850	580	49
2.825	590	50
2.800	600	50
2.775	610	51
2.750	620	52
2.725	630	52
2.700	640	53
2.675	650	53
2.650	660	54
2.625	670	55
2.600	680	56
2.575	690	56
2.550	700	57
2.525	710	58
2.500	720	59
2.475	730	60
2.450	740	61
2.425	750	61
2.400	760	62
2.375	770	63
2.350	780	64
2.325	790	65
2.300	800	66
2.275	810	67
2.250	820	68
2.225	830	69
2.200	840 & above	70 & above

DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018		
CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	420	39
2.975	430	40
2.950	440	41
2.925	450	41
2.900	460	42
2.875	470	42
2.850	480	43
2.825	490	44
2.800	500	44
2.775	510	45
2.750	520	46
2.725	530	46
2.700	540	47
2.675	550	47
2.650	560	48
2.625	570	49
2.600	580	49
2.575	590	50
2.550	600	50
2.525	610	51
2.500	620	52
2.475	630	52
2.450	640	53
2.425	650	53
2.400	660	54
2.375	670	55
2.350	680	56
2.325	690	56
2.300	700	57
2.275	710	58
2.250	720	59
2.225	730	60
2.200	740	61
2.175	750	61
2.150	760	62
2.125	770	63
2.100	780	64
2.075	790	65
2.050	800	66
2.025	810	67
2.000	820 & above	68 & above



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.

College Board Concordance Table

The SAT test changed in March 2016 and varies in design and measures different academic concepts than the past SAT. A numerical score on the past test may not be equivalent to the same numerical score on the redesigned test (March 2016 and after). The NCAA's sliding scales for Divisions I and II were created using the old test model. If students took the SAT on or after March 2016, they need to use the College Board concordance table to determine where their new test scores fall on our sliding scales. They can follow these steps to interpret their score:

1. Find their new SAT score on the [College Board concordance table](#). Look at what that score converts to on the old SAT.
2. Take the converted (old) SAT score and look at the Division I or II sliding scales to see what GPA the student will need to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. You can find the College Board concordance table on our website: ncaa.org/test-scores.

If students took the SAT before March 2016 and then took the redesigned SAT later, the NCAA Eligibility Center will **NOT** combine section scores from the old and new SAT when determining their initial eligibility. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only combine section scores from the same version of the tests.

To compare scores from the new SAT to the old SAT, please see our resource [here](#).

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.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent 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 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.



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. Grades from additional core courses will be used only if they improve the student's GPA.

GPAs are calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating a GPA. 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.

Calculating Your 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):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 1.00 \text{ units} = 4.00 \text{ quality points}$

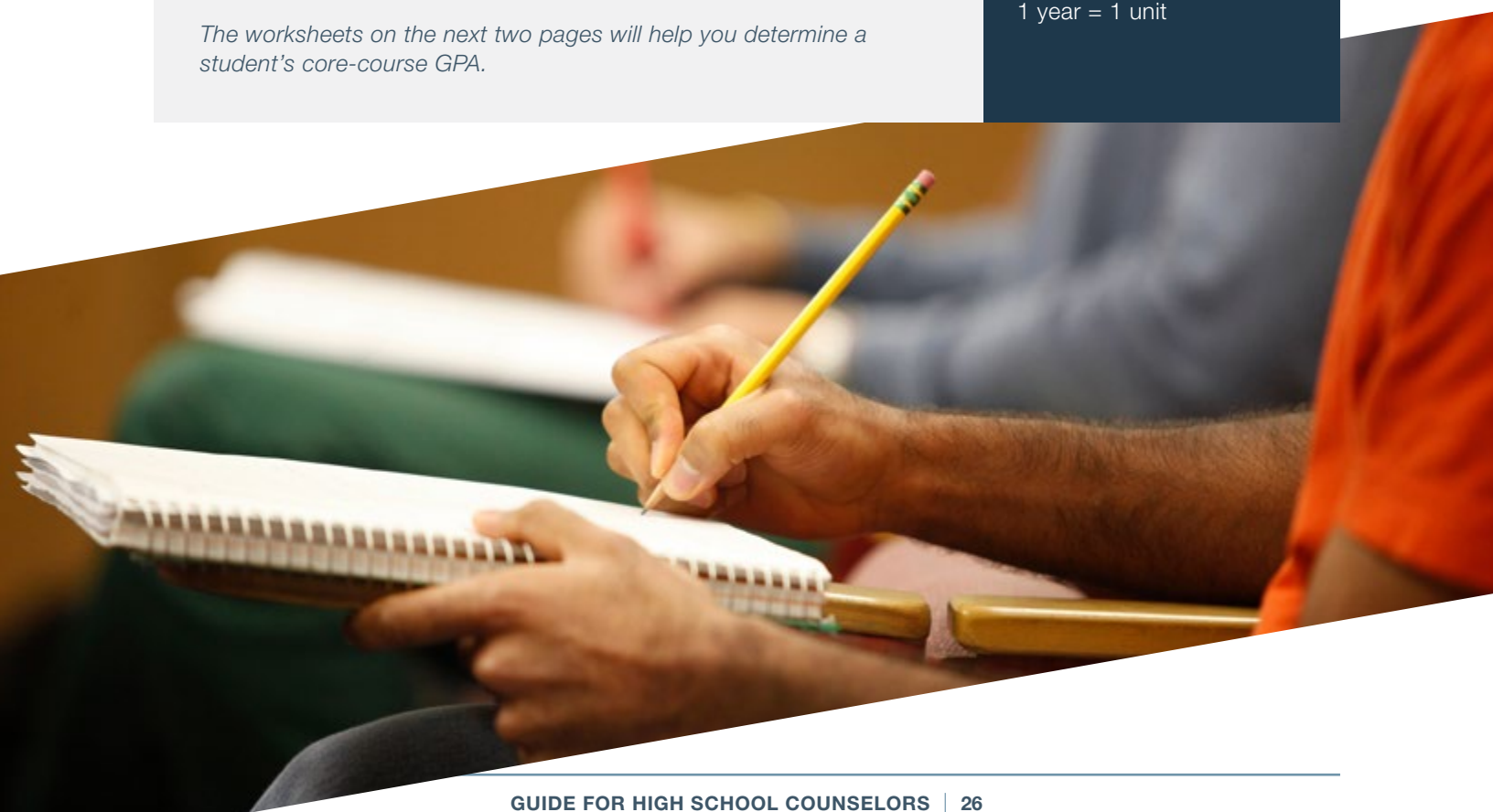
The worksheets on the next two pages will help you determine a student's core-course GPA.

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



DIVISION I 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 (4 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	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 (3 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	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)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
ADDITIONAL YEAR IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 YEAR REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)						
10/7	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

Core-Course GPA (16 required). Ten core courses must be completed before the seventh semester and seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science for competition purposes.

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

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 [International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).

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.

You can also contact the NCAA Eligibility Center through our [International Contact Form](#) or at 011-317-917-6222.

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 sophomore year of high school.

Students can choose from two account types to get started:

- 1. 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.
- 2. Profile Page:** 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 Profile Page. 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.

For Certification Accounts, please allow 30 to 45 minutes to register completely and 15 to 30 minutes to register for a Profile Page. 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

Students need a valid email address that they check regularly and will have access to after high school to register. This is important for updating prospective 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 outside of the traditional high school season. 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 students’ amateur status when it is requested by an NCAA school.

Payment

Students' Certification Accounts 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 \$80. The fee for all other international students is \$135. Profile Pages do not have a fee. Students who create a Profile Page 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 their 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.



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 percent 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.

Division I schools may provide tuition and fees, room and board, books, and other expenses related to attendance at the school. Division II full scholarships cover tuition and fees, room, board, and course-related books and supplies. Most student-athletes who receive athletics scholarships receive an amount covering a portion of these costs. 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.

Division I schools may provide students with multiyear scholarships. Additionally, Division I schools may pay for students to finish their bachelor's or master's degrees after they finish playing NCAA sports. NCAA rules require students to be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center in order to be recruited, to go on an official visit, to receive an offer of financial aid or to sign a National Letter of Intent, but it is not required for students to receive an academic evaluation before any of these activities.

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 member institutions agree to provide financial aid to the student for a minimum of one academic year as long as they are admitted to the school and are 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 member institutions.

If a student signs an NLI but decides to attend another college, they may request a release. If the student signs an NLI with one school but attends a different school, they 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 website at nationalletter.org.

IMPORTANT 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 his/her 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).

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 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 his/her 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 his/her parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or call the student or his/her 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.

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) degree, an Associate of Science (AS) degree or an 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 on the NCAA website. 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.

