



Eligibility Center

8th Annual Drive-In Conference

Navigation 5.0

Athletics Director's Seminar

Preparing Student-Athletes for NCAA Division I or II Athletics

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NCAA Eligibility Center

Seminar Overview

- Overview of the NCAA.
- Why the NCAA Eligibility Center?
- Initial-Eligibility Information.
- How Can You Help?
- Core Courses.
- Amateurism.
- Credit Recovery and Online Coursework.
- Questions?



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Quick Overview of the NCAA

Quick Overview

Organization of the NCAA

- Division I
 - Highest level of intercollegiate athletics.
 - Typically large student-body size.
 - Athletics grants-in-aid available.
- Division II
 - Small to medium-sized schools, smaller athletics budgets.
 - Athletics grants-in-aid available.
- Division III
 - Largest of the three divisions, typically small student body.
 - Athletics grants-in-aid not available, generally students participate for the love of the sport.



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Why the Eligibility Center?

Why the Eligibility Center?

Initial-Eligibility Certification Under One Roof

- Initial-eligibility certification.
 - Academic; and
 - Amateurism.
- Core-course review.
- High school review.
- Client relations.
- National Letter of Intent.



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What Does the Eligibility Center Do?

Eligibility Center Responsibilities

The Eligibility Center is responsible for determining the eligibility of every college-bound student-athlete in NCAA Divisions I and II from the following perspectives:

- Academic Certification.
 - *Does the college-bound student-athlete meet the legislated minimum academic requirements?*
- Amateurism Certification.
 - *Has the college-bound student-athlete maintained his or her amateur status?*



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Initial-Eligibility Overview

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

- Academic initial-eligibility requirements are different for each of the three divisions.
- It is possible for a college-bound student-athlete to be eligible in one division and not another.

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

NCAA Division I Academic Requirements

- In order to compete as a freshman, a student-athlete must:
 - Graduate from high school;
 - Earn a minimum required grade-point average (GPA) in a prescribed distribution of **16 approved core courses**; and
 - Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core-course GPA (refer to the “sliding scale” on the *NCAA Freshman-Eligibility Standards Quick Reference Sheet*).

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements

- In order to compete as a freshman, a student-athlete must:
 - Graduate from high school;
 - Earn at least a **2.000** GPA in a prescribed distribution of **14 core courses**; and
 - Earn a combined SAT score of at least **820** (critical reading + math) or an ACT sum score of at least **68**.
 - No sliding scale for Division II.

* Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division II institution will be required to complete 16 core courses.

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

NCAA Division III Academic Requirements

- Unlike Divisions I and II, there is no uniform set of eligibility requirements for Division III schools.
- Eligibility for admission, financial aid, practice and competition is determined by institutional regulations.

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

Division I

16 Core Courses

- 4 years English
- 3 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science
- 2 years social science
- 4 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)

Division II

14 Core Courses

- 3 years English
- 2 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 2 years additional English, math or natural/physical science
 - 3 years 2013 and after
- 2 years social science
- 3 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)
 - 4 years 2013 and after



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Core Courses

What is a Core Course?

- Qualifies for high school graduation in one or more of the following: English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion or philosophy;
- Is considered academic, four-year college preparatory;
- Is taught at or above the high school's regular academic level;
- For mathematics courses, is at the level of Algebra I or a higher level mathematics course; and
- Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority.

Definition of a Core Course

- This legislation provides that these courses are academic and college-preparatory courses to enable those students to better meet the considerable rigors of college-level academics and the significant time demands of athletics participation.

Eighth Grade Courses

- NCAA legislation prohibits the use of eighth grade courses; however, high school courses taught in the eighth grade may be acceptable.

These courses:

- **Must** receive graduation credit;
- **Must** be on high school transcript with grade and credit; and
- **Must** be on NCAA's List of Approved Core Courses.

Examples of Policy Denial

- Yearbook
- Arithmetic
- Computer Applications
- Driver's Education
- Foods
- Home Economics
- Keyboarding
- Music Theory
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Taxidermy
- Video Production

New Legislation

- **Early academic certification process.**
 - Final certification to academically qualified students following six semesters of coursework.
- **Core-course time limitation.**
 - Students must complete required coursework in eight semesters.

Initial-Eligibility Overview

Early Academic Certification

- Students who meet the following criteria after six semesters will be certified as qualifiers:
 - Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 1000 or minimum sum score of 85 on the ACT;
 - **For Division I:** Core-course GPA of 3.0 or higher in a minimum of **13 core** courses:
 - 3 English;
 - 2 Math;
 - 2 Science; and
 - 6 additional core courses in any area.
 - **For Division II:** Core-course GPA of 3.0 or higher in a minimum of **12 core** courses:
 - 3 English;
 - 2 Math;
 - 2 Science; and
 - 5 additional core courses in any area.

Core-Course Time Limitation

Division I Only

- If students do not graduate "on time" in eight semesters, any core courses taken after the eighth semester will not be counted toward NCAA academic-eligibility requirements.
 - What does "on time" mean?
 - Plus-one option.

Courses for Students with Education-Impacting Disabilities

- Course must be qualitatively and quantitatively the same as a course in the mainstream curriculum.
 - For example, Resource Room English 9 must be comparable to English 9.
- Course must be exclusively for students with documented education-impacting disabilities.

Initial-Eligibility Waiver Process

- This process exists for students who have had unfortunate circumstances occur that prevented them from successfully completing the Division I or II initial-eligibility requirements.



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How Can You Help?

How Can You Help?

- Make sure your school's NCAA List of Approved Core Courses is accurate and up to date.
- The Eligibility Center Web site will list your high school's registrants. That list is a helpful tool for knowing which transcripts to send.
- Send official transcripts for your registered student-athletes at the end of the sixth semester (junior year) and eighth semester (graduation from high school).
- Assisting student-athletes with the fee waiver process.

Great Tips to Share with Your Guidance Counselors and Your Coaching Staff

- Help students obtain resources on the NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.
- Help students map out their academic track for college admission. Students enrolled in a college-prep curriculum will be better positioned to meet NCAA requirements.
- Empower students to understand how to calculate their core-course GPA.

Great Tips to Share with Your Guidance Counselors and Your Coaching Staff

- Use the registration/grad list on the Eligibility Center Web site as a guide to sending transcripts.
- Help students identify colleges that fit their criteria (e.g., academics, size, distance from home, location, etc.).
- Apply the “broken-leg test” by asking if the student would be happy if athletics could not be factored into the equation.
- Emphasize the importance of academic performance at every step of the student-athlete’s high school career – grade nine counts!!!
- Use “The Guide” as a resource.

Credit Recovery and Online Coursework

- What are your schools doing for credit recovery?
- Are your schools using online education?

Other Trends: Prep Schools

- Recent headlines.
 - Things to look for:
 - Does the high school pass the smell test?
 - Does the student-athlete have a clear academic track?
 - Will this high school prepare the student-athlete for academic success in college?

High School Review Trends

- Share what you know:
 - High schools where education is outsourced through another school or program.
 - Steady increase in online education programs.
 - Increase in alternative curriculum providers and outsourcing credit recovery opportunities.

High School Review Trends

- Increase in unregulated programs.
- Increase in international students.
- Increase in late diagnoses of education-impacting disabilities.
- Multiple high school transfers, including transferring for senior year to preparatory school.
- Football early graduation.



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Amateurism

Amateurism Red Flags

- 🚩 Signing a contract with a professional team.
- 🚩 Receiving money for participating in athletics.
- 🚩 Receiving prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
- 🚩 Playing with professional athletes.
- 🚩 Trying out, practicing or competing with a professional team.
- 🚩 Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- 🚩 Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- 🚩 Participating in organized competition after your first opportunity to enroll in college.

Agents and Runners

- Agents - people that market your student-athletes athletics ability for pay in a particular sport.
- Runners - people employed by agents that look just like your student-athletes. They are well financed with cash and credit cards to lure your kids to sign with that agent.

Baseball

- Baseball players are permitted to have an advisor to counsel the family about a proposed contract or draft status.
- The advisor must be paid for his or her services and cannot be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional sports organization on behalf of the student-athlete.
- The advisor's presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent.



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New Web Site

Resources

- [877/NCAA-EC1 \(877/622-2321\)](tel:8776222321).
 - Phone line dedicated to the high school community.
- ec-clientrelations@ncaa.org
 - E-mail to be added to our high school newsletter.
- NCAAstudent.org.
 - Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- NCAA.org.
 - In the “Academics and Athletics” section, click on “Eligibility and Recruiting.”
- NCAAclearinghouse.net.

Questions?





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