



Choosing a college is difficult.
Choose wisely to take that first step down the road to success.

2003-04 NCAA

Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete



NCAA Clearinghouse Preview Coming in 2003: New Web Site and Services

In 2002, the NCAA Clearinghouse launched new Web site services for prospective student-athletes, member institutions and high schools. The Web site services have continued to grow to provide enhancements as a result of procedural and legislative changes.

New for 2003:

- An expanded list of core courses that includes information on "denied courses." Denied courses are those that do not meet the NCAA's definition of an eligible core course.
- For students who are eligible for a fee waiver (see Page 7), you now may complete your Student Release Form (SRF) on the Web and have your high-school counselor submit your waiver via the Web as well.
- Prospective student-athletes now have more options to pay their registration fee on the Web. You now may pay your clearinghouse registration fee using either a MasterCard or Visa debit or credit card.
- The testing agencies (ACT and SAT) no longer will identify students who have been granted testing accommodations due to a documented disability. This change in reporting is effective for all ACT and SAT reports generated beginning September 1, 2003. As a result, the registration materials included in this booklet and the on-line version on the clearinghouse Web site have been revised and no longer collect information on documented disabilities.

Reminders:

- You can access the clearinghouse Web site directly at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or via links provided from the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org.
- The clearinghouse customer service center hours are:
Customer Service Line —877/262-1492
(8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday)
24-hour voice response—877/861-3003 (you must be registered and have your PIN to access the voice response system).

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION

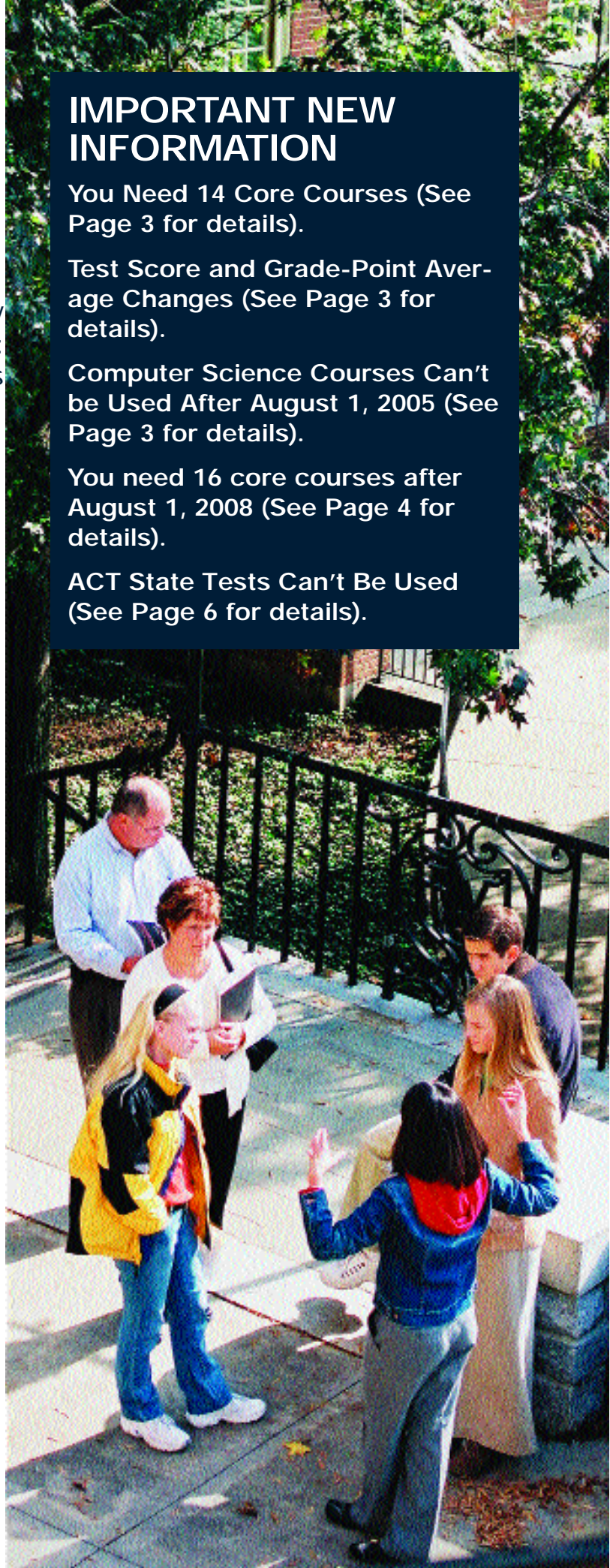
You Need 14 Core Courses (See Page 3 for details).

Test Score and Grade-Point Average Changes (See Page 3 for details).

Computer Science Courses Can't be Used After August 1, 2005 (See Page 3 for details).

You need 16 core courses after August 1, 2008 (See Page 4 for details).

ACT State Tests Can't Be Used (See Page 6 for details).



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All references in this publication are to the 2003-04 NCAA Manuals.

Introduction

As a high-school athlete, you soon will be making an important decision for your future — selection of the college or university you will attend for your undergraduate degree and to continue your participation in athletics. You can look forward to this new phase of your life as a wonderful experience that will result in lifetime friendships and memories. More importantly, you should take full advantage of the opportunity to secure the quality education necessary for a successful and happy life.

It is never too early to begin considering the type of institution you wish to attend and to discuss with your family and advisors what you will need to accomplish in high school to ensure a wide range of choices for college. The colleges and universities in the NCAA represent every type of institution from small schools with no athletically related financial aid to large universities with extensive commitment to athletics. Among the more than 1,000 NCAA member institutions are a large number of schools appropriate for you.

The unique experience of combining education with athletics at the collegiate level is available to some 360,000 student-athletes each year out of the many millions enrolled in America's colleges and universities. For the vast majority of you, this will be the culmination of your athletics participation experience. The odds of a college football player making it in the NFL are less than 6,000 to 1 (some 250 drafted each year), and less than 2 percent of all college basketball players will make it in the NBA (only 50 are drafted each year). Obtaining a college degree is vital for every student-athlete.

This guide is intended to help you and your family understand the recruiting and eligibility rules you will encounter as you move from high school to college. Work with your high-school counselors, the coaches who recruit you and college admissions offices to prepare for this important next step. Ask questions until you understand exactly what you need to do to choose the right college for you.

Most importantly, keep your educational goals among your top priorities.

MYLES BRAND
NCAA President



Academic Eligibility

Division I Academic Eligibility Requirements – 13 Core-Course Standard

If you're first entering a Division I college on or after August 1, 1996, in order to be classified a "qualifier," you're required to:

- Graduate from high school;
- Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 13 academic course units as follows:
 - English.....4 years
 - Mathematics (two years of mathematics courses at the level of Algebra I or above).....2 years
 - Natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory course, if offered by the high school).....2 years
 - Additional courses in English, mathematics, or natural or physical science1 year
 - Social science2 years
 - Additional academic courses [in any of the above areas or foreign language, computer science,* philosophy or nondoctrinal religion (e.g., comparative religion) courses].....2 years
- Have a core-course grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) and a combined score on the SAT verbal and math sections or a sum score on the ACT based on the qualifier index scale.

A "partial qualifier" is eligible to practice with a team at its home facility and receive an athletics scholarship during his or her first year at a Division I school and then has three seasons of competition remaining.

A partial qualifier may earn a fourth year of competition, provided that at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has received a baccalaureate degree.

In order to be classified a "partial qualifier," you have not met the requirements for a qualifier but you're required to:

- Graduate from high school;
- Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses in the appropriate core areas; and
- Present a core-course grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) and a combined score on the SAT verbal and math sec-

A "nonqualifier" is a student who has not graduated from high school or who has presented neither the core-curriculum grade-point average and SAT/ACT scores required for a qualifier.

A nonqualifier shall not be eligible for regular-season competition or practice during the first academic year in residence and then has three seasons of competition remaining. A nonqualifier during the first academic year in residence shall be eligible for nonathletics institutional financial aid that is not from an athletics source and is based on financial need only.

A nonqualifier may earn a fourth year of competition, provided that at

Division I Qualifier Index

Core GPA	ACT* sum of scores	SAT† on or after 4/1/95
2.500 & above	68	820
2.475	69	830
2.450	70	840-850
2.425	70	860
2.400	71	860
2.375	72	870
2.350	73	880
2.325	74	890
2.300	75	900
2.275	76	910
2.250	77	920
2.225	78	930
2.200	79	940
2.175	80	950
2.150	80	960
2.125	81	960
2.100	82	970
2.075	83	980
2.050	84	990
2.025	85	1000
2.000	86	1010

Partial Qualifier Index

Core GPA	ACT* sum of scores	SAT† on or after 4/1/95
2.750 & above	59	720
2.725	59	730
2.700	60	730
2.675	61	740-750
2.650	62	760
2.625	63	770
2.600	64	780
2.575	65	790
2.550	66	800
2.525	67	810

* Previously, ACT score was calculated by averaging four scores. New standards are based on sum of scores.

† For SAT tests taken on or after April 1, 1995.

tions or a sum score on the ACT based on the partial qualifier index scale.

* NOTE: For students first entering NCAA institutions on or after August 1, 2005, computer science courses cannot be used to meet initial-eligibility requirements.

the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has received a baccalaureate degree.

A student with a diagnosed disability who was not a qualifier may earn a fourth season of competition, provided the student-athlete has satisfied specified procedures and has completed at least 75 percent of his or her degree program at the beginning of the fifth academic year after the student-athlete's full-time collegiate enrollment.



Academic Eligibility

Division I Academic Eligibility Requirements – 14 Core-Course Standard

If you're first entering a Division I college or university in the fall of 2003 or after, your NCAA initial eligibility will be evaluated using the 14 core-course standard. To be classified as a qualifier under this standard, you will need to:

Graduate from high school and have successfully completed 14 core courses as listed below and have a core-course grade-point average (based on a 4.000 scale) and a combined score on the SAT or a sum score on the ACT based on the new core GPA/test score index.

14 Core Courses:

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

Some Important Things to Remember:

If you plan to enter college in 2003 or 2004, you may use either the 13 core-course standard or the 14 core-course standard. The clearinghouse will evaluate your transcript using the 14 core-course standard first. If you are not eligible under that rule, the clearinghouse will then evaluate your transcript under the 13 core-course standard.

It is not possible to **mix and match** standards. For example, you cannot use the 13 core-course standard and the sliding scale from the 14 core-course standard.

You no longer can be certified as a partial qualifier if you are certified using the 14 core-course standard.

If you plan to enter college in 2005 or after, your eligibility will be determined by using the 14 core-course standard **ONLY**.

*Computer science no longer will be used as a core course if you first enter any college or university on or after August 1, 2005.



New Core GPA/Test Score Index

(to be used with 14 core courses)

Core GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	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
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	59
2.700	730	60
2.675	740-750	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	840-850	70
2.425	860	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	80
2.125	960	81
2.100	970	82
2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86

Division I Core-Course Increase for Class of 2008–16 Core Courses

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (one must be a lab science)
- 1 year of additional English, math or science
- 2 years of social studies
- 4 years of additional core courses (from any area listed above, or from foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)

This increase is effective August 1, 2008, for students first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2008.

For a course to count toward the requirements above, the course must appear on your high-school's list of approved core courses. You can find your high-school's list by going to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Division II Academic Eligibility Requirements

If you're first entering a Division II college on or after August 1, 1996, in order to be classified a "qualifier," you're required to:

- Graduate from high school;
- Have a GPA of 2.000 (based on a maximum of 4.000) in a successfully completed core curriculum of at least 13 academic course units as follows:
English.....3 years
Mathematics2 years
Natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory course, if offered by the high school)2 years
Additional courses in English, mathematics, or natural or physical science.....2 years
Social science2 years
Additional academic courses [in any of the above areas or foreign language, computer science*, philosophy or nondoctrinal religion (e.g., comparative religion) courses]2 years
- Have a combined score on the SAT verbal and math sections of 820 (if taken on or after April 1, 1995) or a 68 sum score on the ACT.

A "partial qualifier" is eligible to practice with a team at its home facility and receive an athletics scholarship during his or her first year at a Division II school, and then has four seasons of competition remaining.

In order to be classified a "partial qualifier," you have not met the requirements for a qualifier, but you're required to graduate from high school and meet one of the following requirements:

- Specified minimum SAT or ACT score; or

New Requirements

If you plan to enter college in 2005 or after, you will be required to have 14 core courses. The additional course may be in any of the core-course areas.

*Computer science no longer will be used as a core course if you first enter any college or university on or after August 1, 2005.

- Successful completion of a required core curriculum consisting of 13 core courses and a 2.000 grade-point average in the core curriculum.

A nonqualifier is a student who has not graduated from high school or who has presented neither the core-curriculum grade-point average and SAT/ACT score required for a qualifier.

A nonqualifier is not eligible for regular-season competition and practice during the first academic year in residence and then has four seasons of competition. A nonqualifier may not receive athletics-related aid as a freshman, but may receive regular need-based financial aid if the school certifies that aid was granted without regard to athletics ability.

Details of these general requirements are contained in the following sections.

Definition of a Core Course

To meet the "core-course" requirement:

- The core course must be defined as a recognized academic course and qualify for high-school graduation credit in one or a combination of the following areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, computer science, or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy;
- The course must be considered college preparatory by the high school. College preparatory is defined for these purposes as any course that prepares a student academically to enter a four-year collegiate institution upon graduation from high school.
- The course must be taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority (e.g., high school, school district or state agency with authority of such matters) and at or above the high school's regular academic level (i.e., remedial, special education or compensatory courses shall not be considered core courses).

Division III

These requirements currently do not apply to Division III colleges, where eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition is governed by institutional, conference and other NCAA regulations.



Core Courses

Questions & Answers

Q: Can courses taken after my senior year help satisfy core-course requirements?

In Division I, generally only courses completed in Grades 9 through 12 may be considered core courses. Courses taken in summer school after your eighth semester may not be used to satisfy core-course requirements.

A student diagnosed with a disability is permitted to use core courses that were completed before initial full-time enrollment at a collegiate institution. Please contact the NCAA national office for additional information regarding accommodations for students with disabilities.

In Division II, you're permitted to use all core courses completed before initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Q: Is there a way for me to be immediately eligible in Division I if I didn't complete my core courses in the first eight semesters?

At Division I institutions, if you repeat an entire regular term or academic year of high school, you may use appropriate courses taken during that term or year to fulfill the core-course requirements. However, if the repeated term or year occurs after graduation, the core courses you use must be taken at the high school from which you graduated. If core courses are completed beyond the eighth semester, your initial full-time college enrollment cannot occur until the next academic year. It is permissible to substitute the grades earned in postgraduate high-school work in place of grades attained before graduation, provided the above-mentioned conditions are satisfied.

Q: Can courses taken in the eighth grade satisfy core-course requirements?

Courses taken in the eighth grade cannot satisfy core-course requirements.

Q: How is my core-course GPA calculated?

Your core-course grade-point average will be calculated using your best grades from courses that meet the core-course distribution requirements. Additional core courses may be used to meet the core-course grade-point average if the distribution requirements are met.

Q: How many different courses must I take to satisfy core-course requirements?

You must present a different course to meet each of the core-course distribution requirements. A course repeated in the first eight semesters may be used only once. Further, you may use your best grade in the repeated course in calculating the core-course grade-point average.

Q: What do I need to present if I am in a home-schooling program?

All prospective student-athletes who are home-schooled will need to have their core-course requirements analyzed by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver Committee. Please contact membership services for information regarding home-schooling.

Q: Can I count independent-study and Internet courses in my core-course requirements?

Yes. Independent study, Internet or correspondence courses may be used to satisfy core-course requirements, provided the following conditions are met:

- They meet all requirements for a core course;
- The instructor and student have access to one another during the duration of the course for the purpose of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student;
- Evaluation of the student's work is conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high-school's established academic policies; and
- The course is acceptable for any student and is placed on the high-school transcript.

Q: Do pass-fail grades count?

Yes, courses awarded pass-fail grades may be used to satisfy core-curricular requirements. For pass-fail classes, the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse shall assign the course the lowest passing grade at the high school for pass-fail classes.

Q: Do I have to successfully complete the core courses used to satisfy the core-course GPA requirement?

Yes. Students entering a Division I college as freshmen in the fall of 1986 or a Division II college in the fall of 1988 and thereafter must have satisfactorily completed all courses used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements. Satisfactory completion is defined as a nonfailing grade (i.e., a grade of "D" or above).

Q: Can college courses count toward core-course requirements?

A college course can satisfy core-course requirements if it is accepted by your high school and the course

- a. Would be accepted for any other student;
- b. Is placed on your high-school transcript (Division I only); and
- c. Meets all other requirements for a core course.

Q: How are courses taken over two years counted?

A one-year course that is spread over a longer period of time (i.e., two years, three semesters) is considered as one course (e.g., elementary algebra) and would receive a maximum of one core-course credit.

Q: Do preparatory classes count?

No. Effective with the 1993-94 academic year, a course taken to prepare for the first course normally taken to fulfill the progression of core-course requirements (i.e., prealgebra) may not be used as a core course regardless of the course content.

Q: How are core courses determined?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse lists only those courses that qualify as a core course after receiving information provided by your high-school principal. All approved courses appear on the high-school's list of approved core courses. You can view a list of approved core courses on the NCAA Clearinghouse Web site at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Click on "List of Approved Core Courses" from the General Information page.

Core Courses Questions & Answers Continued

Q: How does the NCAA treat courses that are similar in course content?

Some approved core courses may be considered duplicative. That is, the course content of one course is essentially the same as another course, even though the classes have different course titles. If a student has taken two classes that are considered duplicative, he or she will only receive core course credit for one of the classes (typically the course with the higher grade). Students should consult their high-school counselor if they have questions about duplicative courses.

Q: Do computer science classes satisfy core-course requirements?

Currently computer science classes may be considered in satisfying core course requirements. For students first entering a NCAA institution on or after August 1, 2005, computer science courses cannot be used to meet initial-eligibility requirements.

Q: What if I leave high school after my junior year to enter an early admissions program?

You may receive a waiver of the initial-eligibility requirements if you enter an early admissions program (open to students solely on the basis of outstanding academic performance and promise), provided that for the last four semesters in high school, you maintained a cumulative minimum grade-point average of 3.500 (based on a maximum of 4.000), ranked in the top 20 percent of your class and met all other requirements for graduation from high school, and for Division I, the only remaining deficiency is in the core-course area of English (i.e., lacking one year of English).

Q: Can courses for the disabled or handicapped count?

Students with appropriately diagnosed disabilities may use courses for students with disabilities for the purpose of meeting NCAA core-course requirements. Courses for students with disabilities must appear on the high-school's list of approved core courses (formerly 48-H) in order for a student to receive NCAA credit for the course.

Q: Can I count credit-by-exam courses in my core-course requirements?

No. Courses completed through credit-by-exam may not be used to satisfy core-course requirements.

Q: Are vocational courses acceptable?

Traditional vocational courses are not acceptable. These include courses such as agriculture, auto mechanics, accounting and health. However, courses taught using applied approaches to teaching may meet the NCAA standard for a core course.

Q: Does the prohibition against special education, remedial or compensatory courses apply to students with disabilities?

No. In order for courses offered for students with disabilities to be approved, the course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, as a regular core course offered in that academic area.

Q: Can studies in a foreign country help satisfy core-course requirements?

If you attended a secondary school outside the United States for all or a portion of your ninth through 12th grades, different evaluation procedures must be applied to your international education documents. Write the clearinghouse to request additional application forms or information concerning evaluation of international credentials. Remember, all students with coursework completed outside the United States must have original language documents and certified translations submitted for examination by the clearinghouse.



Grade Values

The grade values listed below are used in determining your grade-point average in the core courses:

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

To determine the core-course grade-point average, convert each grade earned (including all numerical grades) to this 4.000 scale on an individual course basis. Pluses or minuses may not receive greater or lesser quality points. Your high school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used to compute the quality points awarded and the cumulative grade-point average, provided the quality points are added to each course before calculating the student's grade-point average and not added to a student's cumulative core-course grade-point average. In no event may a student earn more than one additional quality point for an honors or advanced course. Additionally, if a high school weights grades only for the purpose of determining class rank, these courses will not be weighted for NCAA initial-eligibility purposes.

Test-Score Requirements

In Divisions I and II, you must achieve the minimum required SAT or ACT score before your first full-time college enrollment. Your test scores must be achieved under national testing conditions on a national testing date [i.e., no residual (campus) testing]. National testing dates are:

SAT 2003-04	ACT 2003-04
October 11, 2003	September 27, 2003
November 1, 2003	October 25, 2003
December 6, 2003	December 13, 2003
January 24, 2004	February 7, 2004
March 27, 2004	April 3, 2004
May 1, 2004	June 12, 2004
June 5, 2004	

Test-Score Interpretations

- State examinations of the SAT or ACT (e.g., Colorado, Illinois) may NOT be used to satisfy the test-score requirement.
- All prospective student-athletes, including natives of foreign countries, must achieve the minimum required test score on a national testing date. Foreign prospective student-athletes should contact the appropriate testing agency for more information about registering to take the test on a national testing date.

- If you take the SAT, the highest scores achieved on the verbal and math sections of the SAT from two different national testing dates may be combined in determining whether you have met the minimum test-score requirement. [Note: This includes combining converted subscores from the “recentered” and “non-recentered” versions of the SAT.]
- If you take the ACT, the highest scores achieved on the individual subtests from more than one national testing date may be combined in determining whether your sum score meets minimum test-score requirements.

Nonstandard Test Procedures

- You are able to use a nonstandard test to satisfy the test-score requirement. To be able to take a nonstandard test, you will have to register in accordance with the appropriate testing agency.
- The student must register for the nonstandard testing as outlined by the testing service, which requires that the handicap or disability be diagnosed professionally and properly documented and confirmed.
- The procedures outlined by the testing service must be followed, and the individual(s) giving the test may not be a member of your high-school's athletics department or an NCAA school's athletics department.
- Please note that if you take a nonstandard ACT or SAT, you still must achieve the minimum required test score; however, the test doesn't have to be taken on a national testing date.

Waiver of Bylaw 14.3 Requirements

Waivers of the initial-eligibility requirements may be granted based on evidence that demonstrates circumstances in which your overall academic record warrants a waiver. All requests for such a waiver must be initiated through an NCAA school that officially has accepted you for enrollment as a regular student or if acceptance is contingent on a favorable subcommittee decision. You should contact the school recruiting you for more information about this waiver process.

Additional Information

Several additional points about the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements should be emphasized:

- This rule sets a minimum standard only for athletics eligibility. It is not a guide to your qualifications for admission to college. Under NCAA rules, your admission is governed by the entrance requirements of each member school.
- The General Education Development (GED) test may be used under certain conditions to satisfy the graduation requirement of Bylaw 14.3 but not the core-course or test-score requirements. Contact the NCAA national office for information about these conditions.



Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

A central clearinghouse will certify your athletics eligibility for Divisions I and II. Here is some important information that will assist you.

Certification

If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman, you must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Refer to Pages 2 through 4 to determine the initial-eligibility standards that apply to you.

Clearinghouse Registration Materials

Registration materials are inserted between Pages 7 and 8.

Registration Process

In order to be registered with the clearinghouse, you must complete the registration process found at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (also available at www.ncaa.org). You may also complete the student-release form and mail or fax the top (white) copy of the form to the clearinghouse along with the \$30 registration fee. Give the yellow and pink copies of the form to a high-school official, who then sends the yellow copy, along with an official copy of your high-school transcript, to the clearinghouse. Your high school should keep the pink copy for its files. After graduation and before the school closes for the summer, your school also must send the clearinghouse a copy of your final transcript that confirms graduation from high school.

For students completing the Web SRF: Students completing the online Web application should print a copy of their completed registration form (see instructions on the SRF submission screen). By printing your registration form you will receive two copies – Copy #1 and Copy

#2. Give both Copy #1 and Copy #2 to a high school official, who then sends Copy #1, along with an official copy of your high school transcript to the clearinghouse. Your high school should keep Copy #2 in its files. After graduation and before your school closes for the summer, the high school must send the clearinghouse a copy of your final transcript that confirms graduation and contains final grades and credits along with your Copy #2 registration copy.

Fee Waivers

High-school counselors may waive the clearinghouse fee if you have previously qualified for and received a waiver of the ACT or SAT fee. Fee-waiver information is specified on the student-release form.

If a student registers on-line, an authorized high-school official will need to log onto the clearinghouse Web site and select the fee waiver confirmation option in order to certify that a student meets all of the criteria.

List of NCAA-Approved Core Courses

The list of NCAA-approved core courses (formerly Form 48-H) identifies courses that may be used in meeting NCAA core-course requirements.

Be sure that all courses you are taking for core-course purposes are listed on your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses (formerly Form 48-H).

Foreign Students: If you have completed secondary school studies outside the United States, go to the clearinghouse Web site and register on-line. Go to the Foreign Student selection under Prospective Student Athletes; be sure you have a valid Visa or MasterCard debit or credit card for the \$30 registration fee. Alternatively, you may contact the clearinghouse for a paper application.

Questions and Answers about the Clearinghouse

Q: Why do I need to register and be certified?

If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, you must be registered with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Refer to Pages 2 through 4 to determine the initial-eligibility standards that apply to you. Please note that initial-eligibility certification pertains only to whether you meet the NCAA requirements for participation as a freshman in Division I or II athletics and has no bearing on your admission to a particular Division I or II institution.

Q: When should I register?

You should apply for certification after your junior year in high school if you are sure you wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a freshman at a Division I or II institution. If you fail to submit all required documents, your incomplete file will be discarded after three years, requiring you to pay a new fee if certification is requested after that time.

Q: Is there a deadline to register?

There is no deadline to register with the clearinghouse; however, you must be certified before receiving an athletics scholarship, practicing and competing at a Division I or II institution.

Q: How do I register?

Students have two options for registering with the clearinghouse. You may complete your registration on-line at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or by completing and mailing the Student Release Form inserted in this guide to the address included on the form.

Q: What if I have attended more than one high school?

If you have attended multiple high schools since ninth grade, you must have an official transcript from each school. These transcripts

can either come from each school or the high school from which you are graduating. The transcripts must come by mail directly from the high school (not from you). You should give the pink and yellow copies of the student-release form to the counselor at the high school from which you will be graduating. You may also need to make copies of this form and send them to the counselors at the other schools that you have attended. Faxed transcripts are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Q: What if I've been "home-schooled"?

If you've been "home-schooled" during all of Grades 9 through 12, you do not have to register with the clearinghouse. Your certification status will be determined through an initial-eligibility waiver. If you attended a "traditional" school for some portion of Grades 9 through 12, you are required to register with the clearinghouse.

Q: Are standardized test scores required?

Qualifying test scores are required for participation at both Division I and Division II colleges. If you intend to participate at either a Division I or II school, the test scores may be taken from your official high-school transcript or be sent to the clearinghouse directly from the testing agency.

Q: How can I arrange for my scores to be sent directly from the testing agency?

When you register to take the ACT or the SAT, you can mark code 9999 so that the clearinghouse will be one of the institutions receiving your scores; or alternatively, you can submit a request (and fee) for an "Additional Score Report" to the appropriate testing agency by indicating code 9999 on your request form.

Q: What will the clearinghouse provide to the colleges that are recruiting me?

The clearinghouse will send your eligibility status to any Division I or II college that requests it. Please note that the clearinghouse will not send your eligibility information at your request; rather, the college must make the request for that information. Additionally, if no member institution requests your eligibility status, a final certification decision may not be processed.



Financial Aid

If you've met Bylaw 14.3 requirements and are enrolled full time in a Division I or II college, you may receive financial aid from the school that includes tuition and fees, room and board, and books.

In addition, student-athletes who haven't met Bylaw 14.3 requirements may receive financial aid under specified conditions.

In Division I, a "partial qualifier" (as defined on Page 2) may receive an athletics scholarship. A "nonqualifier" (someone who has not met the requirements to be considered a "qualifier" or a "partial qualifier") in Division I may receive need-based financial aid unrelated to athletics.

In Division II, a "partial qualifier" (someone who has not met all Bylaw 14.3 requirements but who has graduated from high school and has fulfilled either the core-course or the standardized test-score requirement) may receive institutional financial aid, including athletically related financial aid.

In Division II, a "nonqualifier" (someone who has not met the requirement to be considered a "qualifier" or a "partial qualifier") may receive institutional financial aid unrelated to athletics ability.

There's no guaranteed four-year athletics scholarship in Division I, II or III. An athletics scholarship is awarded for one academic year. It may be renewed each year for a maximum of five years within a six-year period.

In some cases, you may receive additional financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, from government programs. Ask your college's financial aid office for more information about such aid.

If you receive a scholarship from your high school or local civic or booster club, tell your college recruiter so he or she can notify the school's financial aid office.

If you plan to attend a Division III college, you may receive financial aid up to the cost of attendance (tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation, and other expenses incidental to attendance) if the aid is based on financial need and not associated with athletics ability.



You become a “prospective student-athlete” when you start ninth-grade classes. Before the ninth grade, you become a prospective student-athlete if a college gives you (or your relatives or friends) any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to prospective students generally.

You become a “recruited prospective student-athlete” at a particular college if any coach or representative of the college’s athletics interests (booster or representative) approaches you (or any member of your family) about enrolling and participating in athletics at that college.

Activities by coaches or boosters that cause you to become a recruited prospective student-athlete are:

- Providing you with an official visit;
- Placing more than one telephone call to you or any other member of your family; or
- Visiting you or any other member of your family anywhere other than the college campus.



Division I

In addition to general recruiting regulations, no alumni, boosters or representatives of a college’s athletics interests can be involved in your recruiting. There can be no phone calls or letters from boosters.

The restriction doesn’t apply to recruiting by alumni or representatives as part of a college’s regular admissions program for all prospective students, including nonathletes.

You (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to sign a National Letter of Intent or attend an NCAA college.

Letters from coaches, faculty members and students (but not boosters) aren’t permitted until September 1 at the beginning of your junior year.

Telephone Calls

In all sports other than football and basketball, phone calls from faculty members and coaches (but not boosters) are not permitted until July 1 after completion of your junior year. After this, in sports other than football, a college coach or faculty member is limited to one telephone call per week to you (or your parents or legal guardians), except that unlimited calls to you (or your parents or legal guardians) may be made under the following circumstances:

- During the five days immediately before your official visit by the college you will be visiting;
- On the day of a coach’s off-campus contact with you by that coach; and
- On the initial date for signing the National Letter of Intent in your sport through two days after the initial signing date.

In Divisions I-A and I-AA football, an institution’s coaches may telephone you once during the month of May of your junior year in high school and then not again until September 1 of your senior year in high school. Also, an institution’s football coaches can telephone you as often as they wish during the period 48 hours before and 48 hours after 7 a.m. on the initial signing date for the National Letter of Intent and during a contact period. Outside of a contact period, a football coach may only telephone you once per week.

In Division I men’s basketball, an institution’s coaches may telephone a prospect one time during March of the prospect’s junior year in high school. In addition, an institution’s coaches may telephone a prospect one time on or after June 21. Finally, only three telephone calls to a prospect may be made during the month of July following the prospect’s junior year in high school, with no more than one telephone call per week.

In Division I women’s basketball, an institution’s coaches may telephone a prospect on three occasions during the period of June 21-

July 23 after the prospect’s junior year in high school, with no more than one telephone call per week.

In Division I ice hockey, an institution’s coaches may telephone a prospect who is a resident of a foreign country once during the month of July following the completion of the prospect’s sophomore year in high school.

You (or your parents) may telephone a coach at your expense as often as you wish.

Coaches also may accept collect calls from you and may use a toll-free (1-800) number to receive telephone calls from you on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year.

Enrolled student-athletes may not make recruiting telephone calls to you. Enrolled students (nonathletes) may telephone you as part of a college’s regular admissions program directed at all prospective students. Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may receive telephone calls at your expense on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year.

Contacts

A college coach may contact you in person off the college campus only on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year. Any face-to-face meeting between a college coach and you or your parents, during which any of you say more than “hello” is a contact. Also, any face-to-face meeting that is prearranged or that occurs at your high school or competition or practice site is a contact, regardless of the conversation. These contacts are not permissible “bumps.”

Currently in all sports other than football and basketball, coaches have seven recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations) during the academic year and not more than three of the seven opportunities may be in-person, off-campus contacts. However, a college coach may visit your high school only with the approval of your high-school principal.

Division I football coaches may contact you off the college campus six times. However, no more than one contact per week may occur during a contact period (see Page 9), regardless of where the contact occurs. Also, a college football coach may visit your high school (with the approval of your high-school principal) only once a week during a contact period.

In Division I basketball, coaches have five recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations) during the academic year and not more than three of the five opportunities may be in-person, off-campus contacts. In addition, a college basketball coach may visit your high school (with the approval of your high-school principal) only once a week during a contact period.

In Division I men’s basketball, coaches may make one contact with a prospect during April of the prospect’s junior year in high school.

Evaluations

An evaluation is any off-campus activity used to assess your academic qualifications or athletics ability, including a visit to your high school (during which no contact occurs) or watching you practice or compete at any site.

Currently in all sports other than football and basketball, institutions have seven permissible recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations) during the academic year, and not more than three of the seven opportunities may be in-person, off-campus contacts. Basketball coaches have five “recruiting opportunities” to utilize on you during any year. In using those five opportunities, a basketball coach may use any combination of contacts and/or evaluations that equal five; however, not more than three of the opportunities may be contacts. Football coaches may not evaluate you more than three times each year (April 15 through April 14 of the following academic year). In football, only one evaluation may be used during the fall evaluation period and only two evaluations may be used during the spring evaluation period (April 15 through May 31). In all sports, competition on consecutive days within a tournament (and normally at the same site) or that involves a tier of a tournament (e.g., regional) counts as a single evaluation. In addition, once you sign a National Letter of Intent, you may be evaluated an unlimited number of times by a college coach from the college with which you have signed.

In football, basketball, softball, women’s volleyball and men’s lacrosse, there are certain periods when a coach may contact you off the college campus and/or attend your practices and games to evaluate your athletics ability. In all other sports, contacts and evaluations may occur anytime except during a dead period.

2003–04 Recruiting Calendars

The most recent versions of the 2003–04 recruiting calendars are available at www.ncaa.org. Click “Rules and Eligibility,” then click on “Student-Athlete Eligibility and Recruiting” and then “Recruiting Calendars.”

Official Visits

In all sports other than Division I men’s basketball, you can have one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus beginning on the opening day of classes of your senior year. In Division I men’s basketball, you may have official visits beginning January 1 of your junior year in high school. You may receive no more than five such visits. This restriction applies even if you are being recruited in more than one sport. You can’t have an official visit unless you have given the college your high-school (or college) academic transcript and a score from a PSAT, an SAT, a PACT Plus or an ACT taken on a national test date under national testing conditions. Your academic transcript may be a photocopy of your official high-school (or college) transcript. [Note: In

this instance, the Division I school may use the services of the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to validate your credentials.]

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals, lodging and complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. A coach may only accompany you on your official visit when the transportation occurs by automobile and all transportation occurs within the 48-hour period. Meals provided to you (and/or your parents) on an official visit may be provided either on or off the institution’s campus.

The complimentary admissions you receive may provide you seating only in the facility’s general seating area. You may not be given special seating (e.g., press box, bench area). In addition, a student host may help you (and your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$30 per day to cover all costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money can’t be used to purchase souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos. Additionally, during a campus visit, the school may provide you with a student-athlete handbook.

Printed Materials

A Division I college that is recruiting you may provide to you only the following printed materials on or after September 1 of your junior year:

- Official academic, admissions and student services publications and videotapes published by the college;
- General correspondence, including letters and college note cards (attachments to correspondence may include materials printed on plain white paper with black ink);
- Game programs (a college may only give you a program on an official or unofficial visit; colleges may not mail you a program);
- A media guide or recruiting brochure (but not both) in each sport;
- Any necessary preenrollment information about orientation, conditioning, academics, practice activities, as long as you have signed a National Letter of Intent or have been accepted for enrollment;
- One student-athlete handbook. (A college may only give you a handbook on an official or unofficial visit. Effective August 1, 1997, a college may mail you a handbook once you’ve signed a National Letter of Intent or been accepted for enrollment.)
- One wallet-size playing schedule card in each sport.

In addition, a Division I college may show you a highlight film/video-tape, but may not send it to or leave it with you or your coach.

Finally, a Division I college also may provide you a questionnaire, camp brochure and educational information published by the NCAA (such as this guide) at any time.



Division II

In addition to general recruiting regulations, no alumni or representatives of a college’s athletics interests (boosters or representatives) can be involved in off-campus recruiting; however, you may receive letters from boosters, faculty members, students and coaches on or after September 1 of your junior year. In all sports telephone calls from coaches and faculty members are permissible on or after June 15 before your senior year.

After this, a college coach or faculty member is limited to one telephone call per week to you (or your parents or legal guardians), except that unlimited calls to you (or your parents or legal guardians) may be made under the following circumstances:

- During the five days immediately before your official visit (by the college you’ll be visiting);
- On the day of the coach’s off-campus contact with you; and
- On the initial date for signing the National Letter of Intent in your sport through the two days after the initial signing date.

In Division II football, however, unlimited phone calls to you can be made during a contact period and once a week outside of a contact period.

Coaches may accept collect calls and use a toll-free (1-800) number to receive telephone calls from you (or your parents or legal guardians) at any time.

Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may not make recruiting telephone calls to you unless the calls are made as a part of an institution's regular admissions program directed at all prospective students. Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may receive telephone calls at your expense on or after July 1 before your senior year.

You (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to sign an institutional or conference letter of intent or to attend an NCAA school.

A college coach may contact you in person off the college campus but only on or after June 15 before your senior year.

Any face-to-face meeting between a coach and you or your parents, during which any of you say more than "hello" is a contact. Furthermore, any face-to-face meeting that is prearranged, or occurs at your high school or at any competition or practice site is a contact, regardless of the conversation. These contacts are not permissible "bumps."

In all sports, coaches may contact you off the college campus three times. However, a coach may visit your high school (with your high-school principal's approval) only once a week during a contact period.

An evaluation is any off-campus activity used to assess your academic qualifications or athletics ability, including a visit to your high school (during which no contact occurs) or watching you practice or compete at any site.

In all sports, coaches may evaluate you an unlimited number of times.

In football and basketball only, there are specified periods when a coach may contact you off the college campus and/or attend your practices and games to evaluate your athletics ability.

2003-04 Division II Recruiting Calendars

The most recent versions of the 2003–04 recruiting calendars are available at www.ncaa.org. Click "Rules and Eligibility," then click on "Student-Athlete Eligibility and Recruiting" and then "Recruiting Calendars."

2003-04 Evaluation Periods

With the permission of your high school's director of athletics, you may tryout for a college team before enrollment. The tryout must occur in a term other than the term in which the traditional season in the sport occurs or after your high-school eligibility is completed and may

include tests to evaluate your strength, speed, agility and sports skills. Except in football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling, the tryout may include competition.

You can visit a college campus any time at your expense. On such a visit, you may receive three complimentary admissions to a game on that campus, a tour of off-campus practice and competition sites in your sport and other facilities within 30 miles of the campus, and a meal for you and your parents or guardians in the college's on-campus student dining facilities.

Official Visits

During your senior year, you can have one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus. You may receive no more than a total of five such visits. This restriction applies even if you are being recruited in more than one sport. A college may not give you an official visit unless you have provided it with a PSAT, ACT or SAT score from a test taken on a national testing date under national testing conditions.

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals and lodging. You also may receive three complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. In addition, a student host may help you (and your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$30 per day to cover costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money cannot be used to purchase college souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos.

Printed Materials

A Division II college recruiting you may provide to you printed recruiting materials on or after September 1 at the beginning of your junior year.

In addition, a Division II college may show you a highlight film/video-tape, but may not send it to you or leave it with you or your coach.

Finally, a Division II college also may provide you with a questionnaire, camp brochure and educational information published by the NCAA (such as this guide) at any time.



Division III

In addition to general recruiting regulations, you (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to attend any NCAA school.

An athletics department staff member, alumni or representative of a college's athletics interests (boosters or representatives) may contact you in person off the college campus after your junior year of high school. There is no limit on the number of contacts or the period when they may occur. You may not tryout for a Division III college's athletics team. A tryout is any physical activity (e.g., practice session or test) conducted by or arranged on behalf of a college, at which you display your ability.

You can visit a college campus any time at your own expense. On such a visit, you may receive three complimentary admissions to a game on that campus; a tour of off-campus practice and competition sites in your sport and other college facilities within 30 miles of the campus; a

meal in the college's on-campus student dining facilities; and housing, if it is available to all visiting prospective students.

Official Visits

During your senior year, you can make one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus; however, there is no limit on the number of campuses that you may visit if you initially enroll in a Division III college.

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals, lodging and complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. All meals provided to you (and/or your parents) on an official visit must occur in an on-campus dining facility that the college's students normally use. If dining facilities are closed, the college is permitted to take you off-campus for meals. In addition, a student host may help you (and

your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$20 per day to cover all costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money can't be used to purchase college souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos. Finally, a Division III college is permitted to provide you and your high-

school and/or two-year college coach any official academic, admissions, athletics and student-services publications published by the college and other general information available to all students.



National Letter of Intent

The National Letter of Intent is administered by the Collegiate Commissioners Association, not the NCAA. There are restrictions on signing a National Letter of Intent that may affect your eligibility. These restrictions are contained in the letter of intent. Read it carefully. If you have questions about the National Letter of Intent signing dates or restrictions about signing, contact the conference office of the college you are interested in attending. Please note that some conferences don't subscribe to the National Letter of Intent program.

Remember, do not sign any institutional or conference letter of intent (or financial aid agreement) before the National Letter of Intent signing date.

If you have specific questions regarding the National Letter of Intent, please call the NLI office at 205/458-3000 or check the NLI Web site at www.national-letter.org.

2003-04 National Letter of Intent Signing Dates (Approved by Collegiate Commissioners Association)		
Sport	Initial Date	Final Date
Basketball (Early Period)	Nov. 12, 2003	Nov. 19, 2003
Basketball (Late Period).....	April 14, 2004	May 19, 2004
Football		
(Midyear JC transfer)	Dec. 17, 2003	Jan. 15, 2004
Football (Regular).....	Feb. 4, 2004	April 1, 2004
Field Hockey, Soccer, Men's Water Polo.....	Feb. 4, 2004	Aug. 1, 2004
All Other Sports		
(Early Period)	Nov. 12, 2003	Nov. 19, 2003
All Other Sports		
(Late Period)	April 14, 2004	Aug. 1, 2004

[Note: These dates are subject to change.]

Amateurism Issues

Don't lose your college eligibility by becoming a professional.

The activities listed below may cause you to lose your eligibility. Since there are division specific amateurism regulations, please contact NCAA student-athlete reinstatement or membership services if you have additional questions.

- Are paid (in any form) or accept the promise of pay for playing in an athletics contest;
- Sign a contract or verbally commit with an agent or a professional sports organization;
- Ask that your name be placed on a draft list [Note: In basketball, once you become a student-athlete at an NCAA school, you may enter a professional league's draft one time without jeopardizing your eligibility provided you are not drafted by any team in that league and you declare your intention in writing to return to college within 30 days after the draft];
- Use your athletics skill for pay in any form (for example, TV commercials, demonstrations);
- Play on a professional athletics team;
- Participate on an amateur sports team and receive any salary,

incentive payment, award, gratuity, educational expenses or expense allowances (other than playing apparel, equipment and actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses);

- Receive educational expenses to attend a high school or preparatory college (tuition and/or fees, room and/or board) from an agent, professional sports team/organization or representative of an institution's athletics interests; or
- Receive gifts or other benefits (e.g., vehicle, jewelry, meals) because of your athletics ability or reputation.

Before enrolling in college, you may:

- Tryout (practice with but not participate against outside competition) with a professional sports team at your expense;
- Receive actual and necessary expenses from any professional sports organizations for one visit per professional organization not in excess of 48 hours; and
- Receive a fee for teaching a lesson in a particular sport.



Agents

During high school, you might be contacted by a player-agent. A player-agent may want to represent you in contract negotiations or for commercial endorsements if you show the potential to be a professional athlete. Agents may contact you during your high-school years to gain an advantage over other individuals who may wish to represent you when your college eligibility expires. Many times, these individuals will not represent themselves as agents, but rather as someone interested in your overall welfare and athletics career. These individuals also may try to give gifts or benefits to you and your family.

NCAA rules don't prohibit meetings or discussions with an agent.

However, you jeopardize your college eligibility in a sport if you agree (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent while in high school or college, regardless of whether the agreement becomes effective immediately or after your last season of college eligibility. Also, receiving any benefits or gifts by you, your family or friends from a player-agent would jeopardize your college eligibility.

If an individual contacts you about marketing your athletics ability, please be careful. If you have concerns about a player-agent, contact your high-school coach, director of athletics or the NCAA national office for assistance.

Drug Testing

NCAA institutions are dedicated to the ideal of fair and equitable competition as well as the protection of the health and safety of the student-athletes. The NCAA drug-testing program was created so that no participant has an artificially induced advantage, that no participant might be pressured to use chemical substances to remain competitive and to safeguard the health and safety of participants.

The NCAA has a list of banned drugs. This list can be found on the NCAA Web page at www.ncaa.org/sportsscience/drugtesting/. The NCAA has issued warnings about the use of dietary supplement products. Because of the lack of regulation in the production, distribution and sale of these products, the purity is unknown; some may contain banned substances. Students should check with coaches, physicians and the Dietary Supplement Resource Exchange Center (877/202-0769 toll free) before taking any of these products. Some supplements contain substances such as ephedrine (ma huang), DHEA, androstenedione and norandrostenedione, which are banned by the NCAA but are sold in health food stores.

Each academic year in Divisions I and II sports in which the NCAA conducts year-round drug testing (currently Divisions I and II football and Division I track and field), you must sign a drug-testing consent form

when you report for practice or before the Monday of your college's fourth week of classes, whichever occurs earlier. In all other Division I and II sports and in Division III each academic year, you must sign a drug-testing consent form before you compete. Drug testing occurs randomly on a year-round basis in Divisions I and II football and track and field. Drug testing also is conducted at NCAA championships and football bowl games. If you test positive, you will lose a season of competition in all sports if the season of competition has not yet started. If the season of competition has started, you will lose one full season of competition in all sports (i.e., remaining contests in the current season and contests in the following season up to the time that you were declared ineligible during the previous year). In addition, many colleges have their own drug-use policies that may affect your participation.

Further, the use of tobacco products is prohibited for coaches, game officials and student-athletes in all sports during practice and competition. A student-athlete who uses tobacco products during practice or competition automatically is disqualified for the remainder of that practice or game.

Graduation Rates

To help you in selecting a college, the NCAA national office annually makes available Divisions I, II and III admissions and graduation-rate information. To make the information easy to get, the Division I or II college recruiting you must provide its graduation-rate information to you, as well as your parents, at the earlier of the following opportunities: (1) upon request by you or your parents, or (2) after the school's first arranged in-person meeting with you (or your parents) but not later

than the day before you sign a National Letter of Intent or an offer of admission and/or financial aid.

In addition, the NCAA national office makes graduation-rate information available annually to your high school.

What to Ask

The following questions and information were developed by the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee urges prospective student-athletes to ask these types of questions during their recruitment.

Athletics

What positions will I play on your team?

- It's not always obvious.
- Most coaches want to be flexible so that you are not disappointed.

Describe the other players competing at the same position.

- If there is a former high-school all-American at that position, you may want to take that into consideration.
- This will give you clues as to what year you might be a starter.

Can I "redshirt" my first year?

- Find out how common it is to redshirt and how that will affect graduation.
- Does the school redshirt you if you are injured?

What are the physical requirements each year?

- Philosophies of strength and conditioning vary by institution.
- You may be required to maintain a certain weight.

How would you best describe your coaching style?

- Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline.
- You need to know if a coach's teaching style does not match your learning style.

What is the game plan?

- For team sports, find out what kind of offense and defense is employed.
- For individual sports, find out how you are seeded and how to qualify for conference and national championships.

When does the head coach's contract end?

- Don't make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school.
- If the coach is losing and the contract ends in two years, you may have a new coach.

Describe the preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situation. How many make it, compete and earn a scholarship?

- Different teams treat walk-ons differently.

Academics

How good is the department in my major?

- Smaller colleges can have very highly rated departments.
 - A team's reputation is only one variable to consider.
-

What percentage of players on scholarship graduate in four years?

- This will tell you about the quality of their commitment to academics.
- The team's grade-point average also is a good indicator of the coach's commitment to academics.

College Life

Describe the typical class size.

- At larger schools, classes are likely to be larger and taught by teaching assistants.
- Average class size is important to the amount of attention you receive.

Describe in detail your academic support program. For example: Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, faculty cooperation.

- This is imperative for marginal students.
- Find a college that will take the 3.000 students and help them get a 3.500 GPA.

Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.

- This will give you a good indication of how much time is spent in class, practice, studying and traveling.
- It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

What are the residence halls like?

- Make sure you would feel comfortable in study areas, community bathrooms and laundry facilities.
- Number of students in a room and coed dorms are other variables to consider.

Will I be required to live on campus throughout my athletics participation?

- If the answer is yes, ask whether there are exceptions.
- Apartment living may be better than dorm living.

Financial Aid

How much financial aid is available for summer school?

- There is no guarantee. Get a firm commitment.
- You may need to lighten your normal load and go to summer school in order to graduate in four years. You can take graduate courses and maintain your eligibility.

What are the details of financial aid at your institution?

- What does my scholarship cover?
- What can I receive in addition to the scholarship and how do I get more aid?

How long does my scholarship last?

- Most people think a "full ride" is good for four years.
- Financial aid is available on a one-year renewable basis.

If I'm injured, what happens to my financial aid?

- A grant-in-aid is not guaranteed past a one-year period even for injuries.
- It is important to know if a school has a commitment to assist student-athletes for more than a year after they have been injured.

What are my opportunities for employment while I'm a student?

- Find out if you can be employed in-season, out-of-season or during vacation periods.



Additional Comments

Scouting Services

- During high school, you might be contacted by a scouting service. NCAA rules prohibit scouting services from receiving payment based on the amount of your college scholarship. The NCAA does not sanction or endorse any scouting service. Therefore, attempt to determine whether the scouting service meets NCAA requirements.

All-Star Contests

- After your high-school eligibility is completed and before graduation, you can participate in two high-school all-star football or basketball contests in each sport.

Transfer Students

- If you transfer from a two-year or four-year college to an NCAA school, you must satisfy certain requirements before being eligible to participate in athletics at that college. Call the NCAA office if you have questions about transfer requirements. You can order the NCAA Student-Athlete Transfer Guide by calling 888/388-9748.

Student-Athlete Statement

- Each academic year, you must sign a statement about your eligibility, recruitment, financial aid and amateur status under NCAA rules. Don't jeopardize your eligibility by violating NCAA rules.

Conference Regulations

- Conferences may have additional regulations about recruiting, eligibility and financial aid. Ask your recruiter or the conference

Reporting Rules Violations

If you think you have been improperly or unfairly recruited, notify the conference office or the NCAA.

- Knowingly furnishing the NCAA or your college false or misleading information about your involvement or knowledge of a rules violation will make you ineligible.

Video Conferences

The NCAA produces a fall and spring video conference each year. The video conferences are intended to help high school athletes, their parents and athletics administrators understand NCAA initial-eligibility services for students with disabilities and the recruiting process. Please check the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org for additional information

NCAA eligibility rules are sometimes complex as they apply to certain students. This guide should not be relied upon exclusively. Contact the NCAA office or appropriate conference office for proper interpretations in specific cases. Your inquiries should be addressed to the NCAA membership services staff at the address on the contents page.

