



NAIA INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID POLICY

A. Definition of Institutional Financial Aid

All aid institutionally managed or controlled, exclusive of Pell grants, state grants, SEO grants and loans not controlled by the institutions.

B. Athletes Counting Toward Limits

Each institution will identify and report its varsity roster for each sport from the total list of all its student-athletes certified as eligible in that sport. The financial aid policy, including the aid limits, will apply to varsity participants only. Financial aid to JV-only participants will not count against the institution's allowable limits and will not be reported to the NAIA.

No limit will be placed on the number of student-athletes on any varsity roster, nor on the combined total number of all varsity and junior varsity athletes. A varsity-roster athlete will be defined as any athlete that represents an NAIA institution for any length of time as a designated varsity participant. An athlete must be designated as varsity if he/she competes in any intercollegiate contest that: 1) is included in the institution's or the individual's varsity statistics and/or win-loss record; **AND/OR** 2) can be used for qualification for postseason competition (track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, women's golf); **AND/OR** 3) can be counted toward team scoring (track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, etc.) for the institution's varsity team. All varsity rosters will be submitted with the end-of-year financial reports.

NOTE: Designation of varsity or junior varsity status must be made at the time of scheduling for team sports and upon submission of entry forms for individual sports (track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, etc.). In individual sports, athletes cannot qualify for postseason competition based on results of contests in which they are designated as junior varsity.

Provision has been made for an alternate from a JV program to replace a student-athlete on a varsity roster who must drop off the team due to a season-ending injury, verified by a physician, MD or DO, or other comparable personal crisis, but not due to a varsity student becoming ineligible. In such replacement cases a season of eligibility will be used by both athletes per current policy, but no change will be made in counting financial aid. That is, the aid of the original varsity player will count toward the limit, and the aid of the replacement player from the JV program will not count for that season.

C. Countable Aid

Any and all financial assistance to student-athletes that is funded by the institution, controlled or allocated by the institution, regardless of category, title of original source. Countable aid includes athletic grants or scholarships, academic scholarships, leadership and/or performance scholarships, outside scholarships administered by the institution, tuition waivers, benefits, room credits, meal credits, institutional loans and work study, as defined in financial aid packages and funded by the institution or government.

D. Non-Countable Aid

Aid that is not funded, controlled, or allocated in any significant way by the institution. Non-countable aid includes Pell, SEO, federal or state grants, benefits and/or scholarships; loans not controlled by institutions; state-mandated tuition waivers and institutionally funded tuition waivers for employee dependents attending the institution of the employee.

E. Multi-Sport Athletes

In the case where a student is a varsity participant in more than one sport, that student's aid shall be equally prorated to each sport.

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F. Academic Exemption

Academically gifted students will be exempted from the aid counted by use of the following criteria.

- A. Aid to continuing students with a 3.60 cumulative GPA or top 10% of class will not count against the limits.
- B. Only one-half of the aid to continuing students with a 3.30 - 3.59 cumulative GPA or upper 11%-25% class ranking will count against the limits.
- C. Aid to entering freshmen will be exempted upon achievement of minimum SAT/ACT scores (1050/23=half exemption, 1200/27=full exemption) or cumulative high school GPA (3.50-3.74=half exemption, 3.75-4.0=full exemption) or high school class rank (top 11%-25%=half exemption, top 10%=full exemption).

The following guidelines should be used in academic factoring.

1. Institutions may use GPA from either the seventh or final high school semester for incoming freshmen. For home school students, use ACT/SAT scores. For students from high schools that do not grade, use ACT/SAT scores or class rank.
2. Transfer students' exemptions are determined the same as eligibility, using the GPA at face value for first term only.
3. International students' exemptions are determined the same as eligibility, using the ACT/SAT score, class rank or GPA, if determined.
4. ACT/SAT taken on national test date during the fall term can be counted as if it were taken in the spring or summer.
5. For continuing students, use the cumulative GPA immediately preceding the fall term of the year being reported.

G. Upper Limits for Institutional Aid

Baseball	12	Softball	10
Basketball (Div. I)	11	Swimming & Diving	8
Basketball (Div. II)	6	Tennis	5
Cross Country only	5	Track & Field (No Cross Country)	12
Football	24	Track & Field/Cross Country (Combined)	17
Golf	5	Volleyball	8
Soccer	12	Wrestling	8

Effective with the 2002-03 academic year, all member institutions must be in full compliance with the new financial aid policy. Institutions not in compliance will be subject to sanctions by the NAIA National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

H. Requesting an Exception

Institutions that do not philosophically fit with the new financial aid policy may exercise their right as a member to request an exception. An institution or a conference may submit to the COP through the CACI a request for exception if this policy or its implementing procedures harms or threatens to harm a school or the conference unfairly and/or unintentionally. The responsibility to propose an alternative policy and/or procedures shall reside with the requesting school or conference (as appropriate). If the request is from a single institution, its conference or, in the case of an independent, its region must support the request for the exception.

The request for an exception must be submitted by the institution's CEO. Requests may be granted on a yearly basis or multi-year schedule subject to review by COP.