

# 2016 NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements



Eligibility Center  
Academic Certification

# NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements

There are **new** requirements for college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after **August 1, 2016**.



# Summary of Changes

- ▶ Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 required for competition;
- ▶ Ten core courses required before beginning of senior year for competition; and
- ▶ Slight changes in GPA/test score index (sliding scale).

The following slides explain these changes in further detail.

# NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements (New)

For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. Full qualifier = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. Academic redshirt = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. Nonqualifier = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

# NCAA Division I Full Qualifier: Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive **athletics aid**, **practice** and **compete** their first year:

- ▶ 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English;
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
  
- ▶ Minimum required GPA:
  - Minimum GPA of **2.300** required for competition in those 16 core courses.
  
- ▶ Graduate from high school.



# NCAA Division I Full Qualifier:

## Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

- ▶ Core-course progression.
  - ❑ Must complete **10** core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year).
  - ❑ Of the **10** core courses completed, **seven** must be in the area of **English, math, or science**.
  - ❑ These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of core-course GPA calculation.
    - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.



# Division I Sliding Scale Changes

**Old**

**New**

Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum		Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum
2.725	730	59		2.725	730	60
2.700	730	60		2.700	740	61
2.675	740-750	61		2.675	750	61
2.450	840-850	70		2.450	840	70
2.425	860	70		2.425	850	70
2.150	960	80		2.150	960	81
2.125	960	81		2.125	970	82
2.100	970	82		2.100	980	83
2.075	980	83		2.075	990	84
2.050	990	84		2.050	1000	85
2.025	1000	85		2.025	1010	86
2.000	1010	86		2.000	1020	86

The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.



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# Academic Redshirt:

## Requirements for Scholarship and Practice.

- ▶ 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English,
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher,
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered by any school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
- ▶ Minimum required GPA.
  - Minimum GPA of 2.000-2.299 in 16 core courses.
- ▶ Sliding scale.
  - Minimum ACT sum or SAT score (critical reading/math only) that matches the 16 core-course GPA.





# Academic Redshirt

Student-athletes who fail to meet the required 10 core courses prior to the start of the seventh semester (seven of which must be in English, math, or natural or physical science), will be allowed to retake core courses in the seventh or eighth semester, which will be used in their academic certification for the purpose of meeting the academic redshirt requirements.



# Division I Sliding Scale

(Abbreviated)

Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum		Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum
3.550 & above	400	37		2.700	740	61
3.500	420	39		2.600	780	64
3.400	460	42		2.500	820	68
3.300	500	44		2.400	860	71
3.200	540	47		2.300	900	75
3.100	580	49		2.299	910	76
3.000	620	52		2.200	940	79
2.900	660	54		2.100	980	83
2.800	700	57		2.000	1020	86

The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.



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# Academic Redshirt:

## Requirements for Scholarship and Practice

If a college-bound student-athlete meets these requirements, he/she can receive an **athletics scholarship** during his/her first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.

After the first term is complete, the student-athlete must be academically successful (successfully completing nine semester hours or eight quarter hours in each applicable term) at his/her college or university to continue to practice for the remainder of the year.



# What If A Student Does Not Meet Either Set of Requirements?

If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet either set of requirements, he/she is a **nonqualifier**.

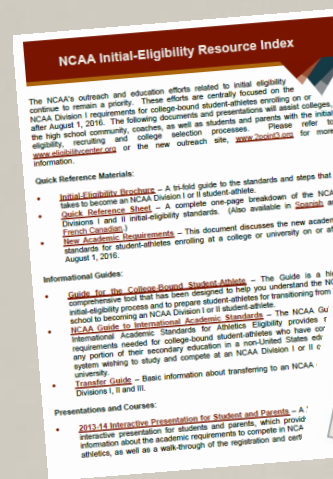
## A **nonqualifier**:

- ▶ Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.
- ▶ Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.



# Resources

- ▶ Resources tab on the NCAA Eligibility Center website ([www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)).
- ▶ Initial-Eligibility Resource Index.
- ▶ Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- ▶ Quick Reference Guide.
- ▶ Initial Eligibility Brochure.



# Resources

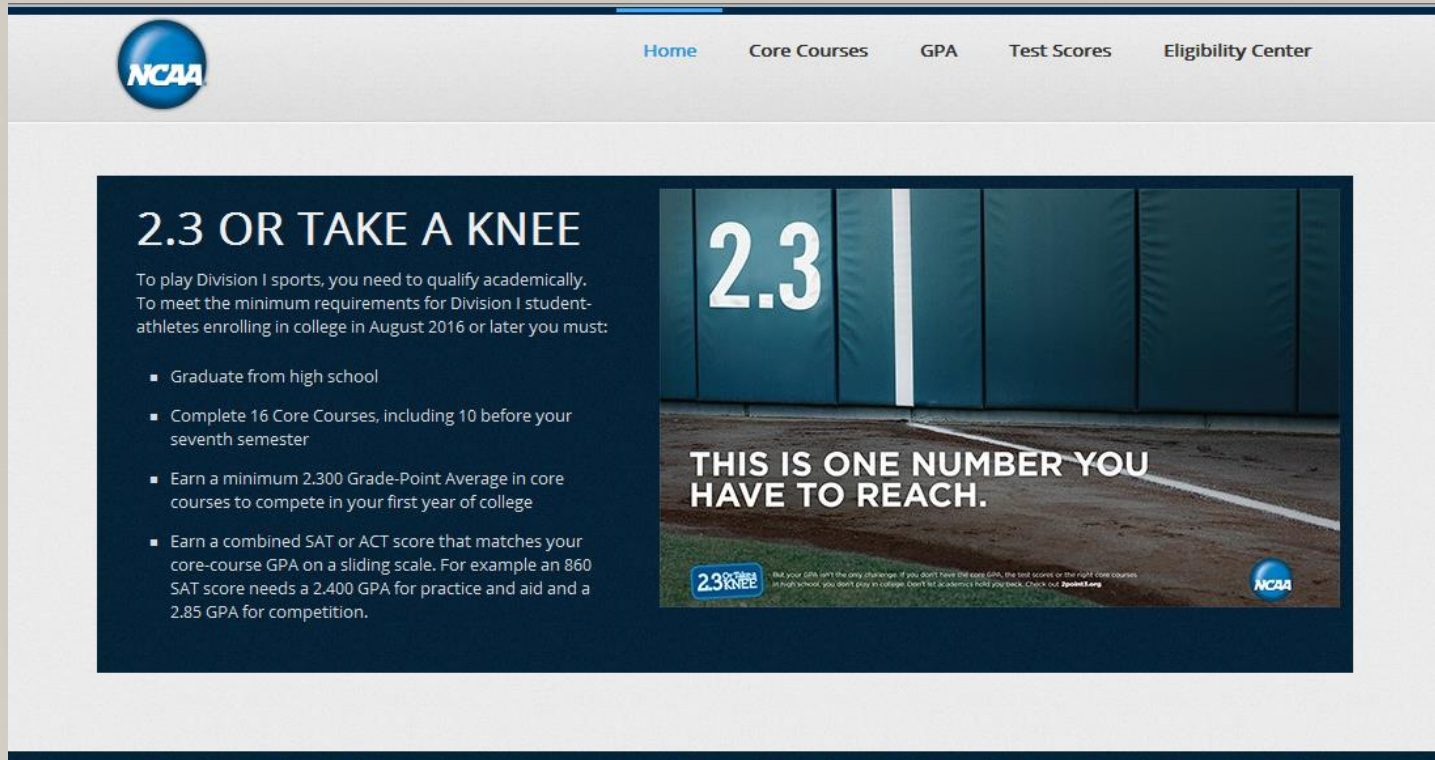
## NCAA Initial Eligibility Online Course

The screenshot displays the 'Coaching Education' interface for the NCAA Eligibility Center. The top navigation bar includes the NCAA Eligibility Center logo, the title 'Coaching Education', and a user status 'Welcome Demo Account' with a 'HELP' link. A left-hand menu lists course units: Unit 1: Overview (selected), Welcome, Introduction, NCAA Divisions, NCAA Eligibility Center, Unit 2: Involvement, Unit 3: Amateurism, Unit 4: Student Responsibilities, Unit 5: Recap and Close, and Course Evaluation. The main content area features a video player with a woman speaking, overlaid with the NCAA Eligibility Center logo and the NFHS logo. Navigation controls at the top of the video player include '<< PREVIOUS', 'NEXT >>', and 'PLAY'. At the bottom of the video player, there are buttons for 'TRANSCRIPT' and 'RESOURCES'.

[www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)

# Resources

www.2point3.org



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the NCAA logo on the left and links for Home, Core Courses, GPA, Test Scores, and Eligibility Center. The main content area features a dark blue background with white text. On the left, the heading '2.3 OR TAKE A KNEE' is followed by a paragraph explaining the requirements for Division I sports. Below this is a bulleted list of four requirements. On the right, there is a large image of a baseball field with a large '2.3' on the outfield fence. Overlaid on the image is the text 'THIS IS ONE NUMBER YOU HAVE TO REACH.' and a small '2.3 OR TAKE A KNEE' logo. At the bottom right of the image is the NCAA logo.

**2.3 OR TAKE A KNEE**

To play Division I sports, you need to qualify academically. To meet the minimum requirements for Division I student-athletes enrolling in college in August 2016 or later you must:

- Graduate from high school
- Complete 16 Core Courses, including 10 before your seventh semester
- Earn a minimum 2.300 Grade-Point Average in core courses to compete in your first year of college
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT score that matches your core-course GPA on a sliding scale. For example an 860 SAT score needs a 2.400 GPA for practice and aid and a 2.85 GPA for competition.

**2.3**

**THIS IS ONE NUMBER YOU HAVE TO REACH.**

**2.3 OR TAKE A KNEE**

But your GPA isn't the only challenge. If you don't have the core GPA, the test scores or the right core courses in high school, you don't play in college. Don't let academics hold you back. Check out [2point3.org](http://2point3.org)

**NCAA**