



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

NCAA INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

For College-Bound Student-Athletes



ELIGIBILITY CENTER



AGENDA

- » [What is the NCAA?](#)
- » [NCAA Eligibility Center.](#)
- » [NCAA Registration.](#)
- » [Certification Outcomes.](#)
 - [Division I.](#)
 - [Division II.](#)
- » [Recruiting.](#)
- » [Resources.](#)



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WHAT IS THE NCAA?

NCAA THREE DIVISIONS

DIVISION	 DIVISION I	 DIVISION II <i>MAKE IT YOURS</i>	 DIVISION III DISCOVER DEVELOP DEDICATE
ACTIVE SCHOOLS*	361 (33%)	293 (27%)	422 (39%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,800	2,100	1,700
STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES	1 in 22 	1 in 7 	1 in 5 
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19	17	19
PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION	 37%	 24%	 38%
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS	Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available. 57% of athletes receive athletics aid.	Partial athletics scholarship model. 62% of athletes receive athletics aid.	No athletics scholarships. 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid.
DID YOU KNOW?	 Division I student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.	 Division II is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.	 Division III's largest school has 28,974 undergraduates. The smallest? 339.



NCAA SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

MEN:	WOMEN:
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Field Hockey
Soccer	Soccer
Water Polo	Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS

MEN:	WOMEN:
Basketball	Basketball
Fencing	Bowling
Gymnastics	Fencing
Ice Hockey	Gymnastics
Indoor Track and Field	Ice Hockey
Rifle	Indoor Track and Field
Skiing	Rifle
Swimming and Diving	Skiing
Wrestling	Swimming and Diving
	Wrestling

SPRING SPORTS

MEN:	WOMEN:
Baseball	Acrobatics and Tumbling
Golf	Beach Volleyball
Lacrosse	Golf
Outdoor Track and Field	Lacrosse
Tennis	Outdoor Track and Field
Volleyball	Rowing
	Softball
	Stunt
	Tennis
	Water Polo

EMERGING SPORTS

WOMEN:
Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
Flag Football
Rugby
Triathlon

Note: Student-athletes competing in [emerging sports](#) must register with the Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students.



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DIVISION I CORE GUARANTEES

Who is covered by the core guarantees?

-Student-athletes at Division I schools, plus student-athletes at a Division II or III school participating in a Division I sport.

-Requires schools to provide student-athletes academic services and career counseling.

Schools also must provide life skills training and education in at least nine specified areas:

- » Mental health.
- » Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.*
- » Sexual violence prevention.
- » Transfer requirements.
- » Strength and conditioning.
- » Nutrition.
- » Financial literacy.
- » Career preparation.
- » Name, image and likeness opportunities.

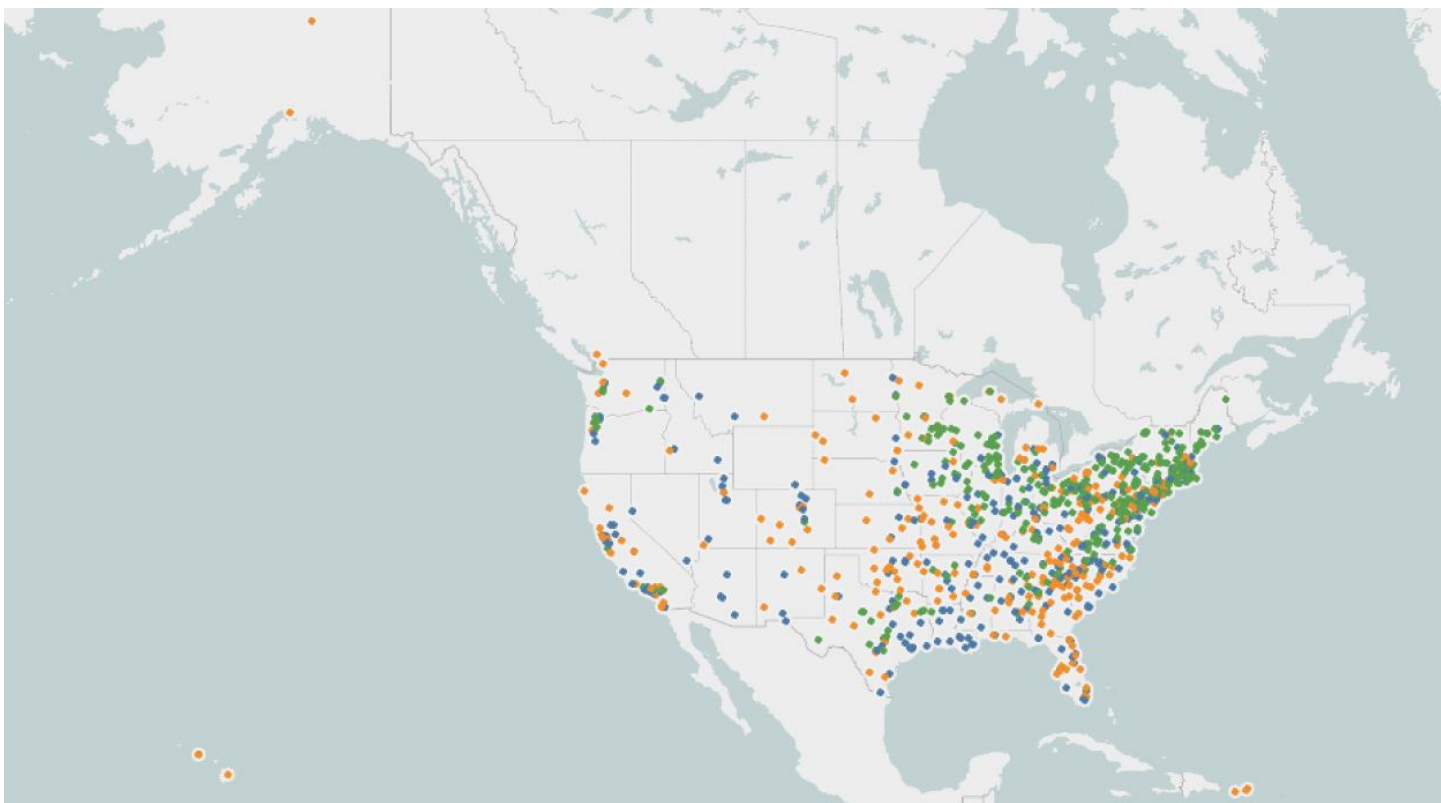


**Scan QR Code
For More Information**



NCAA SCHOOLS

» Use this [interactive map](#) to locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.





CHOOSING AN NCAA SCHOOL



School Size



School Location



Majors
and Minors



Cost of Attendance



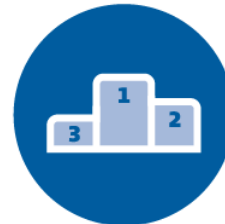
Admission
Requirements



Culture
and Affiliations



Student-to-Faculty
Ratio



Playing Time



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NCAA
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NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

- » **Who are we?** A unit within the NCAA.
- » **What do we provide?** Certification of college-bound student-athletes for collegiate competition.
- » **What do we review?**
 - Your transcripts.
 - Your athletics participation.
- » **Why do we review?** To create fair and equitable competition across NCAA schools and divisions.



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THREE REQUIREMENTS TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS



High School Graduation



NCAA
Initial Eligibility



College
Admission



COLLEGE ADMISSION

- » Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school before you can compete.
 - NCAA certification does **NOT** include acceptance to the NCAA school.
- » Ask college admission about:
 - Cost of attendance.
 - > Financial aid and scholarships.
 - > [FAFSA](#).
 - Standardized test scores.
 - > May be required for college admission or scholarships.
 - > **NOT** required for NCAA certification.



[JOBS](#)[MYAPPS](#)[ELIGIBILITY CENTER](#)[EN](#)[ABOUT US](#) ▾[STUDENT-ATHLETES](#) ▾[DIVISIONS](#) ▾[CHAMPIONSHIPS](#) ▾[NEWS](#) ▾[NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER](#) > [NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION](#)

Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center

Create the account that is right for you and start your journey toward competing at an NCAA school.

CHOOSE YOUR
ACCOUNT

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

NCAA REGISTRATION

Best Practice: Register Before Freshman Year



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NCAA REGISTRATION

Three Account Types



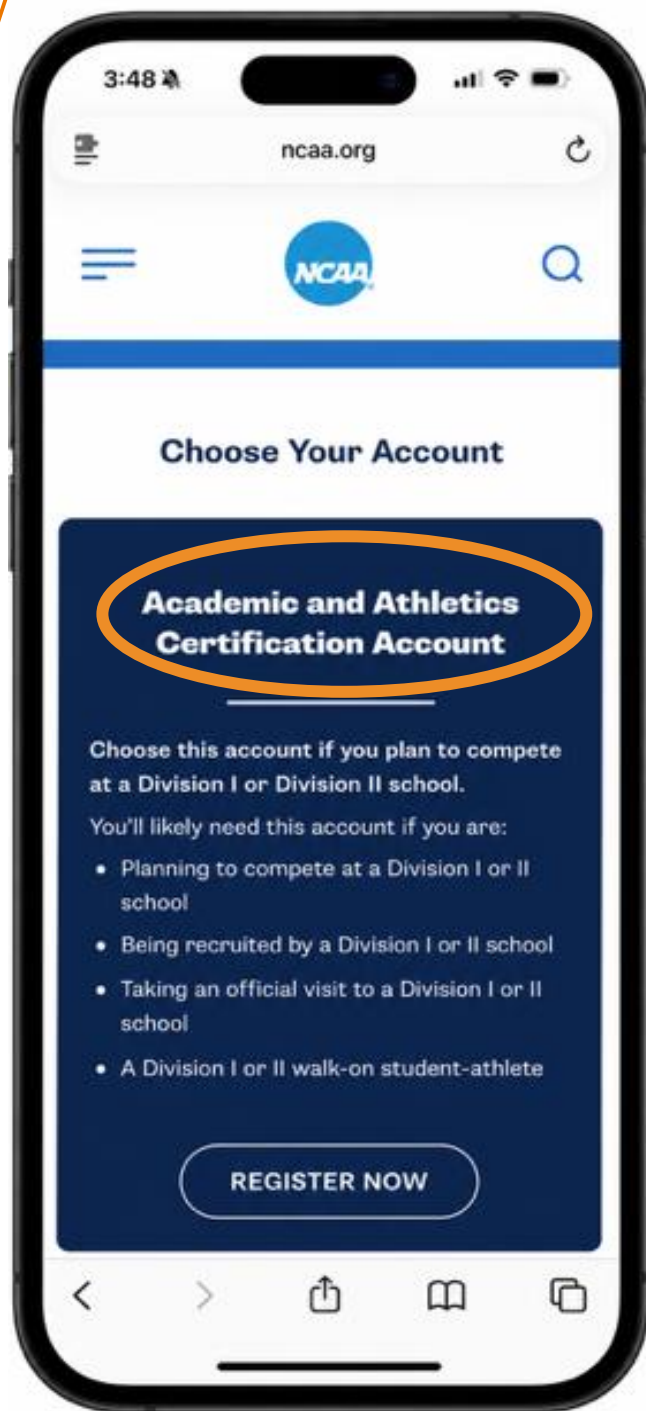
**Academic
and Athletics
Certification Account**



**Athletics Certification
Account**



Profile Page Account



Account Type #1

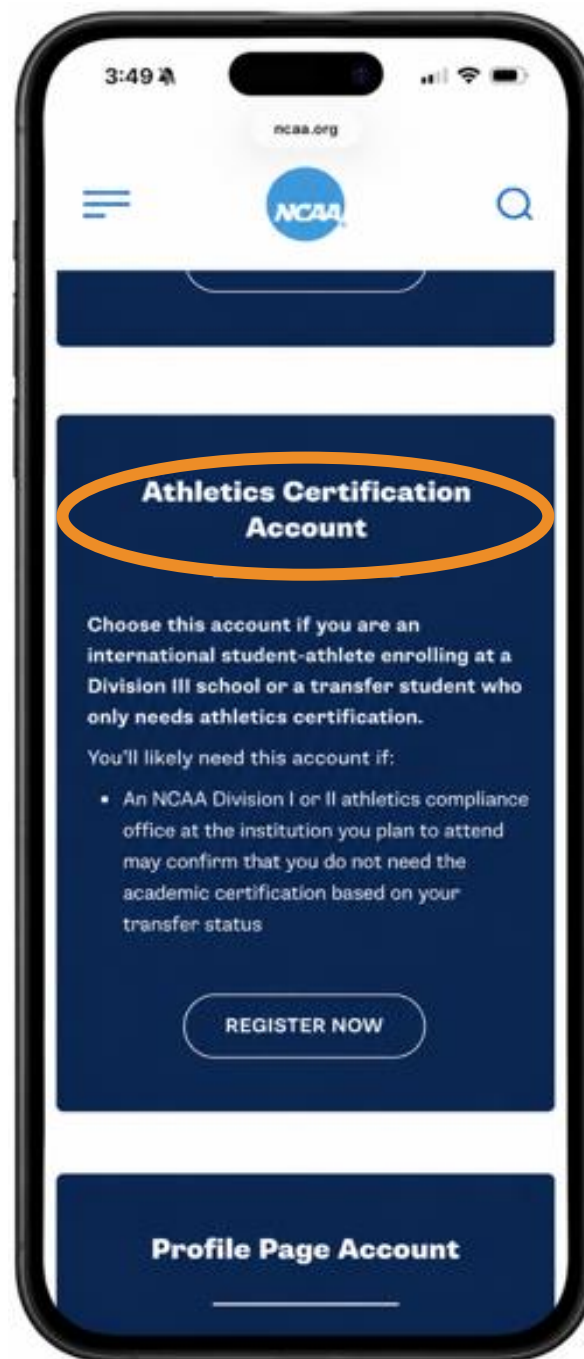
Required to compete at a Division I or II school:

- » Go on Division I official visits.
- » Sign for/receive athletics aid.



Account Type #2

- » All [international student-athletes](#) planning to compete at a Division III school.
- » Student-athletes transferring from a two-year school to an NCAA Division I or II school who did not require an Eligibility Center academic certification.

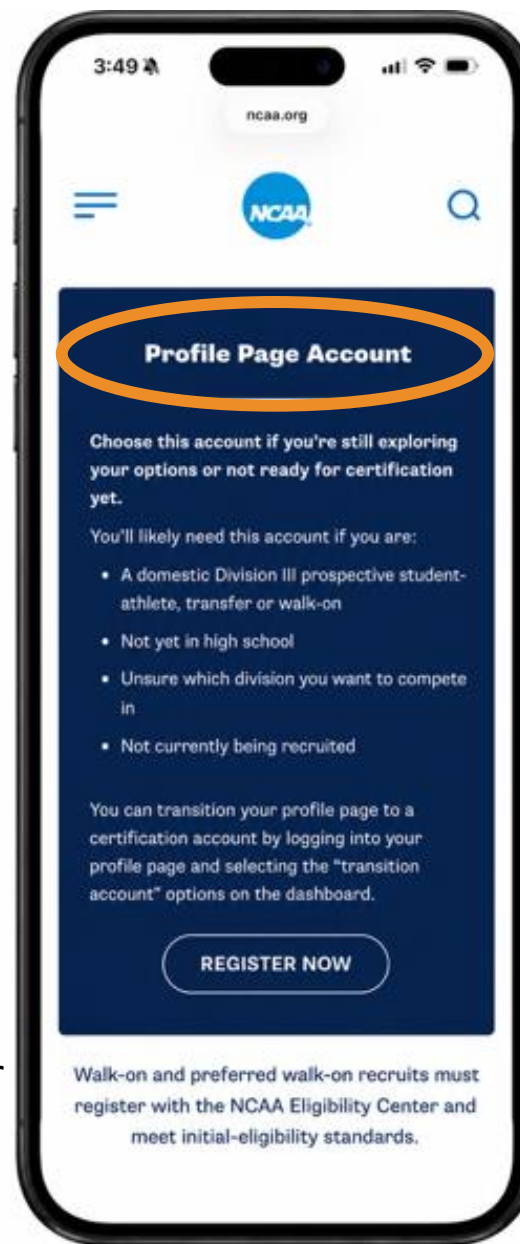




Account Type #3

The right place to start for most students!

- » Not sure in which division you plan to compete.
- » Have not started the recruiting process.
- » Domestic students planning to compete at a Division III school.
- » Registering in an NCAA-certified nonscholastic basketball event.
- » If they're being actively recruited by an NCAA Division I or II school, help them [transition](#) their Profile Page account to a certification account.





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CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

Divisions I and II





Division I

CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

1. [Early Academic Qualifier](#).
2. [Qualifier](#).
3. [Academic Redshirt](#).
4. [Nonqualifier](#).





- » Athletics Aid.
- » Practice.
- » Compete.

Division I

EARLY

ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

Note: Based on your pre-seventh semester academic record.



Earn 14 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the required subject areas.



Earn a minimum 3.0 core-course GPA.



- » Athletics Aid.
- » Practice.
- » Compete.

Division I QUALIFIER



Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the required subject areas.



Complete 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight semesters from your initial start of ninth grade.



Meet the [10/7 requirement](#) before the start of your seventh semester.

- » Not required for students with solely [international](#) academic credentials.



Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.



Division I

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT



Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the required subject areas.



Earn a minimum 2.0 core-course GPA.

- » First Year Athletics Aid.
- » First Term Practice.
- » ~~Compete.~~



Division I

NONQUALIFIER



Not eligible to receive athletics aid, practice or compete during your first year of full-time enrollment.

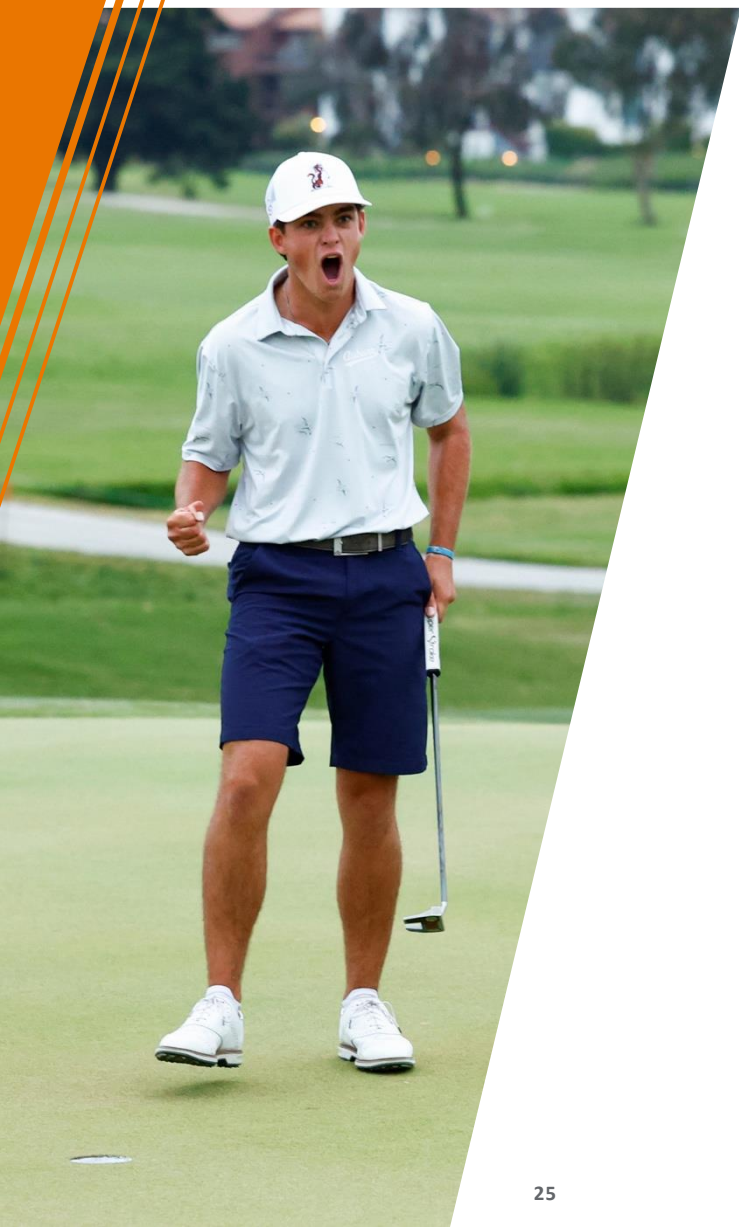


Check with the compliance office at the NCAA school you may attend to discuss your options.

» Athletics Aid. —

» Practice. —

» Compete. —



Division II CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

1. [Early Academic Qualifier.](#)
2. [Qualifier.](#)
3. [Partial Qualifier.](#)



- » Athletics Aid.
- » Practice.
- » Compete.

Division II

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

Note: Based on your pre-seventh semester academic record.



Earn 14 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the required subject areas.



Earn a minimum 2.5 core-course GPA.



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Division II QUALIFIER



Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the required subject areas.



Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.

- » Athletics Aid.
- » Practice.
- » Compete.



Division II

PARTIAL QUALIFIER



May receive athletics aid and practice but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment.



Check with the compliance office at the NCAA school you may attend to discuss your options.

» Athletics Aid.

» Practice.

» ~~Compete.~~



DIVISION III

- » While Division III schools set their own academic standards on campus, the Eligibility Center certifies the amateurism status of Division III international student-athletes.
 - All other Division III student-athletes are certified on campus.
- » [International student-athletes](#) enrolling at a Division III school must register with an Athletics Certification account and receive their final amateurism certification before they can compete.
- » Effective Fall 2026, domestic student-athletes enrolling at a Division III school will need to register with a Profile Page account.



CORE COURSE UPDATE

- » If your high school or district offers new AP Career Kickstart courses, they are approvable in the following disciplines:
 - AP Business with Personal Finance – Social Science
 - AP Cybersecurity – Math or Science

*Does your school offer these courses but they aren't on your NCAA list? Contact your school's/districts NCAA primary or secondary contact to get those submitted for review!



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RECRUITING





ARE YOU BEING RECRUITED?

» You're being actively recruited if an NCAA coach:



Calls



Texts



Emails



**Messages via Social
Media**



**Visits Your
High School**



**Pays Expenses to
Visit Campus**



**Issues
Athletics Aid**



**Writes Offer
of Financial Aid**

» Recruiting can begin as early as ninth grade.

- In most cases, recruiting starts in eleventh grade.



INSTITUTIONAL REQUEST LIST

- » An IRL is a list of college-bound student-athletes an NCAA school is interested in recruiting.
- You **must** be on an NCAA school's IRL to receive an academic and/or athletics certification.



Receive
Athletics Aid



Practice



Compete



RECRUITING CALENDARS

[Recruiting calendars](#) promote your well-being and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport.

*Division, Sport and Grade Level Determines Recruiting Activities**

	CONTACT PERIOD	EVALUATION PERIOD	QUIET PERIOD	DEAD PERIOD	RECRUITING SHUTDOWN
College coaches may call, write, text or email you and your family.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
College coaches may watch you compete.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
College coaches may visit your high school.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
College coaches may have face-to-face contact with you and your family.	Yes	Yes, but only on the college's campus.	Yes, but only on the college's campus.	No	No



OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

OFFICIAL VISITS

» Official visits: Any visit to a college campus paid for by the NCAA school you are visiting. Before a Division I or II official visit, you must:



Register with
the Eligibility Center



Be on the
NCAA School's IRL



Request Upload of Your
High School Transcript

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

» Unofficial visits: Any visit to a college campus paid for by you or your family members.



OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

OFFICIAL VISITS

What can an NCAA school pay for during an official visit?

<i>Division I</i>	<i>Division II</i>	<i>Division III</i>
Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting (plus up to two family members).	Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting.	Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting.
Your lodging.	Your lodging.	Your lodging.
Up to three meals per day for you and up to four family members.	Your meals.	Up to three meals per day for you.
Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to \$60 per recruited student-athlete and up to four family members accompanying you, including five tickets to a home sports event).	Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to \$50 per recruited student-athlete and any family member accompanying you, including tickets to a home sports event).	Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to \$40 per recruited student-athlete and any family member accompanying you, including tickets to home sports events).



OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

What can an NCAA school pay for during an unofficial visit?

<i>Division I</i>	<i>Division II</i>	<i>Division III</i>
No complimentary meals.	One meal for you and your family members.	One meal for you at the on-campus dining facility or one meal for you off campus if the on-campus dining facility is closed and the NCAA school provides meals to all prospective students, including nonathletes.
Complimentary admission (including three tickets for a home athletics contest).	Complimentary admission (including tickets for a home athletics contest).	Complimentary admission (including tickets for you and those accompanying you).



TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH NCAA COACHES

- » Academic resources.
- » Additional team responsibilities.
- » Athletic training and medical expenses.
- » Coaching philosophy and style.
- » Degree completion support.
- » Injuries and rehabilitation.
- » Mental health resources.
- » [Name, image and likeness.](#)
- » Revenue sharing.
- » Playing time.
- » Scholarship renewals.
- » Team time demands.



RECRUITING BEST PRACTICES

- » Talk with your support system about what level of competition they think you should aim for.
- » Register for an Eligibility Center account before ninth grade.
- » Check your email often for Eligibility Center [tasks](#).
- » Work as hard in the classroom as you do in your sport! Earn the best NCAA core-course GPA possible.
- » Use this [interactive map](#) to research the admission requirements of NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- » Research when your [division- and sport-specific recruiting activity periods](#) are throughout each year.
- » If possible, play on elite travel teams and attend camps or showcases in your area to display your skills and build relationships.



RECRUITING BEST PRACTICES

- » Conduct yourself in a positive manner in class, practices and games, at home, in your community and online.
- » Email college coaches during your sport's contact period to share your achievements and your interest.
 - Include your name, position and NCAA ID.
- » If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school, [transition](#) your Profile Page account to the right certification account.
- » Take [unofficial and official visits](#) to NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
 - If you're unable to visit campus, review school websites and take virtual campus tours to learn more.



ATHLETICS AID

- » By signing for athletics aid, you agree to attend that Division I or II school.
- » Athletics aid is:
 - Voluntary and ends the recruiting process.
 - Provided for a minimum of one academic year.
 - > You must be admitted to the NCAA school.
 - > You must be eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.



NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS

- » NCAA student-athletes can benefit from their NIL.
- » Resources:
 - Visit [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).
 - Contact your state's [high school athletic association](#) for current legislation.
 - Contact your future NCAA school's compliance office.
- » [Learn more about initial eligibility and NIL disclosure requirements.](#)





RECENT CHANGES

Division I Cabinet adopts new pre-enrollment eligibility rules

» Changes to rules for prospects surrounding:

- [Use of Agents](#)
- [Prize Monies](#)
- [Professional League Drafts](#)

Effective Immediately.

**As always, check State High School Athletic Association rules and watch [NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org) for ongoing updates*

[Press Release- April 16, 2026](#)



DIVISION I AND DIVISION II AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY RULES

A student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility begins with the earlier of these two events:

- > **Initial full-time college enrollment:** The academic term the student-athlete first enrolls full time and attends class at any college or university, including domestic or international schools and junior colleges.
- > **Age-based trigger:** The start of the regular academic year immediately following the student-athlete's 19th birthday, if the student-athlete turns 19 years old before Sept. 1. For an individual who turns 19 years old on or after Sept. 1, the period of eligibility begins at the start of the following academic year, unless the individual enrolls full time in college earlier.

***The academic and athletics requirements to become eligible have NOT changed.**



WHAT STARTS THE PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY?

» *The period of eligibility begins when a student-athlete:*

- Enrolls full time and attends class at any college or university, including domestic or international schools and junior colleges.
- Reaches the start of the academic year* immediately after the individual's 19th birthday.
- Competes for a college team, even if the student-athlete is not enrolled full time at that school.



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NCAA DIVISION I AND DIVISION II AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY RULES



[NCAA Age-Based
Eligibility 101](#)



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A large, stylized NCAA logo in white on a blue background, surrounded by colorful confetti (blue, orange, yellow, green) and a dark blue background with white lines. The logo is the central focus of the page.

NCAA

RESOURCES



**Student-Athlete
Resources**

RESOURCES

- » [Student-Athlete Resources.](#)
- » [NCAA Eligibility Center Registration.](#)
- » [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.](#)
- » [Initial Eligibility Flyer.](#)
- » [Homeschooled Students.](#)
- » [International Students.](#)
- » [Education Impacting Disabilities.](#)
- » Learn more about NCAA [sports wagering.](#)
- » Learn more about NCAA [drug testing](#) and banned substances.



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SOCIAL MEDIA

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ELIGIBILITY CENTER

THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

Contact the Eligibility Center



**Connect with the
NCAA Eligibility Center**

- » College-bound student-athlete support line.
 - 877-262-1492.
 - > Monday-Friday.
 - > 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.