NCAA Initial Eligibility

Want to Play College Sports?
NCAA Initial Eligibility

- General Information
- DI Requirements
- DII Requirements
- DIII Requirements
- Timeline for NCAA Eligibility
Initial Eligibility

- Students must meet both NCAA academic eligibility requirements and institutional admissions standards.

- Students must meet certain NCAA standards to be a “Qualifier”
  - Eligible for competition, practice, and financial aid in their first collegiate term.
NCAA Eligibility Center

- The NCAA Eligibility Center evaluates and certifies all Division I and II student-athletes
  - This does not apply to spirit squad members (cheerleaders, dancers, band, mascot, etc.)

- The EC uses high school core courses, grades and standardized test scores to determine Initial Eligibility

- Also certifies amateurism status
  - Based on your answers to questions regarding sports participation
  - 94% of students don’t require additional amateurism inquiries from EC after request
NCAA Eligibility Center

- At any time, you can register for a free Profile Page at eligibilitycenter.org to receive reminders about NCAA academic and amateurism requirements
  - No fee
  - Can transition to a Certification Account

- Starting sophomore year, you can create a Certification Account
  - One-time registration fee ($90 for domestic students)
    - Fee waivers are available through your high school if you qualified for an ACT/SAT fee waiver
  - Required to go on an Official Visit (DI or DII) and for signing an NLI (DI or DII)
High School Classes

- Every high school has a list of approved core courses. Also known as the 48-H
  - Also available online

- Core courses must be considered “college preparatory”
  - Qualify for high school graduation
  - Taught at or above the high school’s regular academic level
  - Taught by a qualified instructor
High School Classes

- Nontraditional Courses
  - Online, distance learning, credit recovery, independent study, etc.

- **Before** you enroll in a nontraditional course, make sure it meets NCAA requirements
  - Satisfies core course requirements
  - Includes regular, on-going access between the instructor and the student
  - Defined time period for completion

- Make sure this nontraditional course is clearly indicated as such on official high school transcript
Help from your High School Counselor

- Each school has a liaison to the NCAA Eligibility Center

- What can counselors do to help a student become a Qualifier?
  - Ensure they are on track to meeting NCAA Qualifier requirements
  - Send transcripts when requested
  - Encourage on-time graduation
Division I:

- 16 Core Courses
- Graduate high school in 4 years
- Corresponding GPA/test score on the sliding scale
  - Minimum 2.3 core course GPA
  - NCAA uses 4.000 scale → NCAA EC does not use plus or minus but *may* use weighted grades

= “Qualifier”
16 core courses:

- 4 Years English
- 3 Years Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 Years Natural or Physical Science (1 must be with a lab)
- 1 additional year English/math/science
- 2 Years Social Science
- 4 Years Additional Core
  - Foreign language, comparative religion, philosophy
- 10 of the 16 must be earned prior to senior year
  - GPA of the 10 courses is ‘locked’ in. No replacement grades from senior year
- 7 of the 10 must be English/Math/Science
Graduate in 4 years:

- A student must graduate within the 4 years (8 academic semesters) of their initial high school enrollment.

- If a student graduates in those 4 years, that student is allowed to earn 1 additional core course before matriculation.
Corresponding GPA/test score:

- The NCAA takes a combination of the SAT or ACT section scores
  - SAT - Reading and Math
  - ACT - English, Math, Reading, Science
- Take the highest score for each section from multiple tests
- The NCAA only accepts national SAT and ACT exams and state-administered ACT exams
# Test Scores

SAT Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCAA Score = 510 470 980
## Core GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>NEW SAT (comp)</th>
<th>ACT (sum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.550 &amp; above</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.525</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.475</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>940</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.325</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Redshirt/Nonqualifier

**Academic Redshirt**
- 16 core courses
- Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches core-course GPA on sliding scale
- GPA between 2.0-2.29

Can practice and receive aid, but no competition in first year of enrollment

**Nonqualifier**
- Lower than 2.0 GPA, does not meet GPA/Test score sliding scale, does not graduate in 4 years or does not meet core course requirements

No practice, aid or competition in first year of enrollment
Division II:
- Graduate high school
- 16 Core Courses
- Minimum 2.20 GPA
- Corresponding GPA/test score on the sliding scale

= Qualifier
16 core courses:

- 3 Years English
- 2 Years Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 Years Natural or Physical Science (1 must be with a lab)
- 2 Years Social Science
- 3 additional years English/math/science
- 4 Years Additional Core
Partial Qualifier/Nonqualifier

Partial Qualifier
- 16 core courses
- Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches core-course GPA on sliding scale
- GPA between 2.0-2.19
Can practice and receive aid, but no competition in first year of enrollment

Nonqualifier
- Lower than 2.0 GPA, does not meet GPA/Test score sliding scale, does not graduate in 4 years or does not meet core course requirements
- No practice, aid or competition in first year of enrollment
Division III:

- Each DIII college or university determines its own eligibility for:
  - Admissions
  - Financial Aid
    - 80% of DIII student-athletes receive some form of merit, institutional or need-based financial aid
  - Practice and competition
- The NCAA EC does not certify DIII college-bound student-athletes
- DIII students may register for a free Profile Page, but it is not required
Timeline for NCAA Eligibility

Freshman Year - Plan
- Start planning now: make sure you are taking NCAA-approved courses
- Get good grades!
- English is needed each year (DI)

Sophomore Year - Register
- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center
Timeline for NCAA Eligibility

Junior Year - *Study*
- Continue to take NCAA-approved core courses
- Take ACT/SAT
  - Indicate ‘9999’ as a recipient for test score so it can be submitted directly to EC
- Upload official transcript at the end of the junior year for a preliminary evaluation
Timeline for NCAA Eligibility

Senior Year- Graduate

- Complete your final core courses

- Graduate in 4 years (8 semesters, 12 quarters)

- Request final amateurism certification after April 1

- After you graduate, work with your HS counselor to upload final transcript with proof of graduation
Reminders

- If you fall behind, don’t take short cuts. Make-up classes must be approved and college preparatory

- If multiple school attendance, be sure each school submits an official transcript

- Once you register (sophomore year), share your NCAA ID number with the schools recruiting you
NEW in 2019-20

- June 15 before junior year of high school
  - General recruiting correspondence
  - Electronic correspondence (emails, texts)
  - Phone calls

- August 1 before junior year in high school
  - Off-campus contact
  - Official and Unofficial Visits
NEW in 2019-20

- Official Visits (financed in whole or in part by the institution, total of 5) may begin on August 1 of the prospective student-athlete’s junior year in high school
  - FB= April 1-end of June of junior year, opening day of classes senior year
  - LAX= September 1 of junior year

- Unofficial Visits (financed by the PSA or their family) may begin on August 1 of the prospective student-athlete’s junior year in high school
  - Visit with athletics department involvement= contact with staff, athletics-specific tour, complimentary admissions to home game
  - No limit on # of UOVs
Questions?

Thank you for your attendance today!

ncaal.org/playcollegesports
eligibilitycenter.org
cubuffs.com/compliancecorner→Future Buffs

Abbey.Shea@colorado.edu
LHS Survey QR Code

https://forms.gle/rx6jQb4BF9hTyjsf9