

NCAA Initial Eligibility

In order to be eligible to compete in college as a freshman, student athletes must first meet certain eligibility requirements set by the NCAA. These requirements help prepare the student athlete for the rigorous academic schedule they will encounter in college.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Eligibility Center consolidated the management of the initial eligibility process, both academic and amateurism. This enables the NCAA to serve as a resource to meet changing academic needs and initiatives. The eligibility center brings this core NCAA service under the umbrella of the national office. Student athletes who hope to compete at Division I or II universities need to register.

NCAA Amateurism Clearinghouse

- The NCAA Eligibility Center is the processing center for determining amateurism eligibility of domestic and international freshman and transfer prospective student athletes initially enrolling at **NCAA Division I and II** member institutions.
- Note: In NCAA Division III, certification of an individual's amateurism status is completed by each institution, not the NCAA Eligibility Center.

How do I register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- Prospective student athletes may register with the Eligibility Center via the internet at the beginning of their junior year in high school.
- As part of the registration process, each prospect will be asked to answer several questions regarding his/her sports participation history.
- Early registration with the Eligibility Center will allow institutions to have preliminary information regarding a prospect's amateurism status, which will promote consistency in the recruiting process.
- Final certifications of amateur status will occur at the end of the prospective student athlete's senior year of high school or approximately two to three months to initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution.

Who Needs to Register with the Eligibility Center?

A student who plans to attend an NCAA Division I or II institution **AND** who wishes to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

When Should Student's Register?

- At the beginning of the junior year of high school
- Amateur status review.
- Academic reviews will begin at the conclusion of the junior year of high school.

Getting the Process Started

- Student Release Form is critical.
- You can register online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (remember your four digit pin number)

- \$60.00 registration fee for domestic students
- \$85.00 registration fee for international students.

When does a Student Receive a Preliminary Report?

The Eligibility Center prioritizes incoming information by the following categories:

- Students who are being actively recruited by an institution and are on the institutional request list;
- Students with disabilities who have registered with NCAA disability services;
- Students who request a report.

High School List of Approved Courses-“The Playbook”

All High Schools submit a list to the eligibility center that they consider to be core courses.

- Courses not included on this list will not be used by the Eligibility Center.
- Counselors must continue to update the list as needed. (Our High Principal and Guidance Counselor update our listing each year.)
- You will find the list on the NCAA Eligibility Center website (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)

Initial Eligibility at a Glance

Four Parts of Initial Eligibility:

1. Graduation from high school.
2. Minimum core grade-point average.
3. Minimum ACT or SAT test score.
4. Completion of 16 core courses full time enrollment on or after August 1, 2008.

Early Certifications

- Early Certification as a qualifier after six semesters (or the equivalent) base upon:
 - 1000 SAT or 85 ACT; or
 - 3.000 GPA in 13 core courses
 - Three English
 - Two Math
 - Two Science
 - Six additional in a core area
- Effective: August 1, 2008; applicable for certification for fall 2008.

Core-Course Definition

An NCAA core course must meet the following:

1. Recognized academic course which qualifies for high school graduation credit in a combination of: English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, non-doctrinal religion, philosophy.
2. Course must be considered college preparatory for entrance into a four year college;
3. Mathematics must be at the level of Algebra I or higher;
4. Course must be taught by a qualified instructor;
5. Course must be at or above regular academic level.
- 6.

Use of Non-Traditional Courses-Core Courses

1. Course must meet definition of NCAA core courses;
2. Instructor and student must have access to one another for teaching, evaluating, assisting;
3. Evaluation of work is conducted by appropriate academic authorities;
4. Course is acceptable for all students, and is placed on the high-school transcript.

Division I Core-Course Requirements

4 years of English

3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)

2 years of science (one must be a lab)

1 year of additional English, math or science

2 years of social studies

4 years of additional core-course units

Additional course may be in any area: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social studies, foreign language, non-doctrinal religion, philosophy.

Division I Initial Eligibility Index Requirements

Implements a sliding scale with the “cut score” at a 2.0 high school grade point average, but no test cut score, and eliminates all references to partial qualifiers.

This is the abbreviated version of the index. For a full scale index, see the NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete or www.ncaa.org

Grade Point Average	SAT Score	ACT Score
3.550	400	37
2.500	820	68
2.000	1010	86

SAT/ACT

The SAT has three parts: Critical thinking (formerly known as verbal), mathematics; and writing. Since each section is worth 200-800 points, the SAT Score ranges from 600-2400.

The NCAA does not utilize the writing component for initial eligibility certification. The critical reading and math sections will still be scored on a 200-800 point scale, the Eligibility Center will combine those two sections for the highest combination score. ACT also a writing component, and the writing section will not be utilized for initial eligibility certification. The test scores must be provided to the Eligibility Center by the testing agency. If the test score appears on the transcript, it will not be accepted. **As students register for the SAT/ACT please have testing agency provide the score to the NCAA Eligibility Center(Code 9999).**

Determining Grade Value of Core Courses

- A=4 quality points, B=3 quality points, C=2quality points, D=1 quality point.
- A year long course is assigned a 1.0 value, while a single semester course is assigned a .50 value
- Pluses or minuses within a grade level do not receive greater or lesser quality points
- An honor or advanced course shall receive not great than 1.0 additional quality point

- **The core curriculum GPA is calculated using the student's core course grades.**
- Pass/fail grade may be used; however, the Eligibility Center will assign the lowest passing grade a high school assigns for pass /fail courses
- College courses may be used to satisfy core courses provided the courses are accepted by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses

What happens if requirements are not satisfied?

If all initial eligibility requirements are met, the student is certified as a qualifier.

If not, the student will be certified as a non-qualifier. **Non qualifiers cannot receive athletic aid, compete or practice and are limited to three seasons of competition as opposed to four.**

Division II Core Course Requirements (14 Core Courses)

3 years of English

2 years of math (at Algebra I or higher)

2 years of science (one must be a lab)

2 years of additional English, math or science

2 years of social studies

3 years of additional core-course units

Division II-there is no sliding scale minimum.

820 SAT (Verbal and Math Only) or

68 sum ACT

and

2.00 core grade point average

Test Score Requirements

In Division I and II, you must achieve the minimum required SAT or ACT score before your first full time collegiate enrollment. The test must be achieved under national testing conditions on a national testing date.

Important Information for Students Time-line for Initial Eligibility

Grades 9-12

Guide students in their course selection to:

1. Meet high school graduation requirements.
2. Fully prepare students for a four-year college.
3. Meet NCAA core-course requirements.
4. Reference the high school list or core courses with counselor (The Playbook)

Junior Year

- **Take ACT or SAT Test.**
- **Report test scores to the Eligibility Center.**
-use code 9999 when registering
-that will automatically send scores to the Eligibility Center

During the junior year:

-students take ACT and/or SAT.

-report score(s) to the Eligibility Center.

-Guidance continues to monitor course selection.

After junior year:

-Guidance counselor submits the six semester transcript to the Eligibility Center.

During the senior year:

-Guidance counselor continues to monitor course selection.

After senior year:

-Guidance counselor sends final transcript (with proof of graduation) to the Eligibility Center.

NOTE: once the Eligibility Center receives a final transcript, a revised transcript will not be used. All transcript changes after graduation must be handled through the initial-eligibility waiver process. There is a minimum 7-10 day turn around for any updates made to the High School List of approved core courses.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The student must register with the NCAA disability services. Provide copy of a professional diagnosis; and copy of an IEP, IPT, 504 Plan or statement of accommodations (dated within the last three years). Documentation should be provided to : NCAA, P.O. Box 6222, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222.

8 Points to Remember

1. Be mindful that the eligibility requirements to participate at the Division I institution differ from a Division II institution.
2. If you have been home schooled during grades 9-12, you must register with the Eligibility Center.
3. NCAA academic committee review waivers based on objective evidence demonstrating the students overall academic record warrants a waiver of the normal application of the legislation.
4. Initial Eligibility waivers must be filed by an NCAA member institution on behalf of a student.
5. Correspondence and independent study courses can be used to satisfy initial eligibility requirements provided:
 - the course meets all the requirements of a core course
 - the instructor and student have access to one another during the duration of the course for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student;
 - evaluation of the student's work is done 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.
6. Courses taken in the eighth grade may not be used to satisfy the core-course requirement.
7. If you graduate in 8 consecutive semesters with your incoming 9th grade class, you may use one core course completed in the year after your graduation (summer and academic year). Note: students with NCAA approved diagnosed disabilities may use courses taken after graduation but before full-time enrollment.
8. Courses taken after the 8th semester cannot be used for initial eligibility certification

unless the student's learning disability has been approved by the NCAA.

NOTE: Students MUST Graduate in 8 Semesters!

A prospective student-athlete must complete his or her core-curriculum requirements no later than the high school graduation date of the prospect's class as determined by:

- the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade); or
- the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility.

If the prospect repeats a grade, the only option to utilize the additional year(s) of core course work is a waiver.

Common Waivers may be granted for:

- Accuracy of High School Transcript-grade changes, inaccurate high school enrollment.
- Outdated Approved Course Lists-course title changes, changes to course curriculum.
- Incorrect advising by High School Guidance Office-GPA/test score index, value of core course, reclassification.

Important Phone Numbers and Websites for additional information:

NCAA Eligibility Center Customer Service phone number-1-877-262-1492

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

NCAA National Office phone number-1-317-917-6222

www.ncaa.org

NCAA Hotline phone number-1-800-638-3731

Differences between NCAA Division I, II and III universities and colleges:

	Division I	Division II	Division III
Athletics	Most competitive	Highly Competitive	Competitive
Scholarships	Athletic: Full or Partial	Athletic: Some Full, Some Partial	None for Athletics
	Academic: Merit Scholarships, Special Talent	Academic: Merit Scholarships, Special Talent	Academic: Merit Scholarships, Special Talent
Financial Aid	Need Based Grants Loans Work Study	Need Based Grants Loans Work Study	Need Based Grants Loans Work Study
Time Commitment	Year Round- required camps, practices, weight training and conditioning	Year Round practices, out of season training	Year Round practices and out of season training

* Athletic Scholarships are good for one year and may be renewed by the college as you meet their requirements for athletics and academics.