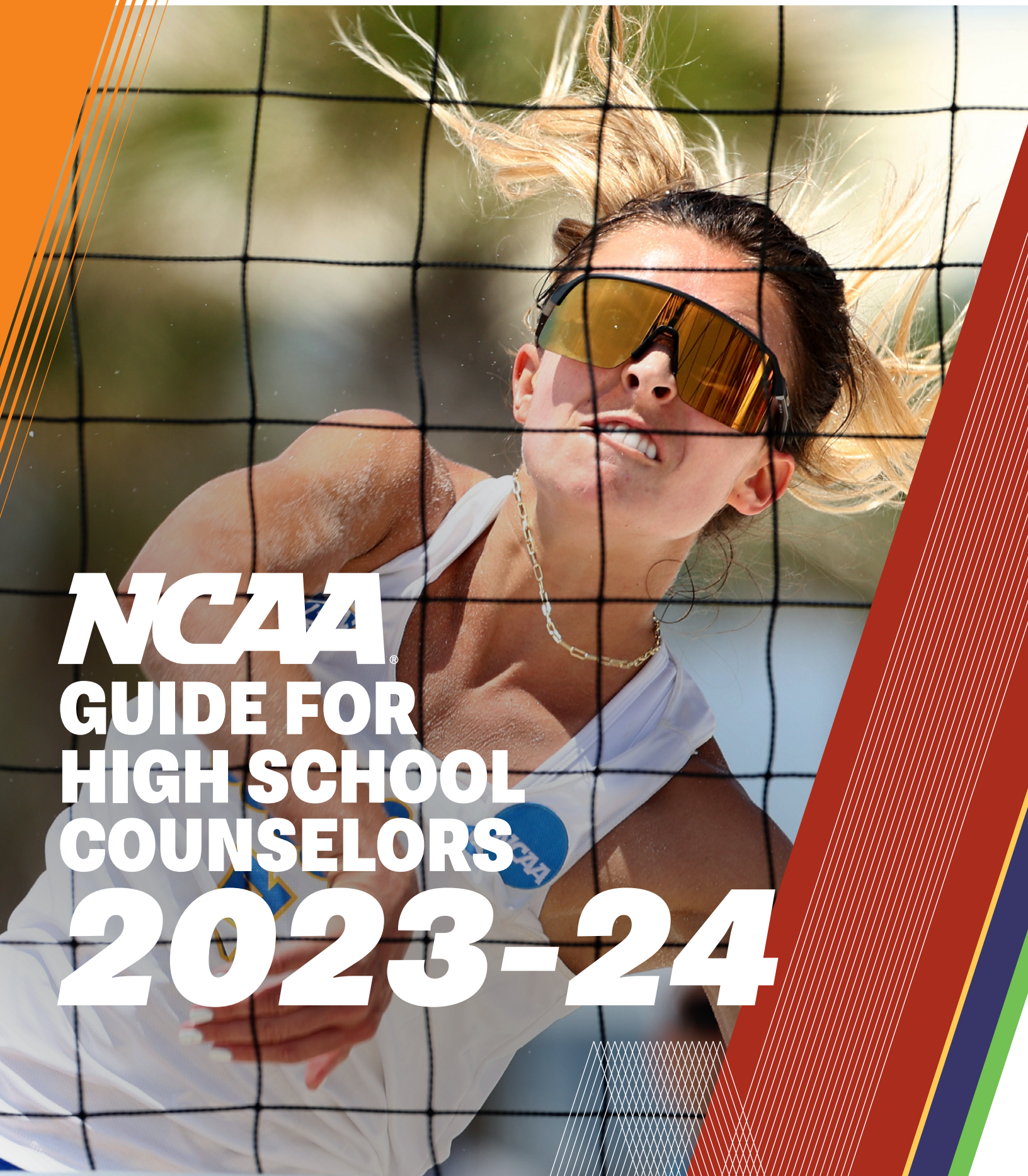
ELIGIBILITY CENTER



NCAA® GUIDE FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS 2023-24

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NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

Information

Visit
eligibilitycenter.org
ncaa.org/playcollegesports

Follow
Twitter @NCAAEC
YouTube @NCAAEC
Facebook @NCAAEC
Instagram @playcollegesports

Contact
High school administrators only
877-622-2321, Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

College-bound student-athletes only
U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):
877-262-1492 (toll free), Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time
International (including Quebec):
on.ncaa.com/IntlContact

Certification Processing
NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7110

Overnight Delivery
NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Have a question about NCAA eligibility?
- Read this guide.
- Search frequently asked questions at ncaa.org/studentfaq.
- Check the Help section of eligibilitycenter.org.
- Visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
- Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.

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What Is the NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. Over 1,000 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. Those schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support more than 500,000 college athletes that make up over 20,000 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA's diverse members include schools ranging in size from hundreds of students to tens of thousands. The NCAA's current three-division structure was adopted in 1973 to create a fair playing field for teams from similar schools and provide college athletes more opportunities to participate in national championships.

Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies, manage the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community. The Division III experience offers participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

To learn more about the pathways, visit **ncaa.org/divisions**.

NCAA FACTS

1906
Year established

1,080
NCAA member schools

351
Active Division I members

296
Active Division II members

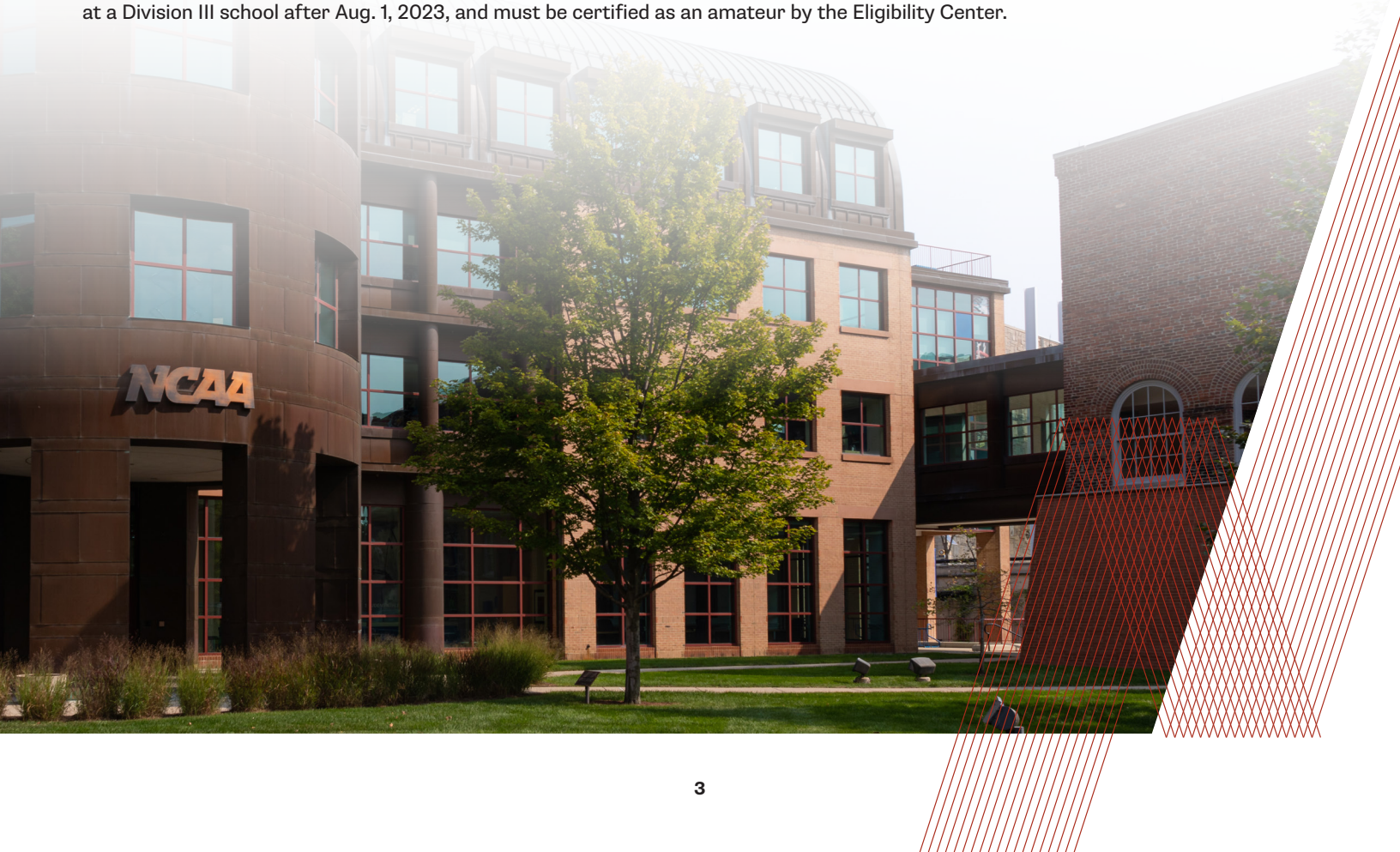
433
Active Division III members

Do Schools in All Three Divisions Offer Athletics Scholarships?

NCAA Division I and II schools provide more than $3.8 billion in athletics scholarships annually to over 195,000 student-athletes. While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid. For more information about scholarships, see **page 5**.

Are Initial-Eligibility Standards Similar in All Three Divisions?

A college-bound student-athlete must receive an academic and amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. While Division III schools set their own admissions and academic requirements, **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers) who are enrolling at a Division III school after Aug. 1, 2023, and must be certified as an amateur by the Eligibility Center.



NCAA Sports

The NCAA conducts 90 national championships in 24 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 45 championships for women, 42 for men and three coed national championships. That means almost 54,000 student-athletes participate in NCAA championships each year.

From signature events like the NCAA March Madness basketball tournaments to rowing, rifle and skiing, the NCAA administers championships to ensure student-athletes have a first-class experience. But the NCAA is also committed to quality events for everyone involved, from the coaches to the fans and broadcast audiences.

It is important to the NCAA that our championships have a positive impact on the communities that host them. The NCAA hosts youth clinics and various fan events to complement the competition – creating what is hoped to be a championship experience for everyone involved.

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

SPRING SPORTS

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

EMERGING SPORTS

WOMEN:

- Acrobatics and Tumbling
- Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
- Rugby
- Stunt (Division II only)
- Triathlon
- Wrestling

Scholarships

NCAA Division I and II schools provide more than $3.8 billion in athletics scholarships annually to over 195,000 student-athletes. (**Division III schools** do not offer athletics scholarships.)

Division I schools may provide a student with multiyear scholarships. **Division II schools** may only provide a student with a one-year scholarship. Additionally, Division I and II schools may provide funding for degree completion to finish a bachelor's or master's degree after the student's time playing NCAA sports ends.

If a school plans to reduce or not renew a student's aid, the school must notify the student in writing by July 1 before the start of the impacted school year and provide an opportunity for the student to appeal. In most cases, the head coach decides who receives a scholarship, the scholarship amount and whether it will be renewed.

Many student-athletes also benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs, and need-based aid such as federal Pell Grants. A student must report all financial aid they receive to their NCAA school's financial aid office. If the student has questions about what financial aid can be accepted, they should contact their NCAA school's financial aid office or athletics department for more detailed information about NCAA financial aid rules.

National Letter of Intent

By signing a **National Letter of Intent**, students agree to attend a Division I or II school for one academic year. NLI-member schools agree to provide athletics financial aid to students for a minimum of one academic year as long as they're admitted to the school and are eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.

The NLI is voluntary and not required for students to receive financial aid or participate in sports. Signing an NLI ends the recruiting process because coaches are prohibited from recruiting student-athletes who have signed NLIs with other NLI member schools.

If students sign an NLI but decide to attend another college, they may request a release, but the school may use its discretion in granting an NLI release. If students sign an NLI with one school but attend a different school, those students lose one full year of eligibility and must complete a full academic year at the new school before being eligible to compete. If students have questions about the NLI, they should visit **nationalletter.org**.

Our Three Divisions

The NCAA's three divisions were created in 1973 to align like-minded campuses in the areas of fairness, competition and opportunity.

DIVISION	DIVISION I	DIVISION II MAKE IT YOURS	DIVISION III DISCOVER I DEVELOP I DEDICATE
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS*	351 (33%)	296 (27%)	433 (40%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,449	2,300	1,655
STUDENTS WHO ARE ATHLETES	1 in 22	1 in 9	1 in 6
AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19	16	19
PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION	36%	25%	39%
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS	Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available **58%** of athletes receive athletics aid	Partial athletics scholarship model **67%** 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 **27,642** undergraduates. The smallest? **228**.

*The number of schools for each division is current as of the 2022-23 academic year. This does not include reclassifying, provisional or exploratory schools. Student-athlete participation numbers include NCAA championship sports only and are current as of the 2021-22 academic year.

How is each division governed?

NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own divisions. Groups of presidents and chancellors lead each division in the form of committees with regularly scheduled meetings.

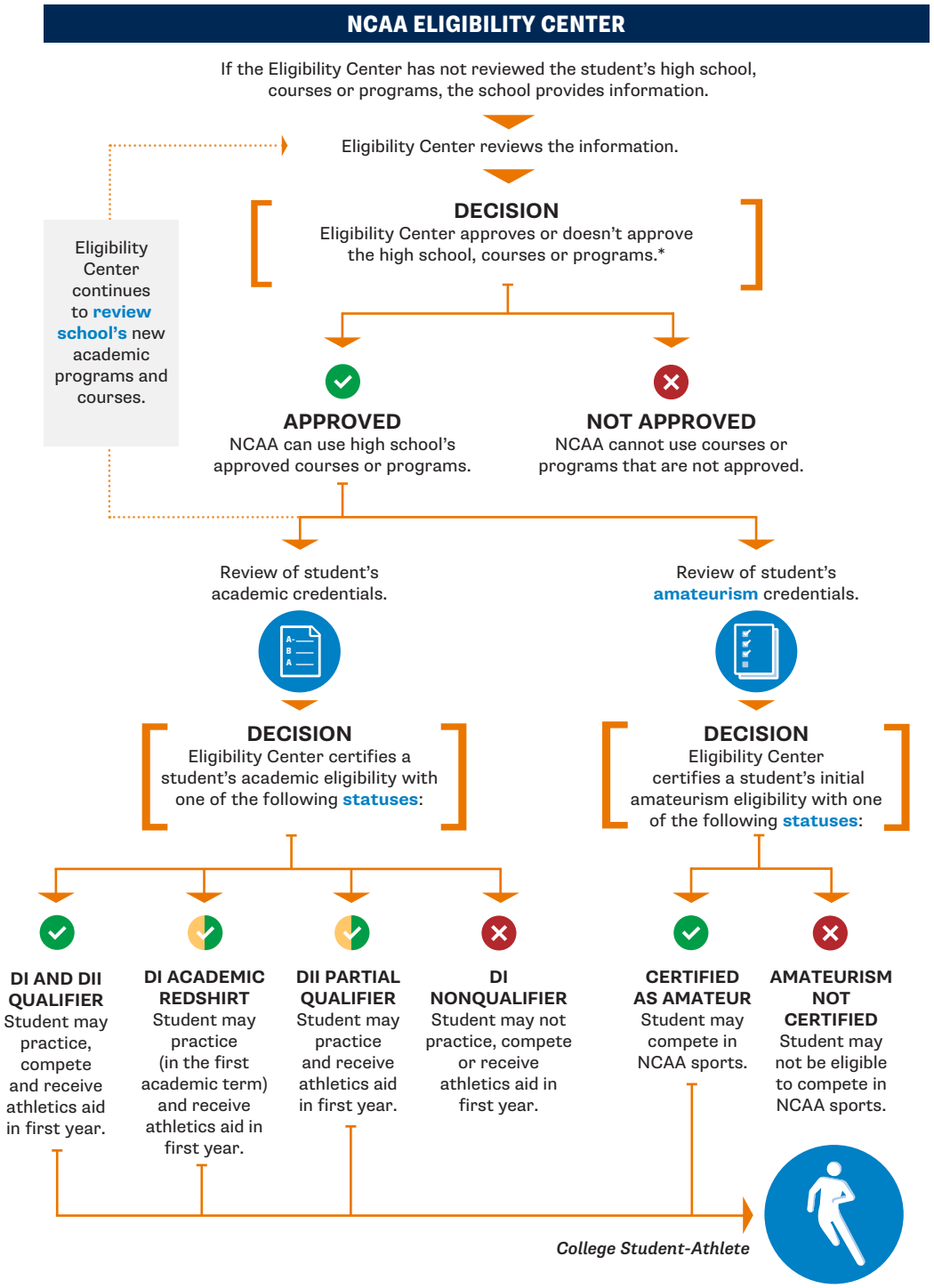
What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

If a student wants to compete at an NCAA school, they must meet academic and/or amateurism standards set by NCAA members. **Academic** and **amateurism standards** are outlined in this guide and can be found on each division's page on **ncaa.org**.

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Process

This chart presents a general overview to help you, students and their families better understand the components of the initial-eligibility process.

An NCAA school recruits students by placing them on its institutional request list, which begins a request for certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.



*Some accounts may be placed on extended evaluation which may require additional academic information for review.

Registration Checklist

If students want to compete in NCAA sports, they need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org**. Students should plan to register before their freshman year of high school.

Which account type does a student need?

1. **Profile Page Account:** Students unsure in which division they want to compete, or domestic students who plan to compete at a **Division III school**, should register for a free Profile Page account (option 1). They can **transition** their account to the required **certification account** if they wish to pursue a Division I or II path.

2. **Academic and Amateurism Certification Account:** Students must receive an academic and amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center to compete at a Division I or II school. They must complete the Academic and Amateurism Certification account (option 2) registration (including payment or **fee waiver**) before they go on official visits, sign a **National Letter of Intent**, receive an athletics scholarship or compete at a Division I or II school.

3. **Amateurism-Only Certification Account:** If they're an **international student-athlete** (first-year enrollees and transfers), they must receive an amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center to compete at a Division III school. They must register with an Amateurism-Only Certification account (option 3) and receive their final amateurism certification before they can compete at a Division III school.

   This account may also be right for domestic students transferring from a two-year school to a Division I or II school who did not require an Eligibility Center academic certification. These students should check with the compliance office at the NCAA school they may attend to determine their required account type.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT TYPES

In which division does the student plan to compete?	Academic and Amateurism Certification Account	Amateurism-Only Certification Account	Profile Page* Account
Division I			
Any recent high school graduate (**domestic or international**), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. Check with the compliance office at the school they may attend.	✓ OR	✓	
Division II			
Any recent high school graduate (**domestic or international**), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. Check with the compliance office at the school they may attend.	✓ OR	✓	
Division III			
Recent high school graduate (domestic only), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.			✓
Recent high school graduate who maintains a permanent residence **outside of the U.S.**		✓	
Recent high school graduate who attended high school or college **outside of the U.S.** for any time (excluding U.S.-based students who study abroad).	✓ OR	✓ OR	✓
Recent high school graduate (**international only**), first-time enrolling at NCAA school.		✓	
Recent high school graduate who competed **outside of the U.S.**		✓	
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university, attended domestic high school(s) only.			✓
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university, attended at least one international high school (**U.S. territories** are considered domestic).		✓	
Division Undecided/Unknown			
Never enrolled full time at a two- or four-year college or university. Best for younger students or before recruiting begins. Can be transitioned to a certification account when needed.			✓

Once students have determined the right account for them, they should visit **eligibilitycenter.org** to register. A list of information they will need to complete their account is outlined on below. For a Profile Page account, allow 15 minutes to complete. For certification accounts, allow between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. If they need to exit and come back at a later time, they can save and exit once their account is created.

***Unsure which account type is right for a student?** Have all students start with our **free Profile Page account**, then check with the compliance office at the NCAA school they may attend. If the student needs additional assistance, have them contact the Eligibility Center's Customer Service team at 877-262-1492, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday for assistance. International students (including Quebec) should use the **International Contact Form** to submit questions.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items a student should have with them as they create an account at **eligibilitycenter.org**:

- ☐ **Valid Email for Student**
  To register, students need a valid email address that they check regularly and will have access to after high school. The Eligibility Center uses email to update students about their account throughout the process. ***Note:*** If they have a sibling who has previously registered, the student will need to use a different email address than the one in their sibling's account.

- ☐ **Basic Student Personal Information**
  This includes information such as their name, gender, date of birth, primary and secondary contact information, address and mobile number for texting.

- ☐ **Basic Student Education History**
  We will ask them to provide details about all secondary and high schools and additional programs they attend in the U.S. and internationally. Be sure they include all schools, regardless of whether they received grades or credits. If they attended ninth grade at a junior high school located in the same school system in which they later attended high school, do not list the ninth-grade school.

- ☐ **Student Sports Participation History**
  Students should select the sport(s) they plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For **certification accounts**, we will ask them to provide details for any expenses or awards they received, any teams they have practiced or played with, and certain events in which they participated. We also ask about any individuals who have advised them or marketed their skills in a particular sport. This information helps the Eligibility Center certify their amateur status once they **request their final amateurism certification**.

- ☐ **Payment (Certification Accounts Only)**
  Registration for the Academic and Amateurism or Amateurism-Only Certification account is complete only after their registration fee is paid (or upon requesting a **fee waiver**, if eligible). Students may pay online by debit, credit card or echeck. For the Academic and Amateurism Certification account, the fee for college-bound student-athletes attending a high school in the U.S., **U.S. territories** or Canada is $100; the fee for international students is $160. For students for which an Amateurism-Only Certification account is the right choice, the fee for all students is $70. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee.

  All fees are nonrefundable 30 days after the certification account fee is paid. If a student completed a duplicate registration and paid their registration fee twice, they may be eligible for a refund. To receive a refund, they will need to complete and submit an **NCAA refund form**.

Unsure if they've already created an account?
Encourage the student to contact Customer Service at 877-262-1492 prior to creating a new account to avoid duplicate account issues during recruiting.

Sending Transcripts

The primary and secondary contacts in your high school's Eligibility Center account have the capability to upload transcripts directly to a student's account via the **High School Portal** for free. As with other electronic transcript providers, this process is much quicker than using the U.S. Postal Service or any overnight delivery method. When transcripts are uploaded directly to a student's account, the NCAA Eligibility Center has near real-time access to the transcript. **Click here** for instructions on how to use this process.

While electronic transcripts are posted to a student's Eligibility Center account the same day they are sent, transcripts may take up to three business days to process. If students have attended more than one high school or taken courses from more than one program, the Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from all high school(s) or program(s) they attended. You need to send a student's sixth-semester transcript for a preliminary academic certification, and their final transcript with proof of graduation for a final academic certification once they have completed high school. ***Note:*** The Eligibility Center does not accept grades from one high school or program transcribed on another high school's transcript. Transcripts can be uploaded or sent electronically through one of the approved e-transcript providers listed below:

- Cialfo.
- **Credentials/eScrip-Safe**.
- National Student Clearinghouse.
- National Transcript Center.
- Naviance (management tool for schools that use Parchment as the back-end for delivering e-transcripts).
- NeedMyTranscript.
- **Parchment (Docufide)**.
- SCOIR.
- Scribbles Software.
- State of Georgia comes via DIRECT.
- USMO ET (Speede).
- **XAP**.

To send a transcript by U.S. mail or through an overnight or express delivery service, use the appropriate address on **page 2**. Allow four days for processing from the day of receipt. (Uploading via the **High School Portal** is considered best practice.)

What Is High School Review?

High School Review is a unit within the Eligibility Center that determines which high schools, high school programs and high school courses may be used in the academic certification process. The High School Review staff partners with high schools and districts, as well as leading secondary education organizations, to stay current with changes in educational policies and practices. This team is staffed by individuals from the secondary and postsecondary school communities who have served previously as teachers, administrators, high school counselors and coaches.

For High Schools New to the NCAA

If you would like your high school or program reviewed for use in initial-eligibility certifications and your school does not have an account with the Eligibility Center (or your school's account status is "None"), call our high school support line at 877-622-2321, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday. The Customer Service team will take some basic demographic information from you, including contact names, phone numbers and emails. An email with login and PIN information will be sent to the contacts you provide to begin the account review process.

Click here to learn more about the account review process.

What Is a Core Course?

The NCAA core curriculum (**core course**) requirement ensures college-bound student-athletes are taking high school courses that prepare them for the academic expectations in college. ***Note:*** Not all high school classes are NCAA-approved core courses and may not count toward their 16 core-course credit requirement.

What is a Core Course?

An NCAA-approved core course must meet the following requirements:

Is a four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas: » **English** » **Math** (Algebra I or higher) » **Science** (Including one year of lab, if offered) » **Social Science** » **World Language** » **Comparative Religion** » **Philosophy**	✓
Is taught by a qualified instructor.	✓
Is taught at or above your high school's regular academic level.	✓
Student receives credit toward high school graduation and course appears on an official transcript with course title, grade and credit awarded.	✓
Is in a noncore area, such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.	✗
Prepares students for work or life, or for a two-year college or technical school, such as personal finance, consumer education or tech prep.	✗
Is taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth, such as basic, essential, fundamental or foundational courses.	✗
Is a credit-by-exam course.	✗

What Criteria Are Used to Evaluate Core Courses?

The Eligibility Center staff is working to make the core-course review process more transparent for high schools. The **High School Review Committee's Policies and Procedures** is a publicly available document outlining the criteria used for reviewing core courses.

For a course to be approved, it must meet:

- All applicable NCAA **core-course legislation**.
- Core-course criteria for review, noted within specific subject area, for both:
  - Rigor of performance tasks and assessments.
  - Course content.

Submit in the "additional" area for review.

To view criteria specific to each discipline's review, click the related book above. Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist**.

NCAA core-course legislation and subject-specific examples of core-course criteria for review are noted in Appendix A of the High School Review Committee's Policies and Procedures. NCAA legislation and core-course criteria for review are used to render decisions for initial core-course submissions and submissions that contain core-course documents for review.

Maintaining Your School's NCAA Core-Course List

If you are your school's primary or secondary contact with the Eligibility Center, and your school is not part of a unified curriculum NCAA district account, you are responsible for keeping your school's NCAA core-course list up to date. This includes submitting updates to your school's existing list and uploading core-course documentation for review (when applicable).

Add Course Titles

After your school determines new course offerings, you should update your school's list of courses. If your school determines new course offerings in January and you promptly update your NCAA course list, course decisions will be made by the NCAA Eligibility Center in time for you to schedule students for the next academic year. You may update your school's list of NCAA-approved courses through the **High School Portal**, which also includes a **tutorial** on how to update your list.

Courses submitted through the High School Portal will be reviewed within three to five business days. Your high school's contacts will be notified by email of the status of the submitted courses.

Changing Course Titles

If the title of a course is substantively changing, you should update your list in the **High School Portal**. If it is simply a matter of word order, there is no need to submit the change. For example, Honors Biology, Biology Honors, H/Biology, HBio, BioH, Bio-H are all titles used to represent the same honors course in biology.

The following course title changes SHOULD BE updated:

- ***Freshman Composition to English 1.***
- ***Biology to Living Environment.***
- ***Ancient Cultures to World History I.***

The following course title changes DO NOT need to be updated:

- ***Algebra 1 to Algebra I.***
- ***H Chem to Chem/H.***
- ***Econ to Economics.***

Archiving Course Titles

You may choose to archive courses that are no longer taught, leaving them visible on your school's archived list. For example, if your school stops teaching a class on Shakespeare at the end of the 2023-24 school year, you may archive it, even though students who took the class may still be working through the NCAA eligibility process. Students who complete the Shakespeare class in the 2023-24 school year or before would still be able to use the course in their certification.

Some schools prefer to keep courses on their active list until the last students who could have taken the course graduate. Other schools prefer to archive their courses once they are no longer taught. What difference does it make? A more concise list can help students, families and coaches find active courses more easily. Archiving your courses and updating your list of courses can be done via the **High School Portal**. ***Note:*** If you believe your school's list is accurate, please log in to verify you have no updates. This will refresh your account and let the Eligibility Center know your school's core-course list is correct.

What Happens When Courses Are Designated 'Additional Information Required'?

When a course is designated "**Additional Information Required**," it means the review staff needs more documentation about the course to determine if it meets the criteria for review. The documentation may be uploaded for review via the Submit Pending Course Documents tab on the **High School Portal**. ***Note:*** These courses are currently on hold. If no action is taken, courses in this category cannot be used for NCAA initial-eligibility certification at this time.

What Happens When Courses are Designated 'Not Approved'?

Courses that do not appear to meet core-course legislation or criteria for review will be designated as "not approved" with an assigned reason code including decision rationale.

For courses that are not approved and have a specific reasoning code assigned to it (i.e., RC5, RC11, RC12 and RC17), you may also submit **additional information** for review (as listed above) if your school believes the course meets the NCAA core-course legislation and criteria. Make sure you read and understand the **criteria for review for core courses** before taking the time to gather and submit documentation. ***Note:*** You have 60 days from the decision date to submit all required core-course documentation. If the upload link has expired, you must resubmit the course(s) via the Submit Updates to My School's List option in the NCAA Courses dropdown on the **High School Portal**.

REASON CODE	DECISION RATIONALE	EXAMPLE COURSES
RC1	The course does not meet graduation requirements in one of the specified areas.	Excel, band and physical education.
RC5	The course is considered doctrinal in nature.	Apologetics, theology and spiritual life.
RC11	The course is taught below standard academic level.	A course taught at the basic, fundamental, foundational or another designation indicating the course is taught below the standard academic level.
RC12	The course is not considered a four-year college preparatory.	Technical math, career prep and writing for the workplace.
RC17	The course does not meet NCAA core-course criteria noted within specific discipline.	Accounting, theatre and yearbook.

Audited Courses

There may be times when a course erroneously appears on a high school's list of NCAA courses. This may be due to changes in NCAA legislation or a course that was mistakenly submitted or approved.

When it becomes necessary to audit a course from a list, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff works to ensure students who have taken such a course in the past are not negatively impacted by the removal. For example, if "Health" appeared on a high school's list of NCAA courses and was subsequently audited, it would appear as "Not Approved" beginning the next academic year with a notation that the course may be used through the school year it was audited. Therefore, students who took the course before it was audited and removed still would be able to use the course in their NCAA academic certification.

College Courses, Dual-Enrollment Courses and Dual-Credit Courses

Dual-enrollment coursework may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the courses appear on the student's high school transcript with grade and credit and meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**. College courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript with a designation that the course was completed through a two- or four-year college. Courses completed at a college should not be submitted for your high school's list of NCAA courses. However, dual-enrollment courses that meet core-course requirements and are taught by your high school's instructors should be submitted for inclusion on your school's core-course list.

Courses Taken Before High School

High school classes taken prior to ninth grade may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the course appears on the student's high school transcript with grade and credit and meets all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**. For example, if students take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I before high school, the class may count toward their 16 core-course credits requirement as long as the course title is on the high school's list of approved NCAA courses.

Courses Taken After High School

A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward a student's initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from their college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on their high school transcript). It must appear on the student's high school transcript with grade and credit and meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**.

For **Division I**, only core courses completed in students' first eight semesters will be used in their academic certification. If students graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with their incoming ninth-grade class, they may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) but before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. They may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which they graduated as long as the course is taken before to full-time enrollment at any college or university.

» An additional core-course unit taken after on-time high school graduation cannot replace a course used to meet the **core-course progression (10/7) requirement**, but an additional core course after on-time graduation may replace one of the remaining six core-course units necessary to meet core-course requirements.

For **Division II**, students may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) but before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. They may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which they graduated.

Nontraditional and Online Courses

Nontraditional courses are taught online or through distance learning, hybrid/blended, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence or similar means. Generally, for a nontraditional course to count as an NCAA-approved core course, it must meet all the following requirements:

- Course must meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**.
- All students in the course must have regular and ongoing instructor-led interaction for the purposes of instruction, evaluation and assistance for the duration of the course. For example, exchanging emails, online chats, phone calls, feedback on assignments and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual or group instruction.
- Course must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear how long students are required to be enrolled and working in the course and how long a school would permit a student to work on a single nontraditional course.
- Student work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) must be available for evaluation and validation.
- Course should be clearly identified as nontraditional on the student's official high school transcript.

Note: See **Nontraditional and Online Courses** (reflecting NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.3.2) for a complete list of requirements.

If a nontraditional course or program at your school/district has not yet been reviewed by the NCAA, contact the Eligibility Center Customer Service staff at 877-622-2321, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday to begin the review process.

When viewing your **school/program's course list** of NCAA-approved core courses, you will find information about any nontraditional programs or courses in the "High School Information" or "District Information" box as shown below.

HIGH SCHOOL/DISTRICT INFORMATION

Coursework from this school/program meets NCAA nontraditional core-course legislation.

Credit Recovery Programs

Many high schools offer credit recovery or credit retrieval programs for students to receive credit for a course they previously failed. These courses are also reviewed by the High School Review staff.

For a credit recovery program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

1. The courses must meet NCAA core-course requirements and, in some instances, nontraditional course requirements.
2. The high school must follow its credit recovery policies, regardless if the student is an athlete. The Eligibility Center may request the high school's policy, if necessary.
3. Repeated courses must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to the previously attempted course.

Test Scores

In January 2023, NCAA **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Encourage students to check with the NCAA school they plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Grade-Point Average

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates students' **core-course grade-point averages** based on the grades they earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only the best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on the students' high school transcripts could be different than the NCAA core-course GPA used in their certification. Their core-course GPA is based solely on the grades they received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses, visit **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist**.

The student's core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are converted to letter grades such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned "quality points," as shown in the scale below.

The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating a core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- each will be worth 3 quality points. Weighted honors or Advanced Placement courses may improve the student's core-course GPA, but the **high school must notify** the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes. The high school's course weighting policy must align with acceptable NCAA course weight policy.

In "Pass/Fail" grading situations, the Eligibility Center will assign the high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which the student received a "Pass" grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade.

Calculating a Student's Quality Points

To determine the quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:

- An A grade (4 points) for a trimester course (0.34 unit): 4 points x 0.34 unit = 1.36 total quality points
- An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 unit): 4 points x 0.50 unit = 2.00 total quality points
- An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 unit): 4 points x 1.00 unit = 4.00 quality points

Use the **Division I and II Worksheets** to help determine a student's core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point

UNITS OF CREDIT

1 quarter unit = 0.25 unit
1 trimester unit = 0.34 unit
1 semester unit = 0.50 unit
1 year = 1 unit

Division I Academic Standards

Division I schools require your student-athletes to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in thier first year of full-time enrollment, students must meet the following requirements:

DIVISION I

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

2. Complete 10 of their 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of their seventh semester. Once they begin their seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.

Semester 1 | Semester 2 | Semester 3 | Semester 4 | Semester 5 | Semester 6 | Semester 7 | Semester 8

10/7 requirement: 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of their seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

» Students with solely international academic credentials (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

The Eligibility Center will use the best combination of core courses to meet the 10/7 requirement. Courses can be repeated or replaced if they are not needed to meet the 10/7 requirement.

3. Complete their 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If they graduate from high school early, they still must meet core-course requirements.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
5. Ask their high school counselor to upload their **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to their Eligibility Center account.

How to plan high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

4 x 4 = 16

9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	12th GRADE
(1) English	(1) English	(1) English	(1) English
(1) Math	(1) Math	(1) Math	(1) Math
(1) Science	(1) Science	(1) Science	(1) Science
(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other
4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES

What if a student doesn't graduate on time?

In Division I, if students do not graduate on time (in four years/eight semesters), the Eligibility Center will still use their grades and coursework for the first four years/eight semesters for their certification. They will still need to provide proof of graduation (once they graduate) but may not use any coursework taken after their high school graduation toward their certification.

What if a student doesn't meet Division I standards?

If students have not met all the Division I academic standards, they may not compete in their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division I school. However, if they qualify as an **academic redshirt**, they may practice during their first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

Division I Worksheet

Use the **Division I Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring the student's progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes they have taken or plan to take.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division I school. If students are being recruited by Division I schools, below are the most common decisions they may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If they meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

They may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

They may practice during their first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during their first year of full-time enrollment. They must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

NONQUALIFIER

They will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Academic Standards

Division II schools require your student-athletes to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of full-time enrollment, students must meet the following requirements:

NCAA DIVISION II

MAKE IT YOURS

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
3. Ask their high school counselor to upload their **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to their Eligibility Center account.

What if a student doesn't meet Division II standards?

If students have not met all the Division II academic standards, they may not compete in their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school. However, they will be deemed a partial qualifier. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Worksheet

Use the **Division II Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring the student's progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine their academic status after they graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes they have taken or plan to take.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division II school. If students are being recruited by Division II schools, below are the most common decisions they may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If they meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, they may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

They may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER

They may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division III Amateurism Standards

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. Division III rules minimize potential conflicts between athletics and academics and focus on regional in-season and conference play to maximize academic, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities. While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

NCAA DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

While Division III schools set their own admissions and academic requirements, **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers) who are enrolling at a Division III school after Aug. 1, 2023, must be certified as an amateur by the Eligibility Center. This includes completing the **Amateurism-Only Certification account** registration before they can compete at a Division III school. The student should contact the Division III school they plan to attend for more information about its academic requirements.

International Students

For Divisions I and II, **international students** have taken coursework outside the U.S. (not including **Department of Defense Dependent Schools or American schools abroad**) at any point from the initial start of school year nine through secondary school graduation. (For student-athletes planning to enroll at a **Division III** school, check with the compliance office to determine status.) International students enrolling at a Division I or II school, must submit:

- Transcripts for years nine and up in the native language.
- Proof of graduation in the native language, which may include certificates, diplomas and/or final leaving exams.
- Certified line-by-line English translations of these documents if they are issued in a language other than English.

Students enrolling at a Division III school should monitor their **task list** for any additional information needed to certify their amateur status.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For specific details about the documents international students must submit, refer to the current **Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility** or visit the International Student-Athletes page at **ncaa.org/international**. For a list of non-English-language resources for future student-athletes, visit **on.ncaa.com/Translated**.

In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may request additional documentation to clarify that students' academic information is complete, valid and accurate. The task list within their Eligibility Center account is used to communicate these requests, so be sure they check their email frequently for task notifications.

- For information on how to submit international documentation, visit **on.ncaa.com/Intl_Docs**.
- All documents submitted to the Eligibility Center become the property of the Eligibility Center and cannot be returned. This includes any mailed original documents.

Failure to include any of these items will delay the review of students' records, so be sure to understand the documents required for the country in which they attended school by reviewing the current **Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility** or visit your country's specific information page at **ncaa.org/countries**.

Need help? For specific questions that you can't find the answer to in our other resources, use our International Contact Form, found at **on.ncaa.com/IntlContact**.

Home-Schooled Students

Learning at home is not necessarily the same as being home-schooled. Because of ongoing growth in online and virtual education, a student may be able to learn at home through an online school with online teachers, which would not be considered a parent-directed tutor.

Home schooling courses are those in which a parent or parent-directed tutor:

- Plans and delivers actual instructional activities such as lectures, discussions, tutorials, feedback or assistance.
- Determines the student's comprehension of the material by grading and evaluating student performance and achievement on assignments and assessments and providing appropriate reteaching and feedback.
- Determines the overall grade the student achieved in the course.
- Places the grade on a transcript or grade report, or reports the grade to an approved **home school umbrella program**.

How to Register

If home-schoooled students want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, they need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students.

Once they have completed their registration, they can visit **ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students** and download the **Home School Toolkit**.

Role of the High School

As a high school counselor, you're pulled in many different directions every day. The Eligibility Center would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you!" for the effort that you put forth for student-athletes. One of the main tools you will use as a high school counselor is the **High School Portal**. Through the portal, your school's primary or secondary contacts may submit core-course changes, upload official transcripts, submit fee waivers, search for students from your high school who have registered with the Eligibility Center and update your school's contact information. You can find a tutorial on using the portal **here**.

When working with future NCAA student-athletes, here are some guidelines that can help streamline your efforts:

What Students Need From the High School's Primary/Secondary Contacts

- Maintain your high school's account to ensure it's accurate and up to date. It is best practice to update **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved courses after your school determines new course offerings, but before you begin registering students for those courses.
- **Upload official transcripts** for all registered students at the end of each academic year and when they graduate high school.
- Maintain your high school's contact information with the Eligibility Center by logging in to the High School Portal and reviewing the Update Contact Info section of the High School Info dropdown. If you're a new contact and need access to your high school's account, but the current primary and secondary contacts are no longer at your high school, complete the **High School Contacts Change Form**.
- Monitor your high school's fee waiver report and **submit fee waivers** for student registrations, when applicable.
- Monitor the Tasks tab on the High School Portal and respond to requests for information within the noted time frames.

How You Can Help Your Students

- Know **Division I academic standards**, **Division II academic standards** and **Division III amateurism requirements**.
- Encourage your college-bound student-athletes to create a free Profile Page account (option 1) at **eligibilitycenter.org** before their freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school).
- Help students calculate their **core-course GPA** using the **Division I and II Worksheets**.

Responsibilities That May Be Delegated to Other Individuals

- *Who determines if students should and should not register with the Eligibility Center?*
  - Student and their family should make the final decision on whether the student should register with the Eligibility Center. High school counselors should encourage students to create a free Profile Page account. When they are ready to take an official visit, sign an NLI or are being actively recruited by an NCAA school, they will need to **transition** their account to a **certification account** and pay the registration fee (or request a fee waiver, if eligible).
  - Coaches should provide advice on how likely it is that the student will play NCAA sports. Encourage your school's coaches to sign up for and read the Eligibility Center's **coaches newsletter**.

- *How are students noticed or recruited for college sports?*
  - Coaches should advise and assist students during the recruiting process.
  - Student and their family should contact **NCAA schools** they're interested in attending to understand the full financial impact of attendance and other **recruiting-related questions**.

- *Who helps the student and their family understand recruiting rules?*
  - The **NCAA school(s)** recruiting the student should ensure the recruiting rules are followed. Rules differ by **sport and division**.

- *How does a student meet eligibility requirements?*
  - The ability to meet initial-eligibility requirements is the responsibility of the student.
  - When an academic and amateurism certification is requested by an NCAA Division I or II school, the Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the academic information provided by the student and high school(s), as well as the sports participation information provided by the student-athlete.
  - When an amateurism certification is requested by an NCAA Division III school for an international student-athlete (first-year enrollee and transfer), the Eligibility Center will perform a certification based on the amateurism information provided by the student and high school(s).
  - Student-athlete academic achievement begins freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school). Eligibility is a four-year process, and every semester counts.

Want this information in a printable form? Visit **on.ncaa.com/HSCounQuickTips**.

Accessing Your School's Account

If your high school has an account, log in with your high school's six-digit CEEB code and password. Your high school will also have a five-digit PIN. This will be required as validation for contacts who call the Eligibility Center's Customer Service team.
Note: Each high school account has one unique password that is shared among contacts.

You can keep your code and PIN handy by entering them in the form below:

High School Code ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

PIN ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Forgot Your Password?

- » If you're listed as a current contact in your high school's account and have forgotten your password, please select "Forgot Password? Click here to reset it" on the **High School Portal** login page. A temporary password will be sent to your email. You will use this temporary password to log in and create a new password. If you do not receive a temporary password, please contact our Customer Service team at 877-622-2321, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday.
- » If you're a new contact and need access to your high school's account, but the current primary and secondary contacts are no longer at your high school, complete the **High School Contact Change Form**.
- » If you have forgotten your PIN, log in to your account, click "High School Info," then select "View/Update PIN" from the dropdown.

If you do not yet have an account with courses listed or your account status is "None," call our Customer Service team at 877-622-2321, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday-Friday, to start the **high school account review process**.

High School Counselor Resources

As a high school counselor, you play an important role in helping students understand the requirements to study and compete in college sports at an NCAA school. Below are resources to help answer the most commonly asked questions.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

- How To Use the High School Portal
- Resources for High School Administrators
- Division I Academic Standards
- Division II Academic Standards
- Division III Amateurism Standards
- Fee Waiver Submission Tutorial
- High School Presentation Resources
- High School Counselor Quick Tips
- High School Tasks Tutorial
- Home School Toolkit
- What Is a Core Course?

FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
- Initial-Eligibility Flyer
- NCAA Eligibility Center Registration (eligibilitycenter.org)
- NCAA Eligibility Center Information (ncaa.org/playcollegesports)
- National Letter of Intent
- Our Three Divisions
- Student FAQs

Important Recruiting Terms

Celebratory standardized signing form (a form used by Division III schools): A standard NCAA-provided, nonbinding athletics celebratory signing form after a student has been accepted for enrollment at a Division III school.

Contact: Any time a college coach says more than "Hello" while face-to-face with a student or their family off the college's campus.

Contact period: A student's division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities may occur. For more information visit **on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars**.

Dead period: A student's division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities and non-permissible recruiting activities may occur. For more information visit **on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars**.

Evaluation: When a college coach observes a student practicing or competing.

Evaluation period: A student's division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities and non-permissible recruiting activities may occur. For more information visit **on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars**.

Financial aid (scholarship): Any money a student receives from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics ability, financial need, scholarships or academic achievement.

Five-year clock: In Division I, students have five calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. Their five-year clock starts when they enroll full-time at any college. Thereafter, their clock continues, even if they spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, decide to redshirt, do not attend school or attend school part time.

Full-time student: Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, students are full-time student if they're enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term.

Institutional request list: A list of college-bound student-athletes who an NCAA school is interested in recruiting. This informs the Eligibility Center of the school's interest in having an academic and/or amateurism certification decision for them.

International student: In Divisions I and II, **international students** are enrolled in a secondary school outside the U.S., **U.S. territories** or Canada. In Division III, **international students** attended high schools outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories or competed individually or as part of a team based outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories; or whose permanent residence is outside of the U.S. This does not apply to U.S.-based students who study abroad unless they also compete while living abroad.

Official commitment: When a student signs a **NLI**, agreeing to attend a Division I or II school, for one academic year.

Official visit: Any visit to a college campus paid by the NCAA school a student is visiting.

Quiet period: A student's division, sport and grade level determine when permissible recruiting activities and non-permissible recruiting activities may occur. For more information visit **on.ncaa.com/RecruitCalendars**.

Recruited: When a college coach contacts students off campus, pays their expenses to visit the campus, or (in Divisions I and II) issues them a **NLI** or written offers of financial aid.

Recruiting calendar: NCAA Division I and II **recruiting calendars** promote student 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.

Recruiting shutdown: A period when no forms of recruiting (e.g., contacts, evaluations, official or Division I unofficial visits, correspondence, or making/receiving calls) are permissible.

Season of competition/participation: Generally, NCAA rules say any competition in a season (regardless of the amount of time) counts as having played one season in that sport. If students play any time during a season (regardless of the amount of time) it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. A season starts when they spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track. In Division III, students use a season if they practice or compete after the first contest. NCAA schools may have sport-specific exceptions to this general rule, so help students check with the compliance offices at NCAA schools they may attend before participating.

Ten-semester/15-quarter clock: In Divisions II and III, students have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which they're enrolled as full-time students to complete their four seasons of competition/participation. They use a semester or quarter any time they attend class as a full-time student or are enrolled part time and compete for the school. They do not use a term if they only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

Two-year college: Any school from which students can earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science within two years. (AKA: Community or junior colleges.)

Unofficial visit: Any visit to a college campus paid for by a student or their family.

Verbal commitment: When students verbally agree to play sports for colleges before they sign or are eligible to sign a **NLI**. The commitment is not binding on the student or the school.

Walk-on: Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive a scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school's athletics teams.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER

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