

ROADMAP TO INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES



Eligibility Center

NCAA Eligibility Center
Expires September 1, 2010

Steps You Must Take to Participate in NCAA Division I or II Athletics

Freshmen and Sophomores Must:

- Start planning now!
- Work hard to get the best grades possible.
- Take classes that match your high school's NCAA List of Approved Core Courses. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only use approved core courses to certify your initial eligibility.
- You can access and print your high school's NCAA List of Approved Core Courses at www.eligibilitycenter.org and clicking "Resources" at the top of the screen.



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Juniors Must:

- At the beginning of your junior year, log on to the Eligibility Center Web site at www.eligibilitycenter.org and register.
- Register to take the ACT, SAT or both and use the Eligibility Center code “9999” as a score recipient.
- Double check to make sure that you are taking courses that match your high school’s NCAA List of Approved Core Courses.
- Request that your high school guidance counselor send an official transcript to the Eligibility Center after completing your junior year. (*The Eligibility Center does NOT accept faxed transcripts.*)
- Prior to registration for your senior year, check with your guidance counselor and the Eligibility Center to determine the number of core courses that need to be completed your senior year.



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Seniors Must:

- You may take the SAT and/or ACT as often as you feel necessary. The Eligibility Center will use the best scores from each section of the SAT or ACT to determine your best cumulative score.
- Continue to take core courses.
- Check to make sure that you are taking courses that match your high school's NCAA List of Approved Core Courses.
- Review your amateurism questionnaire responses and request final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (for fall enrollees) or October 1 (for spring enrollees).



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Seniors Must:

- Continue to earn the best grades possible.
- Graduate on time (in eight academic semesters). If you fall behind, use summer school sessions prior to graduation to catch up.
- After graduation, ask your high school guidance counselor to send your final transcript to the Eligibility Center with proof of graduation.



Early Certification

Early Certification Process:

- If you meet the following criteria after six semesters, you will be certified as a qualifier:
 - Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 1000 or minimum sum score of 85 on the ACT;
 - **For Division I:** Core-course grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in a minimum of 13 core courses:
 - 3 English;
 - 2 math;
 - 2 science; and
 - 6 additional core courses.
 - **For Division II:** Core-course GPA of 3.0 or higher in a minimum of 12 core courses:
 - 3 English;
 - 2 math;
 - 2 science; and
 - 5 additional core courses.



Core-Course Completion “On Time”

- From the time you enter the ninth grade, you have four (4) years or eight (8) semesters to complete the 16 core-course requirement. If you fail to complete high school "on time" in eight semesters, core courses taken after the eighth semester will not be counted toward your NCAA academic-eligibility requirements.
- “On time” also means that if your high school graduation takes place June 1, you must graduate June 1. If you do not graduate June 1 with the rest of your high school class, you have not completed your requirements "on time."



Core-Course Requirements

Division I

16 Core Courses

- 4 years English
- 3 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science
- 2 years social science
- 4 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)

Division II

14 Core Courses

- 3 years English
- 2 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 2 years additional English, math or natural/physical science
 - 3 years 2013 and after
- 2 years social science
- 3 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)
 - 4 years 2013 and after



Initial-Eligibility Overview

Core-Course Time Limitation for Division I Only.

- If students do not complete the 16 core-course requirement "on time" in eight semesters, any core courses taken after the eighth semester will not be counted toward NCAA academic-eligibility requirements.
 - “On time” means that students have four years (eight semesters), based on when students start grade nine (freshman year), to earn 16 core-course credits and required GPA needed to qualify.
 - Students who do graduate on time may use one course toward their initial eligibility.



Initial-Eligibility Overview: Amateurism

- The Eligibility Center encourages student-athletes to update their athletics participation information often, especially if they participate in events outside of the normal high school season.
- Have your student-athletes meet with you often, to make sure that they are protecting their amateurism and are also meeting their core-course requirements.
- Stay college eligible – always ask before you act!
- NCAA Amateurism Certification Web site:
www1.ncaa.org/membership/ach/index.html.



ALWAYS ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Amateurism Red Flags

Ask questions before:

- 🚩 Signing a contract with a professional team.
- 🚩 Receiving money for participating in athletics.
- 🚩 Receiving prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
- 🚩 Playing with professional athletes.
- 🚩 Trying out, practicing or competing with a professional team.
- 🚩 Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- 🚩 Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- 🚩 Participating in organized competition after your first opportunity to enroll in college.



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Eligibility Center

Role of the High School

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- Make sure your school's NCAA List of Approved Core Courses is accurate and up to date.
- Encourage your college-bound student-athletes to complete the registration process at the beginning of their junior year.
- Send official transcripts at the end of the college-bound student-athlete's sixth semester (junior year) and eighth semester (graduation from high school).
- Submit fee waivers online for student registration when applicable.



Ways That Your Staff Can Help

- Know the initial-eligibility requirements.
- Use resources to map out the academic track.
- Know how to calculate a student's core-course GPA.
- Know that special considerations are given to students with documented education-impacting disabilities.
- Create an efficient system to process Eligibility Center applications (including submission of an official transcript at the end of the junior and senior years).



Ways That Your Staff Can Help

- Help students identify colleges that fit their criteria (e.g., academics, size, distance from home, location).
 - Apply the “broken-leg test” by asking if the student would be happy if athletics could not be factored into the equation.
- Emphasize the importance of academic performance at every step of the college-bound student-athlete’s high school career – grade nine counts!!!
- Did we mention...make sure that your NCAA List of Approved Core Courses is as accurate and up to date as possible?
- Call us with any questions! **877/622-2321 (877/NCAA-EC1)**



Definition of a Core Course

- A course that qualifies for high school graduation in one or more of the following: English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion or philosophy;
- Is considered four-year college preparatory;
- Is taught at or above the high school's regular academic level;
- For mathematics courses, is at the level of Algebra I or a higher level mathematics course; and
- Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority.



Registering with the Eligibility Center

At the beginning of the student-athlete's junior year:

- Log on to www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Select the “New Account” button at the top right of the screen or the cell phone on the left side of the screen.
- Complete the registration.



Eligibility Center Registration

The screenshot shows the NCAA Eligibility Center website interface. At the top left is the NCAA Eligibility Center logo. A navigation bar contains links: Welcome, About the NCAA, Divisions, Sports, For Parents, For High Schools, and Resources. In the top right corner, there are links for LOGIN and NEW ACCOUNT, followed by input fields for Username and Password, and buttons for Forgot password and GO. The main content area features a notebook-themed background with several elements: a stack of papers with the text "Welcome to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Your student-athlete experience begins here. At this site, you'll find the tools and information you need to begin your college experience. Explore this site to learn more about the NCAA, its athletics divisions, its sports and other information. Click on the phone or use the login box in the top right corner to complete your registration for eligibility."; a calendar with a photo of a student-athlete; a checklist titled "Checklist:" with items "Create account" and "Complete registration"; a "Sports" button; and a man standing in the bottom right corner. A blue callout bubble on the right contains the text: "Students will click here to create or log into their account." pointing to the LOGIN and NEW ACCOUNT links.

Amateurism

- The Eligibility Center encourages you to update your athletics participation information often, especially if you participate in events outside your normal high school season.
- Meet with your high school guidance counselor often, to make sure that you are protecting your amateurism and are also meeting your core-course requirements.
- Stay college eligible – always ask before you act!
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- 🚩 Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- 🚩 Participating in organized competition after your first opportunity to enroll in college.



NCAA Division I Requirements

In order to practice, compete and receive institutional financial aid as a freshman, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete 16 core courses in the required subject areas;
- Earn a minimum required GPA in those 16 core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core-course GPA (refer to the “sliding scale” in the NCAA’s *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete*).

NCAA Division II Requirements

In order to practice, compete and receive institutional financial aid as a freshman, you must:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete 14 core courses in the required subject areas;
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in those 14 core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of at least 820 (critical reading and math) or an ACT sum score of at least 68.
 - There is no sliding scale for Division II.

* Beginning August 1, 2013, if you plan to attend an NCAA Division II institution, you will be required to complete 16 core courses.

NCAA Division III Requirements

- Division III institutions do not require registration with the Eligibility Center. Contact your Division III college or university regarding its admission standards, financial aid, practice and competition.

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- 4 years English
- 3 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
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- 3 years English
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- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 2 years additional English, math or natural/physical science
 - 3 years 2013 and after
- 2 years social science
- 3 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)
 - 4 years 2013 and after



Taking the ACT and/or SAT

- Be sure to enter the “**9999**” code when registering for the ACT or SAT.
- This requests for your official test scores to be sent directly to the Eligibility Center.
- Test scores on high school transcripts will not be used.

Your Best Test Scores Will Be Used to Certify You

<u>Test</u>	<u>Score</u>		
	<u>Math</u>	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Total</u>
SAT (10/09)	350	470	820
<u>SAT (12/09)</u>	<u>420</u>	440	<u>860</u>
Scores Used	420	470	890

Recruiting

- Before a Division I college or university may invite you on an official visit, you must provide them with a copy of your high school transcript and SAT or ACT score(s). You must also register with the Eligibility Center.
- Division II colleges and universities require official SAT or ACT scores, along with registering with the Eligibility Center.
- You may take a maximum of five expense-paid visits, with no more than one permitted to any single college or university. This restriction applies only for expense-paid visits to Division I or II institutions.

Financial Aid

- There are no four-year athletics scholarships.
- All athletics scholarships awarded by NCAA institutions are limited to one year and are renewable each academic year and may be reduced or withdrawn.
- Athletics scholarships may be renewed each academic year for a maximum of five years within a six-year period of continuous college attendance.
- Athletics scholarships are awarded in a variety of amounts, ranging from full scholarships (including tuition fees, room, board and books) to partial scholarships (e.g., books only).

Resources

- Eligibilitycenter.org for college-bound student-athletes to complete their registration and check their status with the Eligibility Center. Also to download and print a copy of the 2009-10 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- NCAA.org – Under “Academics & Athletes” section, click on “Eligibility and Recruiting” and then click on “Information for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Parents.”
- Act.org.
- Collegeboard.com.

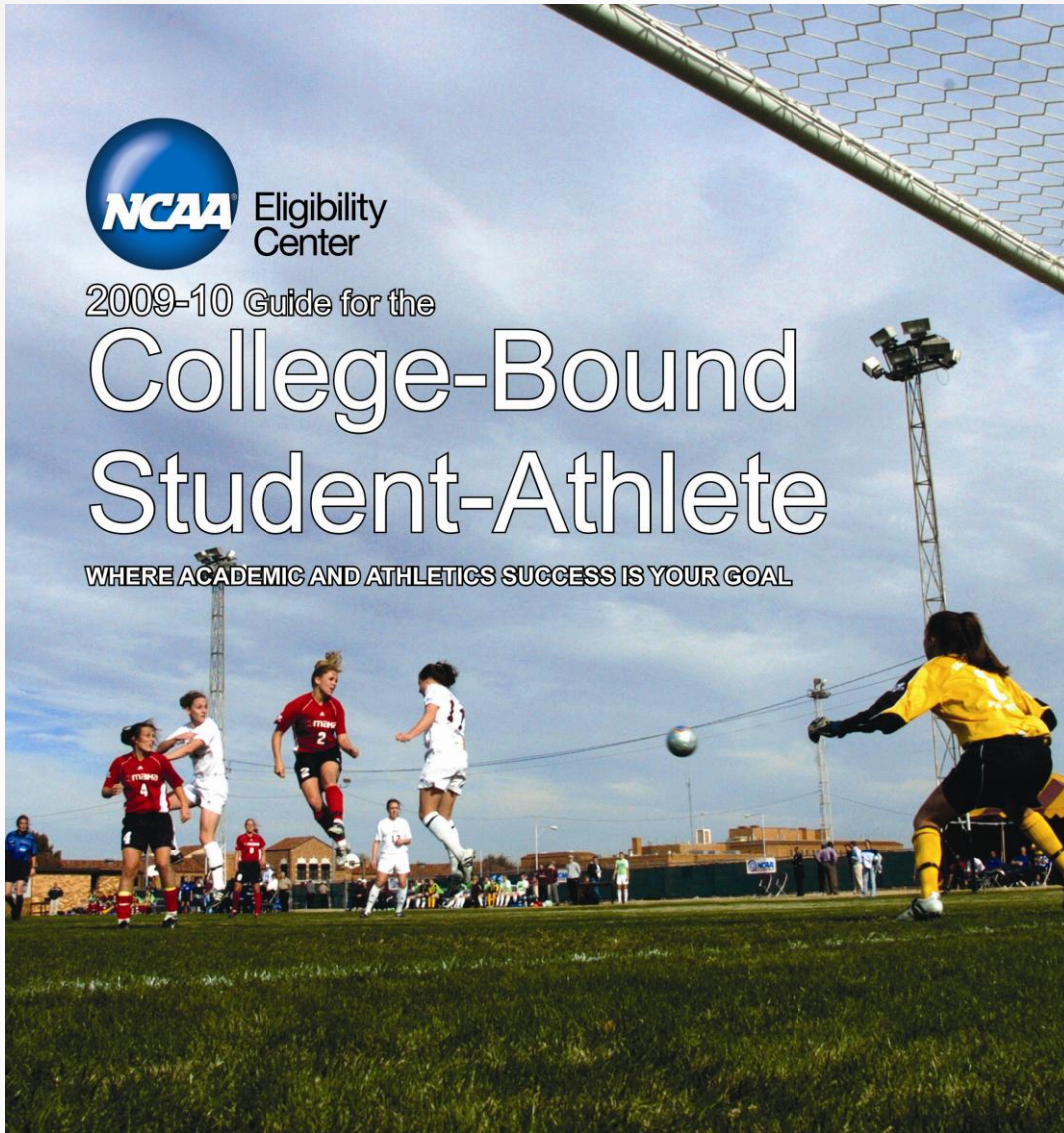


Eligibility
Center

2009-10 Guide for the

College-Bound Student-Athlete

WHERE ACADEMIC AND ATHLETICS SUCCESS IS YOUR GOAL



Questions?

Please contact the Eligibility Center at 877/262-1492.





Eligibility Center