

**NCAA Initial Eligibility:
For the College Bound
Student-Athlete**

**Sacramento State
Student-Athlete**

Resource Center (SARC)



TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- ✓ **Playing Sports in College**
 - ✓ **Academic Eligibility Requirements**
 - ✓ **Division I, II and III**
 - ✓ **Amateurism Certification**
- ✓ **New Initial Eligibility Rules - Beginning 8/1/16**
- ✓ **Nontraditional coursework & Credit Recovery**
- ✓ **Recruiting Rules**

College Sport Options

❖ NCAA Division – I, II, III

❖ Division I – offers athletic scholarships

❖ There are two divisions for football

❖ Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Div. I-A)

❖ Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Div. I-AA)

❖ Division II – offers some athletic scholarships

❖ Division III – offers no athletic scholarships

NOTE: Athletic scholarships are a one year contract.

❖ NAIA

❖ Community College

Quick Overview of NCAA

- Division I
 - Highest level of intercollegiate athletics
 - Typically large student body size
 - Athletic grants-in-aid available
- Division II
 - Small to medium sized schools, smaller athletic budgets
 - Athletic grants-in-aid available
- Division III
 - Largest of the three divisions, typically small student bodies
 - Athletic grants-in-aid not available, generally students participate for the love of the sport

NCAA 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 for Welcome, About the NCAA, Divisions, Sports, For Parents, Resources, and Contact Us. In the top right corner, there is a LOGIN section with fields for Username (e-mail) and Password, and a Forgot password link. A large notebook graphic is overlaid on the center of the page. The notebook has a cover 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." Below the text is a calendar with dates 18 through 31, a photo of a person in a blue shirt, and a checklist titled "Checklist:" with two items: "Create account" and "Complete registration". A man in a dark sweater and jeans stands to the right of the notebook. A blue speech bubble points to the LOGIN section with the text: "Click here to create or log onto your account." In the bottom left corner, there is a Twitter icon and the text "Follow the Eligibility Center on Twitter". A yellow jump rope and a red whistle labeled "Sports" are also visible at the bottom left.

Click here to create or log onto your account.

Freshmen and Sophomores Must:



- ▶ Start planning now by working hard to get the best grades possible.
- ▶ Access and print your high school's List of NCAA Courses at www.eligibilitycenter.org by clicking "Resources" at the top of the screen.
- ▶ Take classes that are on your high school's List of NCAA Courses. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only use approved courses to certify your initial eligibility.
- ▶ Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org at the beginning of your sophomore year.
- ▶ If you fall behind, use summer school sessions before your senior year to catch up.

Juniors Must:



- ▶ Register to take the ACT, SAT or both and use the NCAA Eligibility Center code “9999” as a score recipient.
- ▶ Double check to make sure that you are taking courses that are approved on your high school’s List of NCAA Courses.
- ▶ Request that your high school counselor send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center after completing your junior year. (*The NCAA Eligibility Center does NOT accept faxed or emailed transcripts.*)

Seniors Must:

Continue to take college-preparatory courses.

Check your List of NCAA Courses.

Take the ACT or SAT as many times as necessary.

Graduate on time (eight semesters).



Eligibility Center
Academic Certification

Seniors Must:



- ▶ Visit the “My Planner” page after you register online to view your eligibility status and check for any missing information or documents.
- ▶ Review your sports participation (amateurism) responses and request final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (for fall enrollees) or October 1 (for spring enrollees).
- ▶ After graduation, ask your high school counselor to send your final transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Important Tips

- ✓ Make sure you write down your username and password information.
- ✓ If you attended multiple high schools, each transcript needs to be sent to the Eligibility Center.
- ✓ If you went to a college to make up work, you need to send those transcripts to your high school and have them post the grades on your high school transcript. You also need to have that college send a transcript directly to the Eligibility Center.
- ✓ If your guidance counselor asks for a transcript release form, you can find this in the “Forms” section on the “Resource” page of the new website.
- ✓ Credit Recovery – The NCAA typically will not accept most forms of credit recovery.

What's the Certification Status?

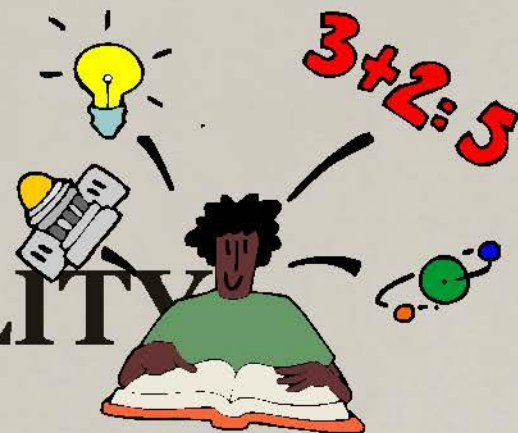
Qualifiers – Eligible for athletic aid, practice and competition.

Non-qualifier – not eligible for athletic aid, practice and competition.

Note: A student with an education impacting disability must meet the same requirements as all other students, but may be provided certain accommodations to help meet those requirements. The accommodations provided differ between NCAA Division I and Division II schools.



ACADEMIC INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Eligibility Center
Academic Certification

Academic Requirements

- ▶ Graduate from high school.
- ▶ Complete NCAA-approved courses.
- ▶ Earn a minimum required core-course grade-point average (GPA).
- ▶ Earn a required SAT or ACT sum score.

Division I

Core-Course Requirements

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 comparative religion/philosophy).



What Is 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 comparative 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 higher; and
- ▶ Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority.



Early Academic Certification

Students who meet the following criteria after six semesters will be certified as qualifiers:

For Division I: Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 900 or minimum sum score of 75 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses:

- ▶ 3 English;
- ▶ 2 math;
- ▶ 2 science;
- ▶ 2 additional core courses in English, math or science; and
- ▶ 5 additional core courses in any area.

For Division II: Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 1000 or minimum sum score of 85 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 12 core courses:

- ▶ 3 English;
- ▶ 2 math;
- ▶ 2 science; and
- ▶ 5 additional core courses in any area.

Division I Sliding Scale (Now)

(Abbreviated)

Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum		Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/ math only)	ACT Sum
3.550 & above	400	37		2.700	730	60
3.500	420	39		2.600	780	64
3.400	460	42		2.500	820	68
3.300	500	44		2.400	860	71
3.200	540	47		2.300	900	75
3.100	580	49		2.200	940	79
3.000	620	52		2.100	970	82
2.900	660	54		2.000	1010	86
2.800	700	57				

The full sliding scale can be found at www.eligibilitycenter.org under Resources.

What are Nontraditional Courses?

- ▶ Courses taught through:
 - The Internet (online or virtual);
 - Distance learning;
 - Independent study;
 - Individualized instruction;
 - Correspondence;
 - Computer software programs; or
 - Other similar means.

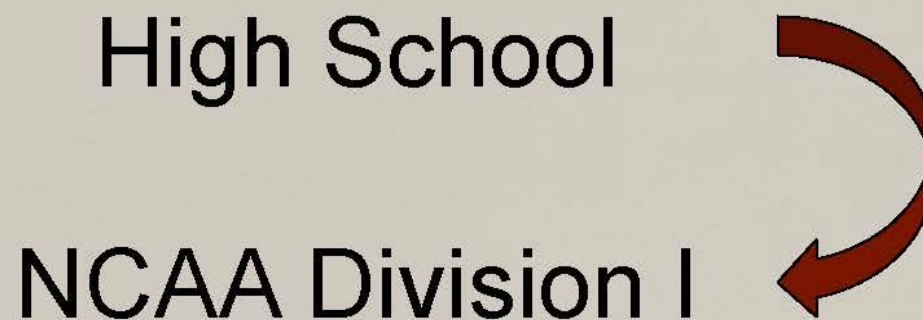


Things to Consider before Taking Nontraditional Courses

- ▶ Must include ongoing access between the instructor and student.
- ▶ Must have a defined time period for completion (i.e., six weeks).
- ▶ Should be clearly identified as nontraditional courses on the high school transcript.
- ▶ Must be four-year college preparatory and need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting.

NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements (New)

There are **new** requirements for college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after **August 1, 2016**.



Summary of Changes

- ▶ Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 required;
- ▶ Slight change in GPA/test-score index (sliding scale); and
- ▶ Ten core courses required before the beginning of senior year.

The following slides explain these changes in further detail.

NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements (New)

For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. Qualifier = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. Academic Redshirt = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. Nonqualifier = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

NCAA Division I Qualifier:

Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition (New)

Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive **athletics aid**, **practice** and **compete** their first year:

- ▶ 16 core courses in the following areas:
 - 4 years English;
 - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
 - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
 - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
 - 2 years social science; and
 - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.

- ▶ Minimum required GPA:
 - Minimum GPA of **2.300** in those 16 core courses.



NCAA Division I Qualifier:

Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition (New)

- ▶ Core-course progression.
 - Must complete **10** core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year).
 - Of the **10** core courses completed, **seven** must be in the area of **English, math, or science**.
 - These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of GPA calculation.
 - A repeat of any of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.

Division II

Core-Course Requirements

16 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).
- ▶ 3 years additional English, math or natural/physical science.
- ▶ 2 years social science.
- ▶ 4 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

Test Score Requirements

Division II

- ▶ Earn a 2.000 GPA or better in your core courses.
- ▶ Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Division III

Core-Course Requirements

- ▶ Unlike Divisions I and II, there is no uniform set of eligibility requirements for Division III schools.
- ▶ Eligibility for admission, financial aid, practice and competition is determined by the college or university.
- ▶ The NCAA Eligibility Center does not perform certifications for Division III college-bound student-athletes.

Courses Prior to the 9th Grade

- ✓ Only 8th grade counts.
- ✓ Many students now take Algebra I and Foreign Language prior to the ninth grade.
- ✓ For the NCAA Eligibility Center to give this credit as a “core course”, the class, grade and credits all have to show up on the high school transcript.

AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

The amateurism certification process will certify all prospects (high school, two-year, four year, domestic and foreign) wishing to enter Division I or II:

Amateurism questions will be asked when the PSA completes the sport participation section during the registration process.

- ✓ You can update your information as often as needed.
- ✓ Students will be required to log into their accounts on or after April 1st of their senior year to request a final amateurism certification.

	RECRUITING METHOD	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL	OTHER SPORTS
SOPHOMORE YEAR	Recruiting materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. You may begin receiving recruiting materials June 15 after your sophomore year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials, and nonathletics recruiting publications. Men's Ice Hockey—You may begin receiving recruiting materials January 1 of your sophomore year.
	Telephone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. College coach can make unlimited calls beginning June 15 after your sophomore year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. College coach cannot call you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. College coach cannot call you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to the coach at your expense only. College coach cannot call you. Women's Ice Hockey—A college coach may call international college-bound student-athletes once on or after July 7 through July 31 after sophomore year. Men's Ice Hockey—May not be made before January 1 of sophomore year.
	Off-campus contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. Men's Ice Hockey—May not be made before June 15 after sophomore year.
	Official visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None allowed.
	Unofficial visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.

RECRUITING METHOD	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL	OTHER SPORTS
<p>Recruiting materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed. • You may begin receiving recruiting materials June 15 after your sophomore year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may begin receiving September 1 of your junior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may begin receiving September 1 of your junior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may begin receiving September 1 of your junior year. • Men's Ice Hockey—You may begin receiving recruiting materials January 1 after your sophomore year.
<p>Telephone calls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make calls to the coach at your expense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make calls to the coach at your expense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make calls to the coach at your expense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make calls to the coach at your expense.
<p>College coaches may call you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited beginning September 1 of your junior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One call from April 15 to May 31 of your junior year. Additional calls may not be made before September 1 of the senior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be made before September 1 at the beginning of the junior year. • Swimming & Diving, Cross Country, Track & Field, Baseball, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Sand Volleyball, Softball and Women's Volleyball—May not be made before July 1 following completion of junior year, or the opening day of classes of the senior year, whichever is earlier. • Women's Ice Hockey—Once per week beginning July 7 after your junior year.
<p>Off-campus contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes. Contacts other than April period may only occur at your school. Contacts in April may occur at your school or residence. • No contact on the day of a competition. • Contacts may not occur during the time of day when classes are in session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed September 1 at the beginning of your junior year. • No contact on the day of a competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed starting July 1 after your junior year. • Women's Gymnastics—Allowed beginning July 15 after your junior year. • Women's Ice Hockey—Allowed beginning July 7 after your junior year.

Junior Year continued...

RECRUITING METHOD	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL	OTHER SPORTS
Official visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed January 1 of your junior year. • You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed April of your junior year beginning Thursday following the Women's Final Four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None allowed.
Unofficial visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.

RECRUITING METHOD	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL	OTHER SPORTS
Recruiting materials	• Allowed.	• Allowed.	• Allowed.	• Allowed.
Telephone calls	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense.	• You may make calls to the coach at your expense.
College coaches may call you	• Unlimited.	• Unlimited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once per week beginning September 1. • Unlimited calls after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you. • Unlimited during contact period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Ice Hockey —Once per week beginning July 7 after your junior year. • Unlimited calls after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.
Off-campus contact	• Allowed.	• Allowed.	• Allowed beginning July 1 prior to senior year.	• Allowed.
Official visit	• You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.	• You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year. • You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes your senior year. • You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I colleges. There is no limit to official visits to Division II colleges.
Unofficial visit	• You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	• You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	• You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.	• You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits, except during a dead period.
Evaluation and contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to seven times during your senior year. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to seven times during your senior year. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six times during your senior year. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to seven times during your senior year. • Unlimited number of contacts and evaluation after you sign an NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid; OR after the college receives a financial deposit from you.

Resources

- ▶ Resources tab on the NCAA Eligibility Center website (www.eligibilitycenter.org).
- ▶ www.2point3.org (mobile ready website with new academic requirements).
- ▶ Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- ▶ Quick Reference Guide.
- ▶ Initial Eligibility Brochure.

Questions?

Please contact the NCAA Eligibility Center
customer service staff at 877/262-1492.

