

I WANT TO COMPETE AT A COLLEGE LEVEL!  
WHERE DO I START?

**College 101 Night - NCAA & NAIA Eligibility**

# THE MANY CHOICES AND THAT OVERWHELMING FEELING!

## **First things first!**

1. Recognizing your commitment level and work ethic in the classroom and in your sport.
2. Being realistic about your current level of competing.

Believe it or not, the information above can determine your competition level really quick and give you a foundation on where to start.

There are many opportunities to play collegiate sports, but it starts early on researching schools for their academics and athletics. It's definitely challenging if you wait until senior year to inform your coaches and school counselor that you would like to play at the college level.

You could have opportunities to play in Junior College, NAIA, Division III, Division II, and Division I levels. Make sure to do your part and research the schools.

# NCAA DIVISION I AND DIVISION II ATHLETICS

- You need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Create a Certification Account and we'll guide you through the process.
- You need to create a Certification Account to make official visits to Divisions I and II schools or to sign a National Letter of Intent.
- **Click here for:** [Website Registration Checklist](#) This checklist will help explain the first steps that are needed to becoming an NCAA Student Athlete.
- [Check](#) if your school has a list of NCAA-approved courses.
- If you or your parents feel that you qualify for a fee waiver, please see your school counselor to discuss this option. The cost without the waiver is \$90.

**Click here for:** [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org)

# DIVISION I

- To play sports at a Division I school, you must graduate from high school and meet ALL the following Requirements:

**1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses:**

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
- 2 years of social science
- 1 additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
- 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy

**2. Complete 10 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.**

**3. Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your NCAA core courses.**

**4. Earn an ACT sum score or SAT combined score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.**

# DIVISION II

- To play sports at a Division II school, you must graduate from high school and meet ALL the following Requirements:

Before August 1, 2018

1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses.
2. Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in your NCAA core courses.
3. Earn an ACT sum score of 68 or an SAT combined score of 820.

After August 1, 2018

1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses.
2. Earn at least a 2.2 GPA in your NCAA core courses.
3. Earn an ACT sum score or SAT combined score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale.

## Core Courses for Division II

To play sports at a Division II school, you must complete these NCAA core courses:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
- 2 years of social science
- 3 additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
- 4 additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy

# DIVISION III

Create a Profile Page if you plan to compete at a Division III school or are not yet sure where you want to compete.

You'll get an NCAA ID, and we will send you important reminders as you complete high school.

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit- or need-based financial aid.

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Division III schools set their own admissions standards.

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# NAIA ATHLETICS

- The NAIA requires all student-athletes who have never played a championship sport in the NAIA to have their eligibility determined before they can play.
- Click [here](#) for a list of NAIA Colleges & Universities.
- [NAIA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.](#)

## Complete the "Big 3"

Students are placed in line for an eligibility center decision once they have completed the "Big 3". Make sure you don't get sidelined by completing the Big 3 today!

1. **Submit** your PlayNAIA.org profile;
2. **Send** all required [records](#); and
3. **Secure** a spot on a [short list](#).

Click here for: [www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center](http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center)

# SENDING TEST SCORES

- Please note: Only official test scores sent from the testing agency (ACT/SAT) are acceptable. Test scores on your high school transcript cannot be used.

## **Sending SAT Score to NCAA:**

- Log in to the SAT's website at [sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-sat-scores](https://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-sat-scores). The code is **9999** to select the NCAA Eligibility Center as a score recipient
- If you need additional assistance, you can contact SAT College Board's customer service at 866-756-7346.

## **Sending ACT Score to NCAA:**

- Log in to the ACT's website at [actstudent.org/scores/send/](https://actstudent.org/scores/send/). The code is **9999** to select the NCAA Eligibility Center as a score recipient
- If you need additional assistance, you can contact the ACT's customer service at 319-337-1270.

## **Sending SAT/ACT Scores to NAIA:**

- Students must request that their test scores be sent **directly** from the testing service using our code: **9876**. We cannot accept test scores that appear on high school transcripts.



# KEY TAKEAWAYS AND REMINDERS

- It's important for parents and students to email or set up a meeting with your school counselor to go over academic and athletic goals. This can happen as early as freshman year.
- Remember that grades are extremely important especially in those core classes as well as SAT/ACT test scores.
- There are many recruiting companies out there, but make sure to do your research. You can also save your money and do the leg work yourself. It does require work from both student athletes and parents, but can be done without spending a fortune.
- Make sure to keep an open line of communication with the coaches and school counselor so that everyone can support your goals and game plan.
- Keep in mind that receiving an Athletic Scholarship is no easy task. It requires a lot of individual work outside of practice, being realistic of your level of competition, staying on top of your grades, and researching schools you may want to attend.