

NCAA Initial Eligibility: For the College Bound Student-Athlete

Presented by Sacramento State
NCAA Compliance Office



Topics to be Covered

✓ Steps to Achieving Your Eligibility

- ✓ College sports options
- ✓ Athletic Scholarship Facts
- ✓ Academic Eligibility



College Sports Options

- NCAA Division – I, II, III
 - Division I – offers athletic scholarships
 - Division II – offers some athletic scholarships
 - Division III – offers no athletic scholarships
 - NOTE: Athletic scholarships are a one year contract unless it is a multiyear agreement.
- ❖ NAIA
- ❖ Community College



How do you get recruited?

No set process and every one has an opinion...

- ❖ Character & Academics: Good citizen...Good student
- ❖ Ability: The elite get seen and recruited.
- ❖ Depending on the sport: ID camps & club sports increase exposure.
- ❖ Recruiting services, home videos/letters, and your HS/club coaches can all help.
- ❖ Road trips: Make unofficial visits. Recruiting budgets aren't the same everywhere.



Let's talk about official visits!

- Sports other than Baseball, Basketball, Football & Softball: Visits can start August 1 of junior year.
- Baseball & Softball: Visits can start September 1 of junior year.
- Football: April 1 of junior year to the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June. After that September 1 in your senior year.
- Men's Basketball: No earlier than August 1 of junior year.
- Women's Basketball: No earlier than the Thursday following the NCAA D-I Women's basketball Championship game of the prospect's junior year



Let's talk about official visits!

- Limit of 5, and only 1 per institution (Different for MBB)
- 48 hours to visit
- Multi-sport...still 1 visit per institution
- Requirements to take a visit:
 - Present a current HS transcript;
 - Register with Eligibility Center (Certification account required); and
 - Be placed on the Institution's Request List with the Eligibility Center




INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

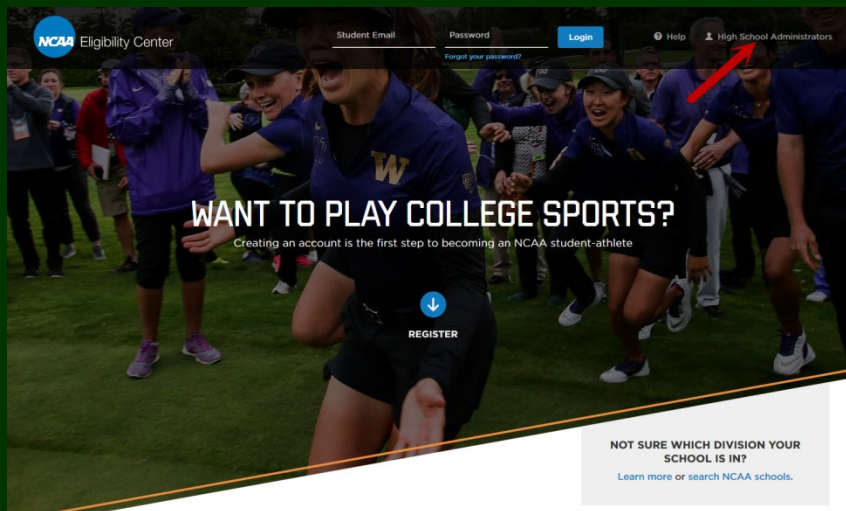
- ▶ NCAA core courses include courses that:
 - ▶ Qualify for high school graduation in English, mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher), natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or comparative religion or philosophy.
 - ▶ Are considered four-year college preparatory.
 - ▶ Are taught at or above the high school's regular academic level.
 - ▶ Are taught by a qualified instructor.

 - ▶ **Tip:** You can find your school's list of NCAA-approved core courses by going to eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.
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Core Courses with the NCAA Eligibility Center

Go to the NCAA EC website and click on the “**High School Administrators**” button

- Search for your List of NCAA Courses offered at your High School

The image shows the 'High School Portal' search form. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Login', 'Resources', and 'List of NCAA Courses'. A red arrow points to the 'List of NCAA Courses' link. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'High School Selection'. Underneath, it says 'Search for a high school's list of NCAA courses'. There's a paragraph explaining the search criteria: 'Please use the following form to search for a high school's list of NCAA courses. You can search by the high school's six-digit NCAA High School Code or six-digit CEEB/ACT Code or, if you don't know the school's NCAA High School Code or six-digit CEEB/ACT Code, you may search by city/state and high school name.' Below this, there are two input fields: 'NCAA High School Code:' and 'CEEB/ACT Code:', separated by 'OR'. There's also an 'OR' section with a 'State:' dropdown menu (set to 'ALL'), a 'City:' text input field, and a 'High School Name:' text input field. A 'Search' button is at the bottom.



Eligibility Center

Student Email

Password

Login

Help

High School Administrators

[Forgot your password?](#)

WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?

Creating an account is the first step to becoming an NCAA student-athlete



REGISTER

**NOT SURE WHICH DIVISION YOUR
SCHOOL IS IN?**

[Learn more](#) or [search NCAA schools](#).

DIVISION I CORE-COURSES



- ▶ Complete 10 NCAA core courses before your seventh semester.
- ▶ Core-course requirements must be met in the time limitation.
- ▶ The following must be completed by the start of the student's seventh semester in high school:
 - ▶ Ten NCAA-approved core courses from your school's list in the appropriate subjects.
 - ▶ Seven of the 10 courses must be in English, math or science.



WHAT ARE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES?

Courses taught through:

- ▶ The Internet (online or virtual);
- ▶ Distance learning;
- ▶ Independent study;
- ▶ Individualized instruction;
- ▶ Correspondence;
- ▶ Computer software programs; or

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING NONTRADITIONAL COURSES

- ▶ Must include regular ongoing access between the instructor and student.
- ▶ Must have a defined time period for completion (i.e., eight weeks).
- ▶ Should be clearly identified as nontraditional courses on the high school transcript.

WHAT ARE THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS?





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 TEST SCORES

- ▶ Take the SAT or ACT as many times as you wish.
- ▶ Use code **9999** when registering to send scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ▶ We will use your best scores to certify you:
 - ▶ SAT combined score.
 - ▶ ACT sum score.
- ▶ Your test score and GPA will be matched on our Division I sliding scale.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
3.550	400	400	37
3.525	410	410	38
3.500	430	420	39
3.475	440	430	40
3.450	460	440	41
3.425	470	450	41
3.400	490	460	42
3.375	500	470	42
3.350	520	480	43
3.325	530	490	44
3.300	550	500	44
3.275	560	510	45
3.250	580	520	46

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
2.750	810	720	59
2.725	820	730	60
2.700	830	740	61
2.675	840	750	61
2.650	850	760	62
2.625	860	770	63
2.600	860	780	64
2.575	870	790	65
2.550	880	800	66
2.525	890	810	67
2.500	900	820	68
2.475	910	830	69
2.450	920	840	70



NCAA DIVISION I INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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.

DIVISION I

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

- ▶ If you meet specific criteria after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of enrollment.
- ▶ To be an early academic qualifier, you will need:
 - ▶ Minimum ACT sum score of 75 *or*
 - ▶ Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 on SAT tests taken before March 2016 *or*
 - ▶ Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 980 on SAT tests taken March 2016 or later.
 - ▶ A core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses:
 - Three years of English.
 - Two years of math.
 - Two years of science.
 - Two additional years of English, math or natural/physical science.
 - Five additional core courses in any area.



Eligibility Center

NCAA DIVISION I QUALIFIER:

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETICS AID, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

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

- ▶ 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 “selected” for the purpose of GPA calculation.
 - A repeat of any of the “selected” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.



Eligibility Center

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

If you fail to meet the required 10 core courses **before** the start of your seventh semester (seven of which must be in English, math, or natural or physical science), you will be allowed to retake core courses in your seventh and eighth semester, which will be used in your academic certification for the purpose of meeting the academic redshirt requirements.





WHAT IF YOU DO NOT MEET EITHER SET OF REQUIREMENTS?

If you do not meet either set of requirements, you are a **nonqualifier**.

A **nonqualifier**:

- ▶ Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.
- ▶ Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.



NCAA COVID-19 Information

- An Automatic Waiver (athletics aid, practice and competition) will be applied to domestic prospects provided:
 - 1) PSA meets the core-course progression requirements (10/7) before start of the seventh semester; and
 - 2) 2) present a 2.300 or higher core-course GPA in such courses. This applies to homeschool students. Due to the recent ACT/SAT cancellations, test scores are excluded from these criteria.
- An Automatic Waiver (athletics aid, practice and competition) will be applied to international prospects provided:
 - 1) PSA complete at least 10 core-course before start of the seventh semester; and
 - 2) 2) present a 2.300 or higher core-course GPA in such courses. Due to the recent ACT/SAT cancellations, test scores are excluded from these criteria. An international prospect who took classes in the United States and in their home country, "split-file", will be held to the 10/7 requirement for the waiver analysis.

NCAA COVID-19 Information

- Students who do **not** meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria will need an initial-eligibility waiver if they don't meet the Qualifier or Academic Redshirt standard.
- The EC will start to apply the COVID-19 automatic waiver on May 1 even if proof of graduation is not present for a prospect.
- For our international PSAs if only unofficial records are available for them they must submit the to ec-processing@ncaa.org directly from the email address associated with the student's EC account for use in the academic evaluation.

NCAA COVID-19 Information

Q: What about Pass grades that are usually counted as a D?

A: For NCAA-approved core courses completed in Spring/Summer 2020 that have been issued a grade of Pass, the Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement in the student's certification. If the student's core-course GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.300, this value will be assigned to the Passed courses. However, if the student's core-course GPA would decrease by including the 2.300 value for Passed courses, the student's core-course GPA will be calculated based only on courses with assigned letter grades from other available terms (credit from these courses will still be applied toward the student's core-course requirements).

NCAA COVID-19 Information

- Core-course time limitation has flexibility. A PSA can use up to six core-course units completed after starting the seventh semester (ad before full-time enrollment).
- PSAs that delay full-time enrollment due to COVID-19 will receive the benefit of policies applicable to those who enroll full time in 2020-21.
- Other classes (e.g., sophomores, juniors) will receive flexibility with the Pass/Fail grades and distance/e-learning courses for NCAA-approved core courses in Spring/Summer 2020. At this time, the EC does not anticipate the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria will extend beyond expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduates who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, but they will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves.

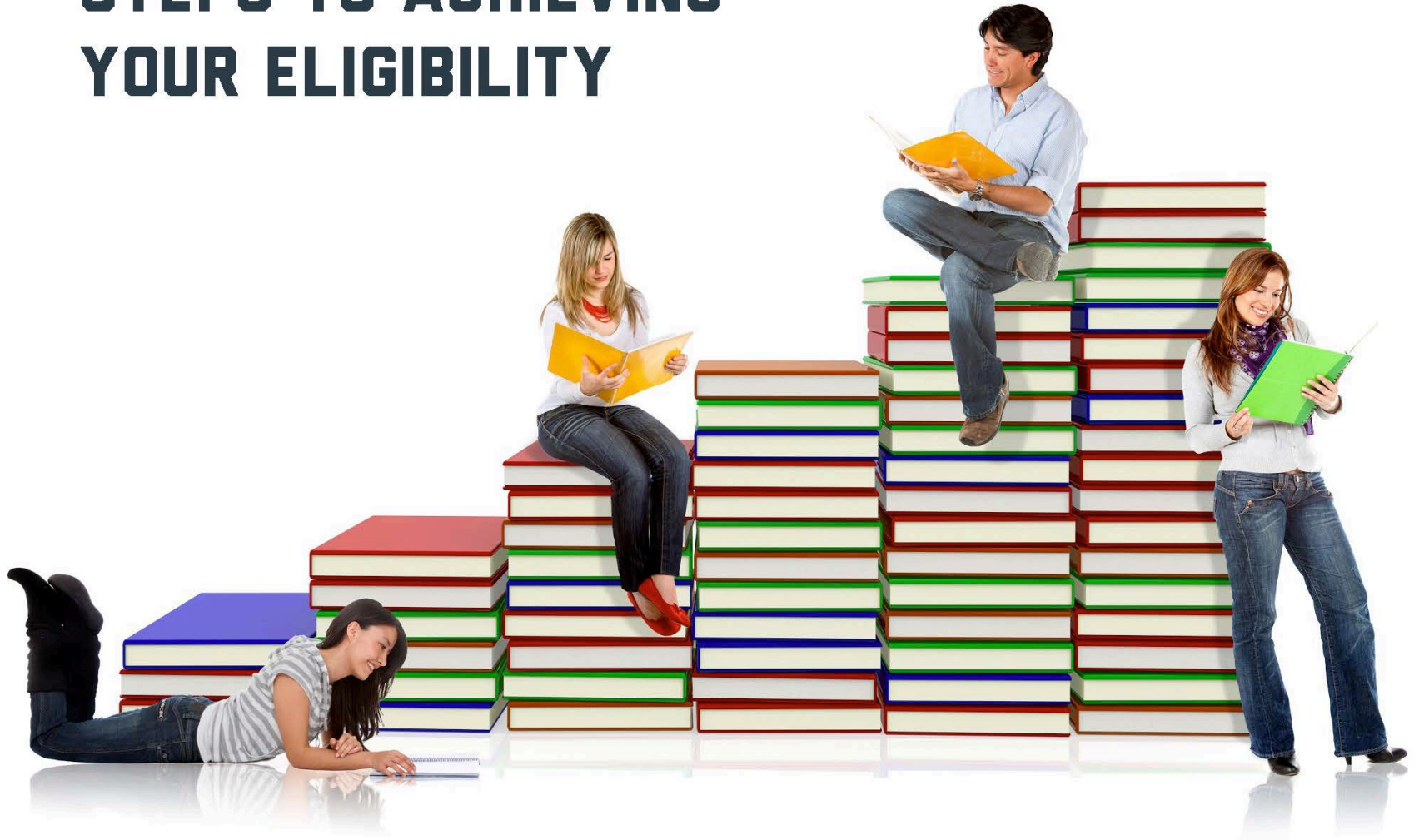


REQUEST FINAL AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

- ▶ During your senior year, you will be asked to make sure all of your sports participation information is complete and accurate.
- ▶ You will be able to request your final amateurism certification to be completed beginning April 1 (for fall enrollees) or October 1 (for spring enrollees).



STEPS TO ACHIEVING YOUR ELIGIBILITY





GRADE 9: PLAN

- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
- If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.
- Your core-course GPA starts *in ninth grade*.

GRADE 10: REGISTER

- ▶ Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
- ▶ If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.



TWO ACCOUNT TYPES

► **Certification Account**

- Division I or Division II students.
- Domestic fee \$90.
- International fee \$150.
- Account information, school and sports history.
- Required for signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with a Division I or Division II NCAA school.
- Required to go on an official visit to an NCAA Division I or Division II school.

► **Profile Page**

- Undecided students.
- Division III students.
- No fee.
- Account information and school history.
- Can transition to a Certification Account at any time.
- Will not receive an academic or amateurism certification.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

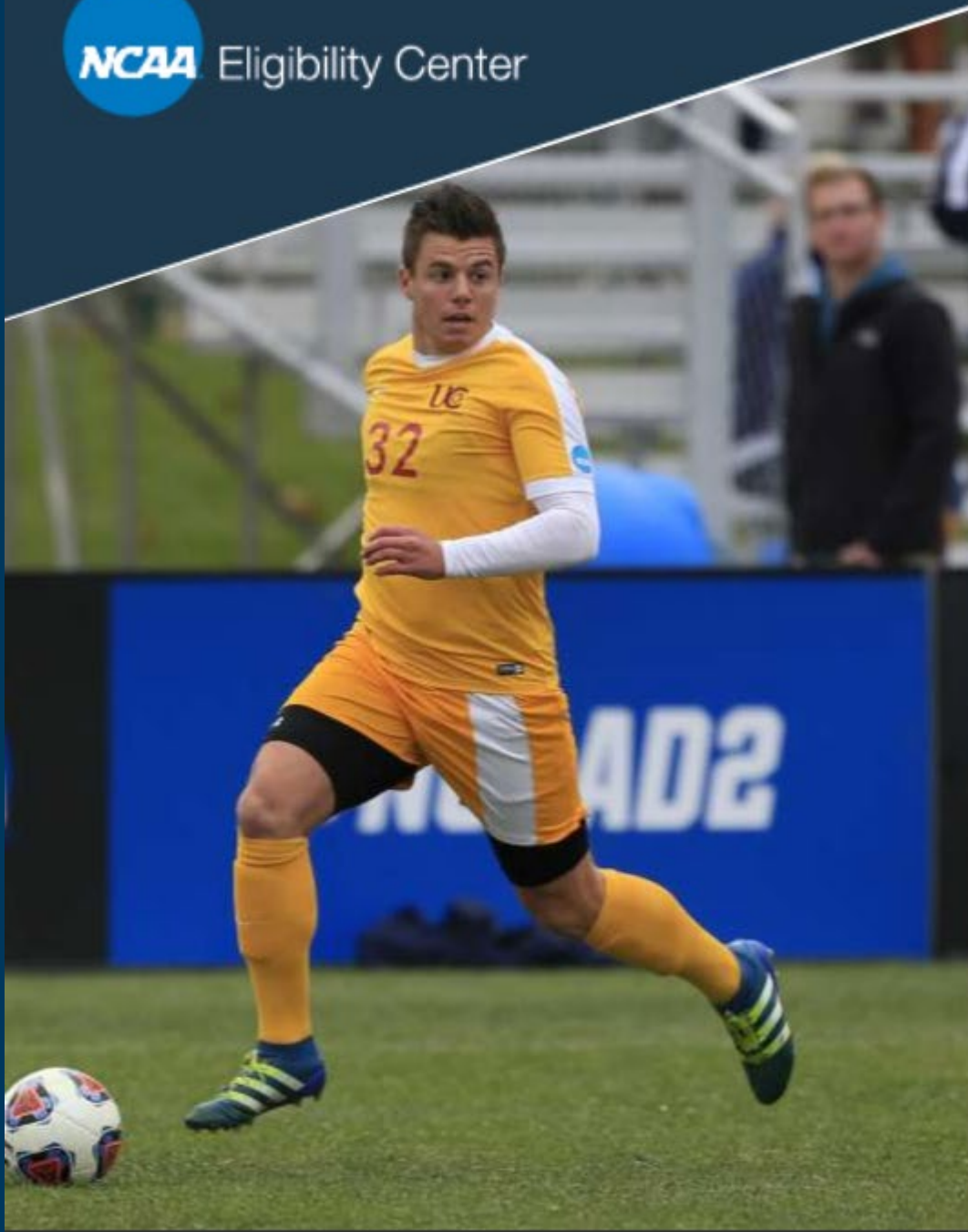


- Review your Dashboard for open tasks and additional information.
- Update your graduation or enrollment dates if needed.
- Review your combined SAT or ACT sum test scores.
- View your transcripts on file.
- Edit your account, schools or sports information.
- **Tip:** Register with an email you will have access to after graduating from high school.

GRADE 11: REGISTER

- ▶ Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses.
- ▶ Take the **ACT** or **SAT** and submit your scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code **9999**.
- ▶ At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you took classes at more than one high school or program, ask each to submit an official transcript.
- ▶ Make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class.





GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- ▶ Complete your final NCAA core courses.
- ▶ Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code **9999**.
- ▶ Request your final amateurism certification in your Certification Account at **eligibilitycenter.org**:
 - April 1 (fall enrollees).
 - Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees).

GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- ▶ After you graduate on time, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ▶ **Reminder:** Only students on an NCAA Division I or Division II school's institutional request list receive a certification.



PROACTIVE REMINDERS!

- ▶ Share your NCAA ID number with schools recruiting you.
- ▶ Don't forget to apply to the school of your choosing and confirm you've been accepted.
- ▶ Learn about the NLI.
- ▶ Request final amateurism certification before you enroll full time in college.
- ▶ Ask your counselor to send your final transcript(s) with proof of graduation.





Eligibility Center

Thank you!

- ▶ Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center
 - ▶ 317-917-6222
 - ▶ 877-262-1492 (toll free)
 - ▶ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time,
Monday through Friday

ncaa.org



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eligibilitycenter.org