



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

# NCAA INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES

**AFHS Parent Presentation**  
**January 12, 2023**

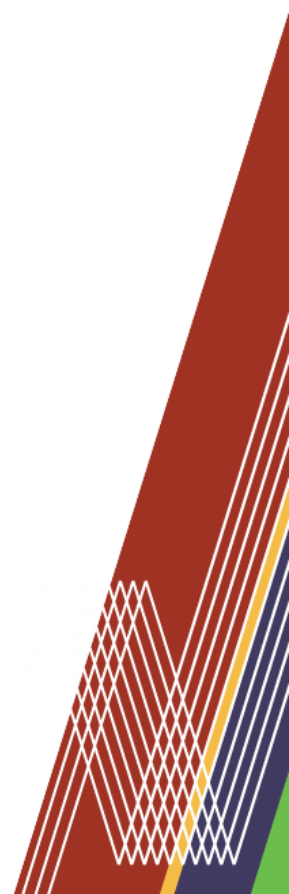




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# TODAY'S AGENDA

- » NCAA Eligibility Center Overview
- » Eligibility Account Registration
- » Eligibility Standards
  - Division I
  - Division II
  - Division III
- » Core Course Review
- » Recruiting Overview
- » Resources
- » Q&A

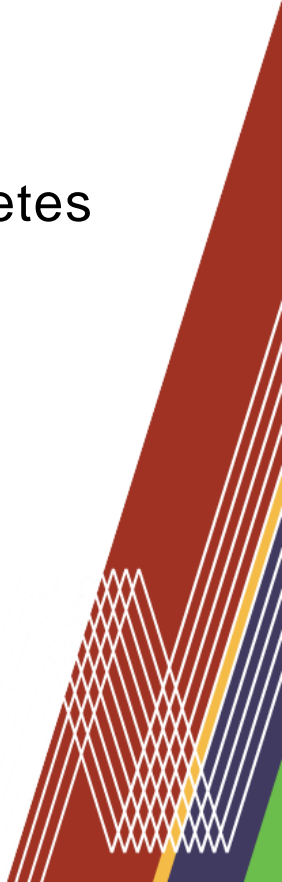




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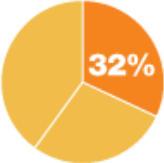





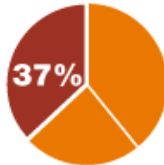

# NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

- » Who are they?  
A unit within the NCAA
- » What do they do?  
Certification of student-athletes  
for collegiate competition
- » What do they review?  
Academic requirements  
Amateurism requirements





## THE THREE NCAA DIVISIONS

|   | DIVISION I   | DIVISION II   | DIVISION III  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <br>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS*                                   | <b>350</b><br>                | <b>300</b><br> | <b>432</b><br> |
| <br>PERCENTAGE OF NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES IN EACH DIVISION |                               |                |                |
| <br>ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS                             | <b>Multiyear, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available</b><br>57% of athletes receive athletics aid | <b>Partial athletics scholarship model</b><br>60% of athletes receive athletics aid               | <b>No athletics scholarships</b><br>80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid                      |

\*Numbers are from 2020-21. This does not include reclassifying, provisional or exploratory schools.



# NCAA REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

## Three Account Types



**Free Profile Page  
Account**



**Amateurism-Only  
Certification Account**

**International  
Students Only**



**Academic  
and Amateurism  
Certification Account**



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# FREE PROFILE PAGE ACCOUNT



The right place to start for most students...

...younger athletes (middle school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, etc.)

...wanting to receive updates from the NCAA EC

...not sure in which division they'll compete

...students planning to compete in [Division III](#)



No registration fee



[Transition](#) to [Certification Account](#) at any time

Create an account: [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

# ACADEMIC & AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION ACCOUNT



Required to compete at a Division I or II school.



Registration fee: \$100

» Fee waiver available for families who qualify



Required to:

» Go on an [official visit](#).

» Sign an [NLI](#) (National Letter of Intent)  
with a Division I or II school.



# SPORTS PARTICIPATION

When a student registers for a Certification account, they must:

- » Select the sport(s) they would like to play in college.
- » Update their information frequently if they play for multiple teams or attend events outside the traditional high school setting.
- » [Request final amateurism certification before enrolling](#) full time at an NCAA school.
  - Starting April 1 (fall)
  - Starting Oct. 1 (winter/spring)





## WHAT IS AN NCAA ID?

- » Used by NCAA coaches to add students to their school's institutional request list (IRL) for recruiting purposes.
- The student's NCAA ID is in the top-right corner of their Eligibility Center account.
- In addition to their password, students need their NCAA ID when calling the Eligibility Center with questions.



Student Name

**NCAA ID: 1234567890**

Grad: MM/YYYY | Enroll: MM/YYYY



# WHAT IS AN IRL?

## [Institutional request list](#)

- » A list of student-athletes an NCAA school is interested in recruiting.
- » A student must be on an NCAA school's IRL to receive an Eligibility Center certification, which qualifies them to receive athletics aid, practice and compete in college.





# COLLEGE ADMISSION

- » Students must apply and be accepted to the school before they can compete on campus.
  - NCAA certification does **NOT** impact acceptance to the school.
  - The GPA required for NCAA initial eligibility is typically far below what is required for admission at most colleges.
- » Students should ask their NCAA school for more information about admission requirements, cost of attendance, and financial aid.







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**ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS  
2023-24...and beyond**



# What determines NCAA Initial Eligibility?

## **Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic:**

Initial eligibility was determined by a combination of two factors:

- » Core GPA (16 core courses)
- » Standardized test score (SAT or ACT)
- » The NCAA used a “sliding scale” to match students’ GPA to a test score

## **COVID-19 Automatic Waiver (since 2020):**

Initial eligibility is determined by one factor:

- » Core GPA (16 core courses)

### **Update: January 11, 2023**

NCAA Division I Council voted to ***permanently*** eliminate the test score requirement for initial eligibility.



# WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

- » Four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas:



- » Taught by qualified instructor.
- » Taught at or above the standard/academic level.
- » On students' official transcripts with course title, grade and credit and receives credit toward their high school graduation.

## [AFHS Approved Course List](#)

**WCPSS updates the district's core course list regularly, and students and parents can search for our school's approved course list.**



# Core Course Requirements: Division I vs. Division II

## DIVISION I

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

|         |                               |  |  |                |   |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------|---|
| ENGLISH | MATH<br>(Algebra I or higher) | SCIENCE<br>(Including one year of lab, if offered) | ADDITIONAL<br>(English, math or science) | SOCIAL SCIENCE | ADDITIONAL COURSES<br>(Any area listed to the left, world language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy) |
| 4 years | 3 years                       | 2 years  | 1 year                                   | 2 years        | 4 years   |

For Division I, 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of your seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

» Division I requires a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.

## DIVISION II

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

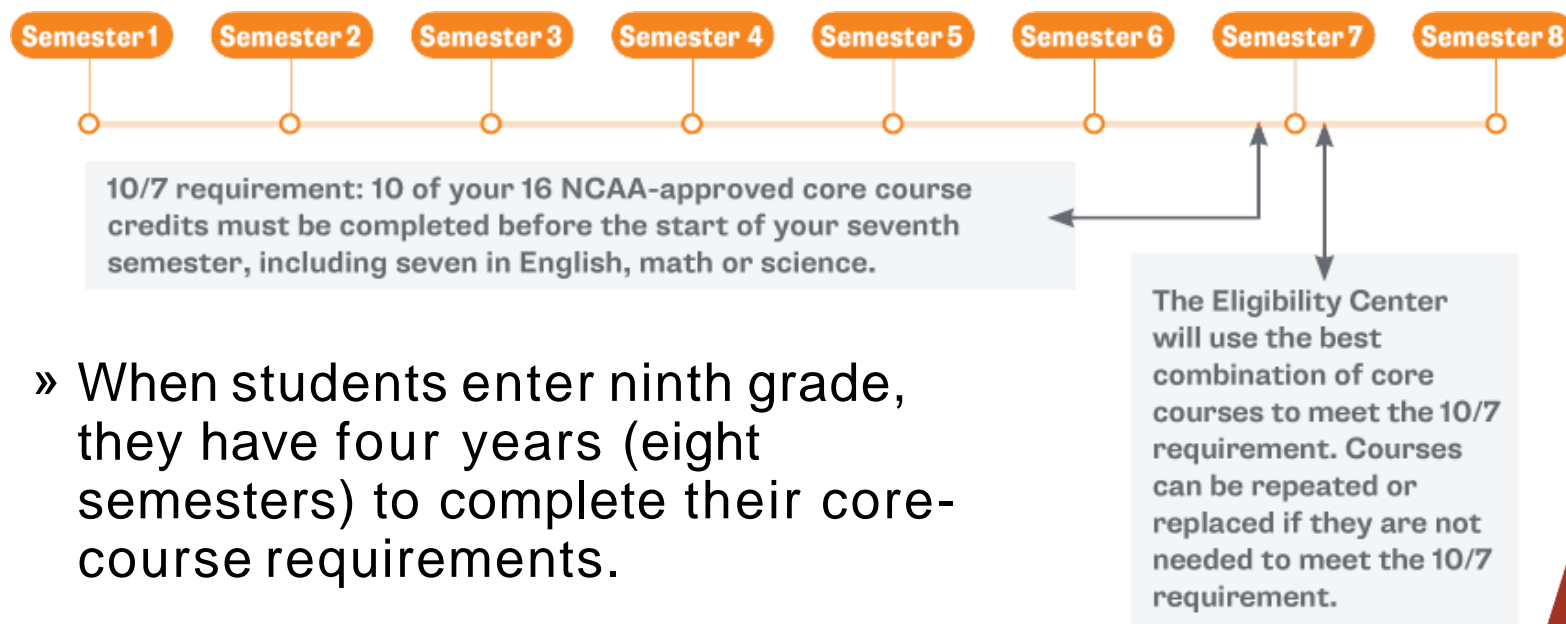
|         |                               |  |  |                |   |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------|---|
| ENGLISH | MATH<br>(Algebra I or higher) | SCIENCE<br>(Including one year of lab, if offered) | ADDITIONAL<br>(English, math or science) | SOCIAL SCIENCE | ADDITIONAL COURSES<br>(Any area listed to the left, world language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy) |
| 3 years | 2 years                       | 2 years  | 3 years                                  | 2 years        | 4 years   |

» Division II requires a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.



# DIVISION I: CORE COURSE TIME LIMIT

## *“The 10/7 Rule”*



- » When students enter ninth grade, they have four years (eight semesters) to complete their core-course requirements.
- » They must graduate on time with their class/cohort.



## Pass/Fail Grades (Class of 2023)

**How will the Eligibility Center approach high schools that issue Pass/Fail grades in 2020-21, 2021-22 and/or 2022-23?**

For NCAA-approved core courses completed in 2020-21, 2021-22 and/or 2022-23 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 previous terms (credit from these courses will still be applied toward the student's core-course requirements).

**Note:** *This policy applies to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who successfully complete NCAA-approved Pass/Fail core courses in 2020-21, 2021-22 and/or 2022-23. It does not apply to courses completed on or after September 1, 2023.*

*\*In the Spring 2020 semester, WCPSS offered students the option of choosing PC-19 (Pass) as their grade in lieu of a numerical grade*



## EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

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

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

### **9<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

(1) English  
(1) Math  
(1) Science  
(1) Social Science  
and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

### **10<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

(1) English  
(1) Math  
(1) Science  
(1) Social Science  
and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

### **11<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

(1) English  
(1) Math  
(1) Science  
(1) Social Science  
and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**

### **12<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

(1) English  
(1) Math  
(1) Science  
(1) Social Science  
and/or additional

**4 CORE COURSES**





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# DIVISION III Eligibility Standards

- » Each Division III school determines its own eligibility for:
  - Academic requirements
  - Admissions
  - Financial aid
- » Student-athletes who plan to compete at a Division III school may register for a free Profile Page account, but it is not required.



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# STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

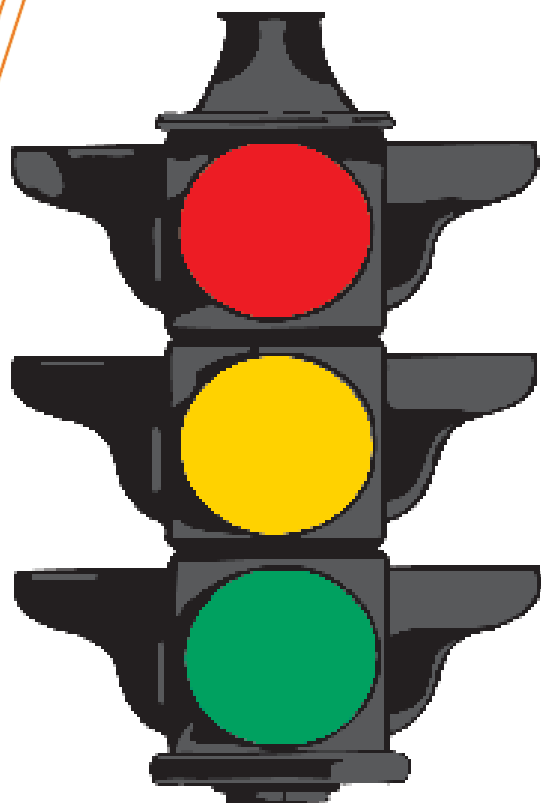
**\*\*No longer required as of January 11, 2023\*\***



- » Standardized test scores are excluded from NCAA initial-eligibility criteria for students who initially enroll full-time during the 2023-24 academic year & beyond.
- » ***However, colleges and/or scholarship programs may still require test scores.***
- » Use code 9999 to send scores to the NCAA



# Types of Qualifiers



**NON-QUALIFIER:** Not eligible to practice, compete, or receive athletics aid due to failure to meet initial eligibility requirements.

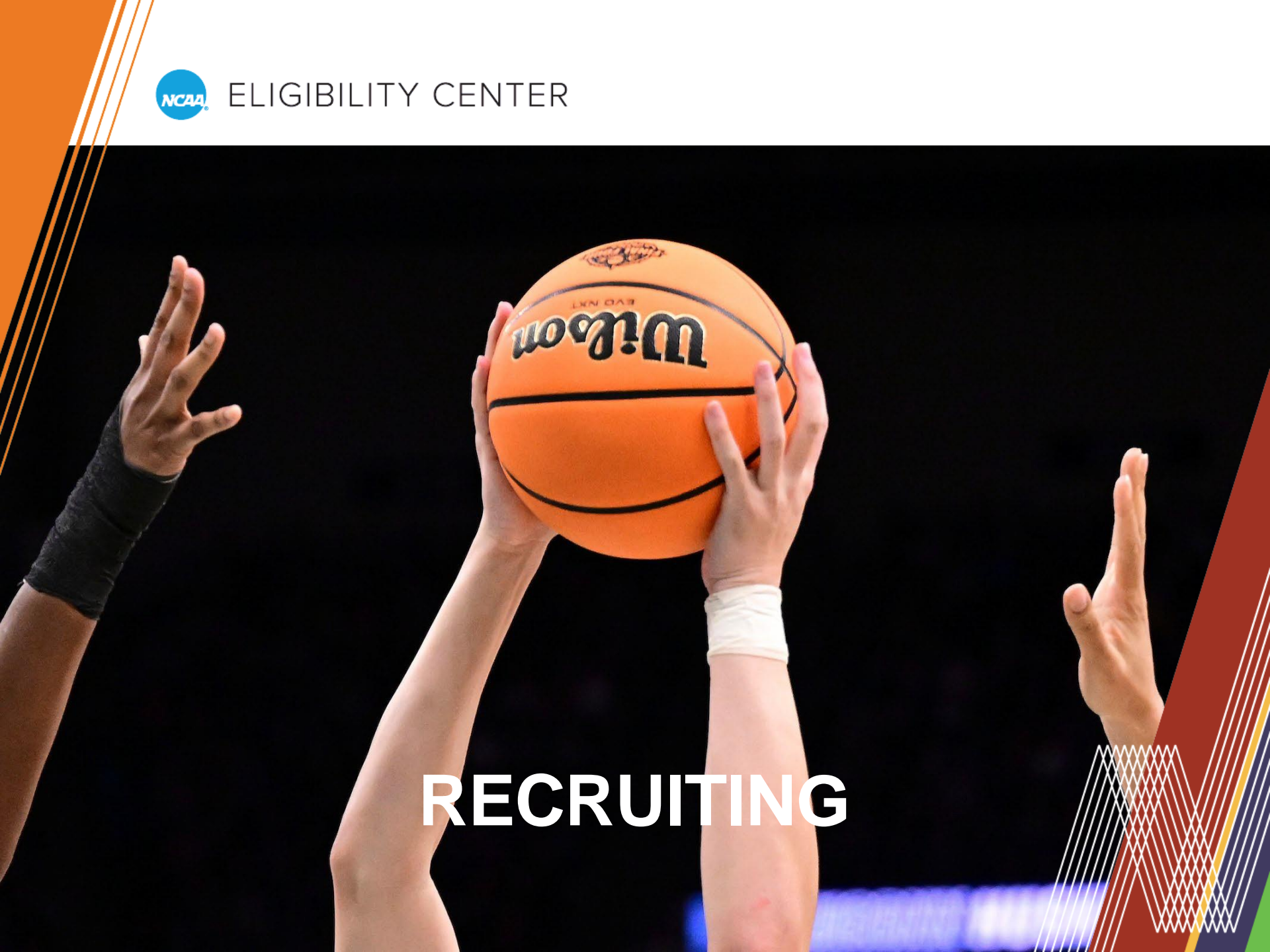
**ACADEMIC REDSHIRT:** Athletics aid & practice....but no competition.  
Core GPA  $\geq 2.0$  (but less than 2.3)

**FULL QUALIFIER:** Athletics aid, practice, & competition.  
Core GPA  $\geq 2.3$ ; 10/7 rule

\*Division I example



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**RECRUITING**





# RECRUITING CALENDARS

## FOOTBALL, DIVISION I

| RECRUITING METHOD  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence (e.g., recruiting letters, social media messages, text messages)</b> | <p>You may receive brochures for camps, questionnaires, NCAA materials and nonathletics recruiting publications at any time.</p> <p>A coach may begin sending you recruiting materials and electronic correspondence Sept. 1 of your junior/11th year of high school.</p>                         |
| <b>Phone Calls to a Coach</b>  | <p>You or your family may call a coach at any time.</p>   |
| <b>Phone Calls From a Coach</b>  | <p>A coach may call you one time between April 15 and May 31 during your junior/11th year of high school. Beginning Sept. 1 of your senior/12th year, a coach may call you one time per week outside a contact period and make unlimited calls during a contact period.</p>                       |
| <b>Off-Campus Contact</b>  | <p>A college coach may have contact with you or your family off the college's campus beginning July 1 following the end of your junior/11th year of high school or opening day of classes of your senior/12th year (whichever comes first).</p>   |
| <b>Unofficial Visit</b>  | <p>You and your family may visit a college at your own expense at any time.</p>   |
| <b>Official Visit</b>  | <p>A college may pay for you and two family members to visit campus beginning April 1 of your junior/11th year of high school through the Sunday before the last Wednesday in June. After this date, a college may provide you the expense-paid visit after Sept. 1 of your senior/12th year.</p> |

To learn more about the recruiting calendars for all NCAA sports, click [here](#)





# RECRUITING CALENDARS

Periods within the yearly recruiting calendar...

Contact period – all communication & in-person contact is fair game (on/off campus)...“floodgates are open”

Quiet period – no face-to-face contact off campus; on-campus contact is allowed

Dead period – no face-to-face contact (on/off campus); phone/email/texting/social media is allowed

Evaluation period – coaches can watch/evaluate athletes in-person & use phone/email/text/social media; no face-to-face communication



# UNOFFICIAL vs OFFICIAL VISITS

## Unofficial Visits

Any visit to a college campus paid by the student or their family members.

- » May take as many unofficial visits as they like at any time.
- » Be mindful of various contact periods when scheduling unofficial visits.

Students may receive:

- » Complimentary admission.
  - May include three tickets for a home Division I athletics contest, or five tickets for a home Division II athletics contest.

# UNOFFICIAL vs OFFICIAL VISITS

## Official Visits

Before a Division I or II **official** visit, students must:

- » Send the NCAA school a high school transcript.
- » Register for a Certification account with the Eligibility Center.

During an official visit, NCAA schools can:

- » Pay for transportation to & from the school.
  - May include up to two family members in Division I basketball and FBS football.
- » Provide lodging and meals.
  - May include reasonable entertainment expenses.

# NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

- » By signing a NLI, students are agreeing to attend a Division I or II school for one academic year.
- » NLIs are voluntary and ends the recruiting process.
- » NCAA schools agree to provide athletics financial aid to them for a minimum of one academic year.
  - Must be admitted to the school.
  - Must be eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.
- » For more information, visit [nationalletter.org](http://nationalletter.org).



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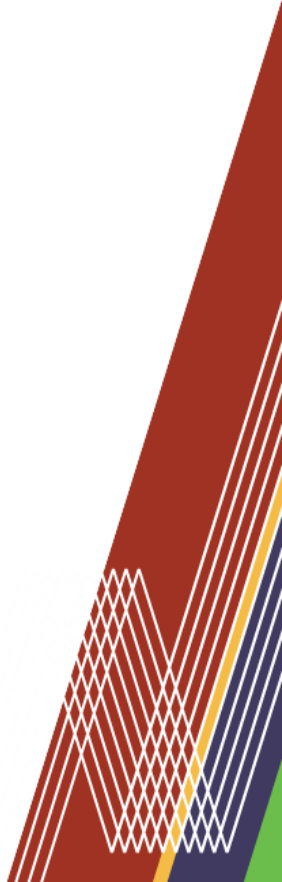


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# SCHOLARSHIPS BY SPORT

Only about 2% of high school athletes earn athletic scholarships to compete in college.

- » Expectations
  - Annual basis
  - Renewal
- » Academic scholarships
- » Athletics scholarships





# QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS TO ASK

- » What is the cost of attendance?
  - Financial aid
    - > Will I receive a full or partial scholarship? Sources of aid?
    - > If I'm injured and can no longer compete, will my scholarship remain?
  - On-campus housing
- » What degree programs are offered? Internships, etc...
- » What is the school's graduation rate? Job placement?
- » Where do you stand from a recruiting standpoint?
  - #1 vs #5 vs standby?
  - NLI?
  - Redshirt expectations?
- » What is the coaching philosophy and style?



# PROACTIVE STUDENT ACTIONS

If a student wants to play sports in college, they must:

- » Share NCAA ID with recruiters/coaches.
- » Apply to schools for admission.
- » [Request final amateurism certification](#) before enrolling full time.
  - Starting April 1 (fall enrollees)
  - Starting Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees)
- » Ask high school counselor to submit a final transcript with proof of graduation.



## HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

### 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



- *Start planning now!*  
Take the right courses and earn the best grades possible.

- Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).
- Sign up for a free Profile Page at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org) for information on NCAA requirements.

### 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



- If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.

- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).
- Monitor your Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.

### 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses and graduate on time with your class.

- Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.
- Ensure your sports participation information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor at each high school or program you attended to upload your official transcript to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.

### 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



- Complete your final NCAA-approved core courses as you prepare for graduation.
- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999.

- Request your final amateurism certification beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.
- *Reminder:* Only students on an NCAA Division I or II school's institutional request list will receive a certification.





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# RESOURCES

- » [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- » [Initial Eligibility Brochure](#)
- » [Division I Academic Brochure](#)
- » [Division II Academic Brochure](#)
- » [Recruiting Calendars for all Sports](#)
- » [COVID-19 FAQ](#)
- » [Guide for the Student-Athlete](#)
- » [Submitting a Fee Waiver](#)

Contact AFHS  
Counselor, Billy Lane  
(blane@wcpss.net) for  
additional help.



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