

Initial-Eligibility Standards

Want to compete in NCAA sports? Register with the Eligibility Center before the ninth grade. For more registration information, refer to the [Registration Checklist](#).

Academic Standards

Division I and II schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

Division I

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

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE	EXTRA ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL Any area listed to the left or world language, comparative religion or philosophy
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

2. Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight semesters from your initial start of ninth grade.
If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
3. Meet the **10/7 requirement** by completing 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
5. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with **proof of graduation** to your Eligibility Center account.
6. Receive academic and athletics eligibility certifications from the Eligibility Center.

Division II

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

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE	EXTRA ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL Any area listed to the left or world language, comparative religion or philosophy
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.
3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with **proof of graduation** to your Eligibility Center account.
4. Receive academic and athletics eligibility certifications from the Eligibility Center.

Division III

While **Division III schools** set their own academic standards on campus, the Eligibility Center certifies the amateur status of Division III **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers). All other Division III student-athletes are certified on campus. Contact the Division III school you plan to attend for information about its academic requirements.

GRADE 9 REGISTER

- » If you haven't yet, [register](#) for an NCAA Profile Page account.
- » Use NCAA Research's [interactive map](#) to help locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- » Check your high school's list of [NCAA-approved core courses](#) to ensure you're taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!

GRADE 10 PLAN

- » If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA Division I or II school, [transition](#) your Profile Page account to the right [certification account](#).
- » Monitor your email and the task list in your [Eligibility Center account](#) for next steps.
- » Research the admission requirements for NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attended to upload your [official transcript](#) via the High School Portal.
- » If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding [approved courses](#) you can take.

GRADE 11 STUDY

- » Ensure your sports participation information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- » Check with your high school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved [core courses](#) and graduate on time with your class.
- » Share your NCAA ID with NCAA schools recruiting you so each school can place you on its institutional request list.
- » Take [unofficial and official visits](#) to NCAA schools you're interested in attending and start applying early.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attended to upload your [official transcript](#) via the High School Portal.

GRADE 12 GRADUATE

- » Be accepted to the NCAA school you plan to attend.
- » Ensure your sports participation information is correct and request your final athletics certification beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account.
- » Complete your final NCAA-approved [core courses](#) as you prepare for graduation.
- » After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your [final official transcript](#) with proof of graduation via the High School Portal.

Example Schedule

How to Plan Your High School Courses to Meet the 16 Core-Course Requirement

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

9th GRADE

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

4 CORE COURSES

10th GRADE

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

4 CORE COURSES

11th GRADE

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

4 CORE COURSES

12th GRADE

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

4 CORE COURSES



CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):

877-262-1492, Monday-Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time



X @ncaaec YouTube @ncaaec Facebook @ncaaec Instagram @playcollegesports



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