

NCAA Division I and II Athletics

If you are interested in playing NCAA Division I or Division II sports in college, you must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Athletes playing in NCAA Division III do not have to register. The differences between the divisions depend on several factors, including the number of sports a school has overall, how many sports are available for both men and women, how many athletes or teams the school has in each sports, and the number of contests the school plays against in its division. Each college and university regulated by the NCAA has established rules on eligibility, recruiting and financial aid; the NCAA is the governing body of many intercollegiate sports.

What is the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse is the organization that determines whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA Division I or Division II institutions. It does this by reviewing the student athlete's academic records, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules.

When should students register with the clearinghouse?

The NCAA recommends that student athletes register with the clearinghouse at the beginning of their junior year in high school, but many students register after their junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the clearinghouse before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or Division II institution.

How do students register with the clearinghouse?

Students can register online at the Eligibility Center www.eligibilitycenter.org. They will have to enter personal information, answer questions about their athletic participation, and pay a registration fee. The website will then prompt them to have their high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores sent to the clearinghouse.

What are the NCAA academic eligibility requirements?

To play sports at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution, the student must:

- Complete a certain number of high school core courses
- Earn a certain minimum grade point average in these core courses
- Earn a certain minimum score on the SAT or ACT (for Division I, this is scaled according to the student's core course GPA)
- Graduate from high school

For more information, see the NCAA's *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete*, available at the NCAA website. You can also view the following NCAA Quick Reference Sheet for more details.