

Student-Athlete's Core Academic Guidelines

Student athletes must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to be eligible to play NCAA Division I or Division II sports in college. Athletes playing in Division III do not have to register. The 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 record, specifically, their core courses, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA. "Core courses" is the name that the NCAA gives to high school courses that meet certain academic criteria specified by the association.

If you want to participate in athletics or receive an athletic scholarship during your first year, you must graduate from high school and complete these 16 core courses to compete at the Division I level: 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher,) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school,) 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science, 2 years of social science and 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy.) Division II requires 14 core courses (will increase to 16 in 2013.) You will need 3 years of English, 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher,) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school, 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science, 2 years of social science and 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy.

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade-point averages. The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the Critical Reading and Math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used. The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is the sum of the English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science sections. Students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 after graduation must have either a combined SAT score of 1010 or sum ACT score of 86. Division II requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT score of 68. Division II core grade-point average requirement is a minimum of 2.000. Remember, the NCAA grade-point average is calculated using core courses only.

You must complete the 16 core-course requirement in eight semesters, which begins when you initially started high school with your ninth-grade class. If you graduate from high school in eight semesters with your class, you may use **one** core-course unit completed within one year after graduation (summer or academic year) to meet NCAA Division I initial-eligibility requirements. Credit-by-exam courses will not meet core-course requirements. In addition, vocational courses such as typing, driver's education and health do not meet core-course requirements. Pass/fail grades may satisfy your core-course requirements. The NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a pass/fail class so long as the course receives credit toward graduation. Meeting NCAA minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission into college. It simply determines whether students may participate in

athletics during their freshman year. Being a “qualifier” enables you to practice or compete for your college or university during you first year of college, receive an athletic scholarship during your first year of college, and play four seasons in your sport if you maintain your eligibility from year to year.

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