



NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

What is the NCAA?

The NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, serves as the athletics governing body for more than 1,280 colleges, universities, conferences and organizations. The national office is in Indianapolis, Indiana, but the member colleges and universities develop the rules and guidelines for athletics eligibility and athletics competition for each of the three NCAA divisions. The NCAA is committed to the student-athlete and to governing competition in a fair, safe, inclusive and sportsmanlike manner.

What is the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse is responsible for determining a student's academic eligibility for athletics participation in his or her first year of college enrollment. Students who want to participate in college sports at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution must register with the clearinghouse.

Starting in the summer 2006, the clearinghouse will expand to also include the responsibility of determining the amateurism eligibility of all prospective and transfer student-athletes enrolling at a Division I or Division II member institution in fall 2007 and thereafter.

Registering with the clearinghouse.

To register with the clearinghouse, you must complete and sign the Student Release Form (SRF) and submit it to the clearinghouse along with the registration fee (\$50 for domestic and \$75 for international students). This SRF does two things:

- It authorizes each high school you have attended to send the clearinghouse your transcript, proof of graduation and other necessary academic information.
- It authorizes the clearinghouse to send your academic information to all colleges that request your eligibility status.

Register online.

- Go online to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- Select **Prospective Student-Athletes** and click on **Domestic Student Release Form** or **Foreign Student Release Form**.
 - Use the Domestic Student Release Form if you graduated from high school in the United States (or a U.S. territory).
 - Use the Foreign Student Release Form if you graduated from a non-U.S. high school.
- Complete the SRF form online and include your credit or debit card information to pay the fee.
- Print a copy of your completed registration form and both Copy 1 and Copy 2 of the transcript release form.
- Sign the transcript release forms, and give both to your high school counselor.

Check your status with the clearinghouse.

After you have registered with the clearinghouse and paid the fee, you may check your status. Remember, the clearinghouse can process your academic information only if your high school sends your transcript and you have your test scores sent by the testing agency to the clearinghouse. In order for the clearinghouse to process your amateur status, you must answer the questions listed.

To check your status, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net;
2. Click on **Prospective Student-Athlete**;
3. Click on **Registered Student Login**; and
4. Input SSN and PIN.

When to call the clearinghouse.

You are welcome to contact the clearinghouse when you have questions like these:

- How do I register?
- I have forgotten my PIN. Can I get a new one?
- Some of my classes are not on my high school's list. How can I get a class added?
- My clearinghouse report shows I am missing some material. What is missing?
- I have been home schooled. What do I have to do to register?

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

301 ACT Drive, P.O. Box 4043

Iowa City, IA 52243-4043

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Customer service line: 877/262-1492

(8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time Monday through Friday)

Facsimile: 319/337-1556

When to call the NCAA.

Please contact the NCAA when you have questions like these:

- What are the rules and regulations related to initial eligibility?
- What are the rules and regulations related to amateurism?
- What are the regulations about transferring from one college to another?
- What are the rules about athletics scholarships and how can they be reduced or canceled?
- I have a learning disability. Are there any other requirements for me?

NCAA

P.O. Box 6222

Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

Customer service line: 317/917-6222

(Monday through Friday, Noon to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard time)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I have to register with the clearinghouse?

A: Yes. If you want to participate in Division I or II athletics in your first year of college, you must register with and be certified academically and as an amateur by the clearinghouse.

Q: Do I have to register with the clearinghouse if I am a transfer student?

A: Starting fall 2007, every student who will attend for the first time an NCAA Division I or II institution must be certified by the clearinghouse. This includes students enrolling in college for the first time as well as students transferring from any two- or four-year institutions (including foreign institutions) that are not members of NCAA Division I or II.

Q: Are there two separate clearinghouses – one for academics and one for amateurism?

A: No. There is only one clearinghouse but it does have two components: an academic certification process and an amateurism certification process. In order to participate in Division I or II athletics in your first year of college, you must be certified both academically and as an amateur.

Q: When should I register with the clearinghouse?

A: You may register with the clearinghouse at the beginning of your junior year in high school. The amateurism questions will ask for information that you will know at that time. Once you have answered the amateurism questions, an evaluation of your amateur status will begin. It is important that you occasionally update the information to keep it current so institutions recruiting you will have up-to-date information about you. Please note that the evaluation of your academic credentials will not begin until: a) you have completed six semesters of high school work; and b) your transcript for this work has been received. Be sure to send your high school transcript to the clearinghouse after you have completed at least six semesters of high school coursework.

Q: How often may I update my information?

A: You should update your amateurism information regularly (e.g., monthly) until you request a final certification of your amateurism status. At that point, you will no longer be able to update your amateurism information.

Q: Is there a registration deadline?

A: No. However, you must be certified academically and as an amateur before you can receive an athletics scholarship, practice or compete at a Division I or II college during your first year of enrollment. Since processing the registration forms may take time to complete, early registration is encouraged.

Q: Can I receive different eligibility certifications for Division I and II?

A: Yes. Division I and II have different rules, so it is possible that your certification status may be different in each division.

Q: May I receive a fee waiver?

A: Yes. You are eligible for a waiver of the initial-eligibility registration fee if you have already received a fee waiver (not a state voucher) for the ACT or SAT. If you have not been granted a fee waiver by ACT or SAT, then you will not be eligible for a waiver of the registration fee. If you are seeking a waiver of the registration fee you should confirm your eligibility with your high school counselor. Your high school counselor must submit an electronic fee waiver confirmation before your registration may be processed.

NCAA FRESHMAN – ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

If you plan to enroll in any Division I or Division II college or university in fall 2005 or after, please read this information carefully.

REQUIRED Core Courses

DIVISION I
Enroll in any college in 2005-2007
14 Core Courses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 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). ▪ 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. ▪ 2 years of social science. ▪ 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/ philosophy).

DIVISION I
Enroll in any college in 2008 and after
16 Core Courses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/ philosophy).

DIVISION II
Enroll in any college in 2005 and after
14 Core Courses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/ philosophy).

PLEASE NOTE: For students entering college on or after August 1, 2005, **computer-science** courses may only be used for initial-eligibility purposes if the course receives graduation credit in mathematics or natural/physical science and is listed as such on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.

REQUIRED TEST SCORES AND GRADE-POINT AVERAGES

DIVISION I: Sample Core Grade-Point Average/Test-Score Sliding Scale

(visit the NCAA or Clearinghouse Web site to view the full sliding scale)

Core GPA	SAT (verbal & math only)	ACT (sum score)
3.550 & above	400	37
3.000	620	52
2.500	820	68
2.000	1010	86

Division II: There is no sliding scale.

- **Required Core Grade-Point Average: minimum is 2.000.**
- **Required Test Scores:**
 - **Minimum SAT score is 820 (Verbal and Math sections only)**
 - **Minimum ACT sum score is 68.**

For more information regarding initial-eligibility rules, please go to www.ncaa.org. Click on "Academics and Athletes." You may also visit the clearinghouse Web site at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

OVERVIEW OF NCAA DIVISION I AND II AMATEURISM RULES FOR STUDENTS BEFORE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

	Permissible in Division I? (Student-athletes first enrolling in college on or after August 1, 2002.)	Permissible in Division II? (Student-athletes first enrolling in college on or after August 1, 2001.)
Enters into a Contract with a Professional Team	No	Yes
Accepts Prize Money	Yes. Only if the event is open and not invitation only, and the prize money does not exceed actual and necessary expenses.	Yes
Enters Draft	Yes	Yes
Accepts Salary	No	Yes
Receives Expenses from a Professional Team	No	Yes
Competes on a Team with Professionals	No	Yes
Tryouts with a Professional Team Prior to Initial Collegiate Enrollment	Yes. It is permissible to receive actual and necessary expenses for one visit (up to 48 hours) with each professional team. Self-financed tryouts may be for more than 48 hours.	Yes
Receives Benefits from an Agent	No	No
Enters into Agreement with an Agent (oral or written)	No	No
Accepts Educational Expenses	Yes. Only if the expenses are received from someone other than an agent, professional sports team/organization or a representative of an institution's athletics interest and the expenses are distributed directly through the recipients educational institution.	Yes. Only if the expenses are received from someone other than an agent, professional sports team/organization or a representative of an institution's athletics interest and the expenses are distributed directly through the recipients educational institution.
Accepts Free Equipment or Apparel	Yes. Only if the items are related to the athletes sport and are received directly from the manufacturer, the athlete does not enter into any agreement with the manufacturer that allows the athlete to choose the items, and an institutions coach is in no way involved in the selecting of the athlete to receive such items.	Yes. Only if the items are related to the athletes sport and are received directly from the manufacturer, the athlete does not enter into any agreement with the manufacturer that allows the athlete to choose the items, and an institutions coach is in no way involved in the selecting of the athlete to receive such items.
Delays Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment and Participates in Organized Competition (If you are charged with season(s) of competition under this rule, you will also have to serve an academic year in residence at the NCAA institution.)	Tennis and Swimming & Diving: Student has one-year after high-school graduation to enroll full time in a collegiate institution or will lose one season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year during which the student continues to participate in organized sport competition. (See organized sport competition definition on reverse side). All Other Sports: Any participation in organized sports competition (see definition below) during each 12-month period after the student's 21st birthday and prior to initial full-time enrollment in a collegiate institution shall count as one year of varsity competition.	All Sports: A student must enroll at the next opportunity (excluding summer) immediately following the date that the student's high-school class normally graduates (or the international equivalent) or the student will use a season of intercollegiate competition for each calendar year or sports season (subsequent to that date) in which the student has participated in organized sport competition. (See organized sport competition definition on reverse side).

The chart above summarizes the Division I and II pre-enrollment amateurism rules and is not all inclusive. If you have questions or need more detail, please contact the NCAA national office (317/917-6222).

In order to assist you further in understanding the rules, we have included the following definitions:

Definition of a Professional Team.

In Divisions I and II, a team is considered professional if it declares itself to be professional or provides any player on the team with more than **actual and necessary expenses** for their participation on the team.

- ▶ Actual and necessary expenses from a team are limited to the following:
 - (a) Meals and lodging directly tied to competition and practice held in preparation for competition;
 - (b) Transportation (limited to expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation between home and the training/practice site at the beginning and end of the season);
 - (c) Apparel, equipment and supplies related to participation on the team;
 - (d) Coaching and instruction, use of facilities and entry fees;
 - (e) Health insurance, medical treatment and physical therapy; and
 - (f) Other reasonable expenses (e.g., laundry money).

Definition of Organized Competition.

- ▶ In Division I, athletics competition is considered organized if any one of the following conditions exists:
 - (a) Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
 - (b) Official score is kept;
 - (c) Individual or team standings are maintained;
 - (d) Official timer or game officials are used;
 - (e) Admission is charged;
 - (f) Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
 - (g) Team uniforms are used;
 - (h) A team is privately or commercially sponsored; or
 - (i) The competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.
- ▶ In Division II, athletics competition is considered organized if any one of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) Any competition or training with a team in which compensation is provided to any of the participants (see definition below);
 - (b) Any competition or training with a team that declares itself to be professional;
 - (c) Any individual competition or training in which the participant receives compensation (including actual and necessary expenses);
 - (d) Any competition as a result of signing a contract for athletics participation;
 - (e) Any competition as a result of involvement in a professional draft;
 - (f) Any competition funded by a professional sports organization;
 - (g) Any competition funded by a representative of an institution's athletics interest that is not an open event; or
 - (h) Any practice with a professional athletics team (excluding a 48-hour tryout).

In Division II, **actual and necessary** expenses (for part 'a' and 'c' of the above list) are limited to the following:

- (a) Meals;
- (b) Transportation;
- (c) Lodging;
- (d) Medical insurance;
- (e) Stipend (e.g., money for gas or food); or
- (f) Medical expenses

*In Division II, reasonable expenses other than those listed above (e.g., coaching, instruction and facility usage) are not considered compensation. If an individual pays a fee to participate on a team, the individual uses a season of competition only if the amount of actual and necessary expenses or other compensation received exceeds the amount of the fee.