

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Division I

1. Graduate from High School
2. Complete 16 Core Classes
 - 4 yrs of English
 - 3 yrs of Math (Algebra I or Higher)
 - 2 yrs of Natural or Physical Science
 - 1 extra yr of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science
 - 2 yrs of Social Science
 - 4 yrs of extra Core courses (any category above, or foreign language, religion/philosophy)
3. Earn a minimum required GPA in your core courses; and
4. Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core course GPA and test score sliding scale listed on the next page
5. Qualifier –
 - Can participate in practice or competition first year
 - Can receive athletics scholarship
 - Can play four seasons/must maintain minimum grade requirement
6. Non-Qualifier –
 - Cannot participate in practice or competition first year
 - Cannot receive **athletics** scholarship
 - Can play only three seasons as long as eligibility is maintained.
 - To gain fourth year you must complete 80% of degree, before beginning your fifth year of school

CORE GPA / TEST-SCORE SLIDING SCALE -- DIVISION I

New Core GPA/Test Score Index	ACT	SAT
<i>(to be used with 14 core-courses)</i>		
3.550 & above	37	400
3.525	38	410
3.500	39	420
3.475	40	430
3.450	41	440
3.425	41	450
3.400	42	460
3.375	42	470
3.350	43	480
3.325	44	490
3.300	44	500
3.275	45	510
3.250	46	520
3.225	46	530
3.200	47	540
3.175	47	550
3.150	48	560
3.125	49	570
3.100	49	580
3.075	50	590
3.050	50	600
3.025	51	610
3.000	52	620
2.975	52	630
2.950	53	640
2.925	53	650
2.900	54	660
2.875	55	670
2.850	56	680
2.825	56	690
2.800	57	700
2.775	58	710
2.750	59	720
2.725	59	730
2.700	60	730
2.675	61	740-750
2.650	62	760
2.625	63	770
2.600	64	780

2.575	65	790
2.550	66	800
2.525	67	810
2.500	68	820
2.475	69	830
2.450	70	840-850
2.425	70	860
2.400	71	860
2.375	72	870
2.350	73	880
2.325	74	890
2.300	75	900
2.275	76	910
2.250	77	920
2.225	78	930
2.200	79	940
2.175	80	950
2.150	80	960
2.125	81	960
2.100	82	970
2.075	83	980
2.050	84	990
2.025	85	1000
2.000	86	1010

Division II

Academic Eligibility Requirements

1. High School Graduate
2. Complete these 16 Core Classes
 - 4 yrs of English
 - 2 yrs of Math
 - 2 yrs of Natural or Physical Science
 - 2 extra yrs of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science
 - 2 yrs of Social Science
 - 4 yrs of extra core courses from any above, foreign language, religion/philosophy
3. Earn a 2.00 GPA or better in your core courses
4. Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68
5. **THERE IS NO SLIDING SCALE IN DIVISION II**
6. Partial Qualifier –
 - Has not met all requirements listed previously, but has graduated HS and meets one of the following:
 - Combined SAT score of 820 or ACT sum score of 68, **or**
 - Completion of the 16 core courses with a 2.00 core course GPA
7. As a partial qualifier you may:
 - Can practice with your team at its home facility during your first year of college
 - Can receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of college
 - Cannot compete during your first year of college
 - Can play four seasons in your sport as long as you maintain your eligibility from year to year
8. You will be a Non-qualifier – if you did not graduate from high school, or if you graduated and are missing both the core course GPA or the required ACT or SAT scores.
9. Same as Division I, exception...
 - Can play four years in sport as long as eligibility is maintained from year to year.

Division III

Academic Eligibility Requirements

1. Division III does not use the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse
2. Must contact the College of Interest regarding its policies on Financial Aid, Practice, and Competition

What is the NCAA Clearinghouse?

1. The Clearinghouse is not the NCAA, but an organization that performs academic evaluations for the NCAA
2. The Clearinghouse evaluates a student's academic record to determine if they are eligible to participate at a Division I or II college as a Freshman student athlete

Clearinghouse Registration

1. Complete the Student Release Form
2. To register with the clearinghouse, you must complete and sign the SRF and send it to the clearinghouse along with the registration fee. (\$50.00)
3. **Registering with the Clearinghouse, even qualifying with the NCAA does not guarantee acceptance to the University of choice**

What does the SRF do?

1. It authorizes each High School you have attended to send the clearinghouse your final transcript, test scores, proof of graduation and other necessary academic information
2. Prospects should request that official test scores from SAT and ACT be sent to the clearinghouse. Prospects can request test scores by filling out a request form either the SAT or ACT. When filling out a request, the prospect should code 9999 when the form asks where the tests are to be sent. Request forms can be obtained from the guidance counselor
3. Prospects may want to contact the clearinghouse at 877-262-1492 to discuss their certification
4. All prospects should verify that each step of the process has been completed in order to ensure that the certification process is not delayed.
5. More information is available at www.clearinghouse.net

Grade-Point Average

1. How your Core-Course Grade-Point Average is Calculated
2. The Clearinghouse will calculate the grade-point average of your core courses on a 4.000 scale. The best grades from your NCAA core courses will be used. Grades from additional core courses you took will be used only if they improve your GPA.
3. The Clearinghouse will assign the following values to each letter grade:
 - A – 4 pts.
 - B – 3 pts.
 - C – 2 pts.
 - D – 1 pt.

Certain specifics from school to school may be adjusted when calculated.
(Honors, Weights, Letter grades, Numeric grades.)

SAT & ACT Tests

1. You must achieve the required score on an SAT or ACT test before your full time college enrollment. You must do this whether you are a citizen of the United States or of a foreign country. You must take the national test given on one of the dates shown below.

National Testing Dates – SAT

Registration Deadline	Test Date
May 9, 2008	June 14, 2008
September 9, 2008	October 4, 2008
September 26, 2008	October 1, 2008
November 5, 2008	December 6, 2008
December 26, 2008	January 24, 2009
February 10, 2009	March 14, 2009
March 31, 2009	May 2, 2009
May 5, 2009	June 6, 2009

- **The Math/Verbal/Critical Reasoning sections will be used for scoring purposes**
- **The Writing Section will not be used to determine qualifier status**

National Testing Dates – ACT

Registration Deadline	Test Date
May 9, 2008	June 14, 2008
August 12, 2008	September 13, 2008
September 22, 2008	October 25, 2008
November 7, 2008	December 12, 2008
January 6, 2009	February 7, 2009
February 27, 2009	April 4, 2009
May 8, 2009	June 13, 2009

- **The Math/Verbal/Critical Reasoning sections will be used for scoring purposes**
- **The Writing Section will not be used to determine qualifier status**

Understanding the Difference

1. The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.
2. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: Verbal, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test. Mathematics makes up 50% of SAT's test score and only 25% of ACT's test score.
3. The College Board introduced a new version in 2005, with a **mandatory** writing test. ACT offers **optional** writing test. Take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to.
4. The SAT has a correction for guessing. They take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number correct with no correction for guessing.
5. **SAT** – The SAT or Scholastic Assessment Test is primarily based in cognitive reasoning, math, with some verbal reading included.
 - Colleges do not solely use students SAT scores as final admittance criteria or determination
 - The SAT is broken up into 3 subject area tests: Reading, Mathematics, Writing
 - Scores on each subject area range from 200-800
 - Optional Writing Portion
6. **ACT** – The ACT stands for the American College Testing, the name of the original company that provides the test.
 - As the SAT, colleges do not provide final admittance based solely on ACT scores
 - The ACT is comprised of 5 subject area tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test
 - Scores for each section range from 1-36 and are then averaged to find your composite test score.

Ten Tips for Taking a Standardized Exam

1. Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
2. If you feel nervous before beginning, try to relax by taking a few deep breaths.
3. Maintain confidence in your abilities and plan to do your best. Your attitude can affect your performance.
4. Listen carefully to all instructions and ask questions if you hear something you don't understand.
5. Focus your attention entirely on your work.
6. Position your answer sheet next to your test booklet so you can mark answers quickly and accurately.
7. Before answering each question, read it completely, as well as the possible responses.
8. When you are unsure of an answer, choose the one you think is best and go on to the next question. Be sure to answer every question.
9. Pace yourself throughout the test by occasionally checking the time.
10. If you complete the test before your time is up, reread the questions and check your answers.

Recruiting High School Athletes

1. The Recruiting process is a highly exciting time for all young athletes. It is often a time when all their hard work both academically and athletically finally begins to show visible results.
2. What do I as an athlete and a parent need to know about the recruiting process?

Recruiting Terminology

1. **Contact** – this occurs any time a coach has any face to face contact with you or your family off their campus and more than a hello is said. This also includes any contact with you or your family by the coach at your high school or anywhere you are competing.
2. **Contact Period** – During this time, a college coach may have in person contact with you and/or your parents on or of the college's campus. The coach may also watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.
3. **Dead Period** – The college coach may not have any in person contact with you or your parents at any time in the dead period. The coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.
4. **Evaluation** – An evaluation is an activity by a coach to evaluate your academic or athletics ability. This would include visiting your high school or watching you practice or compete.
5. **Evaluation Period** – The college coach may watch you play or visit your high school, but cannot have any in-person conversations with you or your parents off the college campus. You and your parents can visit a college campus during this period. A coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.
6. **Official Visit** – any visit to a college campus by you or your parents paid for by the college. The college may pay for the following expenses:
 - Transportation to and from
 - Room and Meals, 3 per day
 - Reasonable entertainment expenses, including 3 comp admissions to a home game

Before a college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript (Division I only), and SAT, ACT, or PLAN score.

7. **Prospective Student Athlete** – You become a prospective student athlete when

- You start your freshman year at college, or
 - Before your ninth grade year, a college gives you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to students generally.
8. **Quiet Period** – The college coach may not have any in person contact with you or your parents off the college’s campus. The coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or telephone you or your parents during this time.
 9. **Unofficial Visit** – Any visit by you and your parents to a college campus paid for by you or your parents. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

Questions about Recruiting

1. When will recruiting begin?
2. When can my son be contacted?
3. How can my son be contacted?
4. Who will be contacting my son?
5. Who, how, when can we begin contacting someone?

Recruiting

1. The recruiting process for most Division I athletes usually begins at the beginning of their Sophomore year of High School
2. This does not mean that no contact means no chance of scholarship

Sophomore Year – Division I

1. **Materials** – You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires
2. **Calls** – You may make calls to coaches at your expense only. (Coaches cannot contact you.)
3. **Off Campus contact** – NONE
4. **Official Visits** – NONE
5. **Unofficial Visits** – You may make unlimited unofficial visits

Junior Year – Division I

1. **Materials** – You may begin receiving letters, other material by September 1
2. **Calls** – You may make calls to coaches at your expense only. Coaches may contact you once in May of this year
3. **Off Campus Contact** – NONE
4. **Official Visits** – NONE
5. **Unofficial Visits** – You may make unlimited unofficial visits

Senior Year – Division I

1. **Calls** – You may make calls to coaches at your expense. Coaches may contact you once per week beginning September 1
2. **Off Campus Contact** – Allowed beginning November 27
3. **Official Visits** – Allowed beginning the first day of classes
4. (Limit 1 official visit per college, Maximum of 5 Colleges, this includes D1 & D2)
5. **Unofficial Visits** – You may make unlimited unofficial visits
6. **Evaluation & Contacts** – Up to six times during your senior year
7. Six times you or your parents can be contacted (including evaluation off campus), that includes only one evaluation between September-November

Sophomore – Division II

1. Same as Division I
 - Receive brochures for camps
 - You may visit or call unlimited amount of times
 - No contact by Coaches or Faculty
2. **Recruiting Materials** – A coach may begin sending you printed recruiting materials Sept. 1 of this year
3. **Calls** – Coach may call you once per week beginning June 15 between your Jr. and Sr. year (You may make unlimited calls)
4. **Off Campus Contact** – A college coach can have contact with you or your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus beginning June 15 after your Jr. year
 - They are limited to 3 in person contacts off campus

5. **Official Visits** – You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your Sr. year
 - You may make only one official visit per college and up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I and II colleges

Division III

1. Printed Materials – Anytime
2. Telephone Calls – No limit how many, or when, or by who
3. Off Campus Contact – A college coach may begin to have contact with you and your parents/legal guardians off the college's campus after your Jr. year
4. Unofficial Visits – Unlimited
5. Official Visits – You may make official visits starting the opening day of classes your senior year
6. You may make only one official visit per college, to unlimited colleges (Div. III)

Differences in Divisions

Division IA
Division IAA
Division IIA
Division III

Division I

1. Must sponsor at least seven sports for men and seven for women (or six for men and eight for women) with two team sports for each gender
2. Div. I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletics program, and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Div. I school cannot exceed
3. I-A football schools are usually fairly elaborate programs. Div. I-A teams have to meet minimum attendance requirements (17,000 people in attendance per home game, OR 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years or, 30,000 permanent seats in their stadium and average 17,000 per home game or 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years OR, be in a member conference in which at least six conference members sponsor football or more than half of football schools meet attendance criterion.
4. Total of 85 scholarships allowed per institution.
5. **There are no partial scholarships in Div. I football.**
6. **Student Athletes cannot receive other financial support (Grants/Scholarships)**
7. Only allowed 20 Walk On athletes/Preferred Walk On

Division IAA

1. Similar attendance requirements as Division IA
2. Only allowed 63 total scholarships by the NCAA

Division II

1. Attendances and School Revenue are used to determine Division II status.
2. Division II Universities are allowed 36 total scholarships, but...
3. Division II schools can "Break Up" their scholarships.
4. Students are eligible to qualify for other aid. (Federal/Other)

Division III

1. Division III Universities provide no Athletic Scholarships or special opportunities for Student Athletes.
2. This is the purest form of College Athletics.
3. Grant and Aid packets determined through academics, testing, and need.

Junior Colleges

1. Junior colleges fall into a category similar to that of Division II schools, in that they are able to Break Up scholarships as they see fit.

What does all of this Mean?

1. Start Preparing Realistically
 - First and Foremost a “Student Athlete”
 - Must begin thinking about tomorrow, today.
 - Keep records of Academic Info Current
 - Be thinking what and where is a place of interest for me, my child
2. Work, Work, Work...
 - Academically...What you do today effects what you can do tomorrow.
 - Athletically...Strength, there is no substitute for it, and no excuse for the lack of it. (You determine your opportunity.)
 - Socially...Be Involved. Multitask.
3. Be Realistic
 - 51,000 Football players...400 received Division I scholarships.
 - Everyone will not get a scholarship. (Media Guides)
 - Not to discourage, but to be honest. We want you to enjoy this time and learn lessons that will apply to the rest of your life.
 - Control What you can Control
 1. Academics
 2. Strength Training
 3. ATTITUDE
 4. Being The Best Person You Can Be.

Number of Scholarships Men’s Sports Division I

- Football – 85
- Basketball – 13
- Baseball – 11.7
- Cross Country/Track and Field – 12.6
- Golf – 4.5
- Soccer – 9.9
- Swimming – 9.9
- Tennis – 4.5
- Wrestling – 9.9

Number of Scholarships Women's Sports Division I

- Basketball – 13
- Cross Country/Track and Field – 18
- Golf – 6
- Soccer – 12
- Softball – 12
- Swimming – 14
- Tennis – 8
- Volleyball – 12

FAFSA

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Student Aid. Anyone who is planning on attending college is to fill out a form. Forms are available in the counselor's office or on the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is very important, because federal student aid is given out on a first come-first served basis. The earliest aid can be applied for is January 1, and the latest date is June 30.

What Do the Coaches Do For You?

1. We make an individual highlight video to be shown to all interested coaches.
2. We fill out all questionnaires that come from colleges and recruiting services.
3. We e-mail a list of all prospects to every college in the country.
4. We provide SAT, ACT, and financial aid information and deadlines.
5. We promote you and this team in any way possible.
6. We push you to become the best person, student, and athlete you can be!

What Can You Do to Help Yourself?

1. Be organized and have a plan. Research colleges that interest you.
2. Make your grades! Do as good as you possibly can in all your classes.
3. Have a great off-season. Improve as much as possible on all your tests.
4. Play great next year and help us have a great season! The further we go in the playoffs, the more exposure you will get.
5. Sign up to take the tests.
6. Let us know when you get your scores in.
7. Be realistic in your expectations.
8. Keep the TEAM first and remember that the more success we have as a Team, the more rewards there are for everyone.
9. Don't get caught up with things you cannot control.

What to Ask

Athletics

What positions will I play on your team?

- It's not always obvious.
- Most coaches want to be flexible so that you are not disappointed.

Describe the other players competing at the same position.

- If there is a former high-school All-American at that position, you may want to take that into consideration.
- This will give you clues as to what year you might be a starter.

Can I “redshirt” my first year?

- Find out how common it is to redshirt and how that will affect graduation.
- Does the school redshirt you if you are injured?

What are the physical requirements each year?

- Philosophies of strength and conditioning vary by institution.
- You may be required to maintain a certain weight.

How would you best describe your coaching style?

- Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline.
- You need to know if a coach's teaching style does not match your learning style.

What is the game plan?

- Find out what kind of offense and defense is employed.
- Will you be asked to make a position change?

When does the Head Coach's contract end?

- Don't make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school.
- If the coach is losing and the contract ends in two years, you may have a new coach.

Academics

How good is the department in my major?

- Smaller colleges can have very highly rated departments.
- A team's reputation is only one variable to consider.

What percentage of players on scholarships graduate in four years?

- This will tell you about the quality of their commitment to academics.
- The team's grade-point average is a good indicator of the coach's commitment to academics.

College Life: Describe the typical class size.

- At larger schools, classes are likely to be larger and taught by teaching assistants.
- Average class size is important to the amount of attention you receive.

Describe in detail your academic support program. For example: Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, faculty cooperation.

- This is imperative for marginal students.
- Find a college that will take the 3.000 students and help them get a 3.500 GPA.

Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.

- This will give you a good indication of how much time is spent in class, practice, studying and traveling.
- It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

What are the residence halls like?

- Make sure that you would feel comfortable in study areas, community bathrooms and laundry facilities.
- Number of students in a room and coed dorms are other variables to consider.

Will I be required to live on campus throughout my participation?

- If the answer is yes, ask whether there are exceptions.
- Apartment living may be better than dorm living.

Financial Aid

How much financial aid is available for summer school?

- There is no guarantee. Get a firm commitment.
- You may need to lighten your normal load and go to summer school in order to graduate in four years. You can take graduate courses and maintain your eligibility.

What are the details of financial aid at your institution?

- What does my scholarship cover?
- What can I receive in addition to the scholarship and how do I get more aid?

How long does my scholarship last?

- Most people think a “full ride” is good for four years.
- Financial aid is available on a one-year renewable basis.

If I’m injured, what happens to my financial aid?

- A grant-in-aid is not guaranteed past a one-year period even for injuries.
- It is important to know if a school has a commitment to assist student-athletes for more than a year after they have been injured.

What are my opportunities for employment while I’m a student?

- Find out if you can be employed in-season, out-of-season or during vacation periods.

Useful Websites

Rivals.com

- Has links to every college in the country that plays football, from Division I to III, NAIA, and Junior Colleges.

Collegequest.com

- SAT, ACT tips and practice tests, research and compare Colleges, apply online, financial aid and scholarships.

Collegeboard.com

- The official SAT site.

ACT.org

- The official ACT site.

Wiredscholar.com

- List several available scholarships

Applytexas.com

- Apply to all Texas public schools with one application form.

C3apply.org

- Apply to more than 450 colleges and tips.

Fastweb.com

- Online scholarship search.

These are just a few of the many websites available.