

Road Map to Playing College Sports



Marcy Hutton
Mississippi College
Compliance Office



Agenda

🎯 Initial Eligibility Standards

- NCAA Division I
- NCAA Division II
- NCAA Division III
- NAIA
- NJCAA

🎯 Recruiting 101

🎯 Resources

Division I

Initial Eligibility Standards

- 🎯 Possible Outcomes
 - Qualifier
 - Academic Redshirt
- 🎯 Covid-19 Automatic Waiver
- 🎯 Questions



Initial Eligibility Standards

NCAA Division I

Academic Requirements

There are 2 possible Academic Outcomes

- 1. Qualifier - Eligible for Athletic Aid, Practice and Competition in their first year of full-time enrollment**
- 2. Academic Redshirt - Eligible for Athletic Aid and Practice in their first year of full-time enrollment.**

Qualifier

- Eligible for athletic aid, practice and competition during first year of residence if:
 - Meet the 16 NCAA core course requirements in appropriate areas:



(Eligibilitycenter.org/courselist)

- Complete 10 of 16 core courses before senior year (7th semester) of high school (10/7)

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
Complete 10 of the 16 courses BEFORE 7 th semester							

- 7 of the 10 core courses must be in English, math or natural/physical science
- Earn a minimum 2.3 GPA
- Submit final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center

TEST SCORES

In January 2023, NCAA Division I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial eligibility requirements. However, check with the NCAA school that you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Academic Redshirt

Eligible for athletic aid and practice, but NOT competition.

- **Meet the 16 NCAA core course requirements in the appropriate areas.**
- **Earn a minimum 2.0 GPA**
- **Submit final transcript with proof of graduation to eligibility center**

COVID 19

Automatic Waiver Criteria for Division I Initial Enrollment in 23-24

Qualifier

- 16 core courses in required subject area
(10 core courses/before 7th sem.)
- ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA, and
- Proof of graduation

Early Academic Qualifier

Pre-7th Semester:

- 14 core courses in required subject area
- ≥ 3.000 core-course GPA

Academic Redshirt

- 16 core-courses in required subject area
- ≥ 2.000 core course GPA
- Proof of graduation

What if a PSA does not meet either set of requirements?

If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet either the Qualifier or Academic Redshirt requirements, he/she is considered a non-qualifier.

Non-Qualifiers:

- Cannot receive athletic aid,
- Cannot practice, and
- Cannot compete during first year of enrollment



Division II

Initial Eligibility Standards

- Possible Outcomes
 - Qualifier
 - Partial Qualifier
- Covid-19 Automatic Waiver
- Questions



Initial Eligibility Standards

NCAA Division II

Academic Requirements

There are 2 possible Academic Outcomes

- 1. Qualifier - Eligible for Athletic Aid, Practice and Competition in their first year of full-time enrollment**
- 2. Partial Qualifier - Eligible for Athletic Aid and Practice in their first year of full-time enrollment.**

Initial Eligibility Standards

NCAA Division II

Qualifier

Eligible for Athletic Aid, Practice and Competition in their first year of full-time enrollment

- **Meet the 16 NCAA core course requirements in the appropriate areas;**



- **Earn a minimum 2.2 GPA**
- **Submit transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center**

TEST SCORES

In January 2023, NCAA Division I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial eligibility requirements. However, check with the NCAA school that you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Initial Eligibility Standards

NCAA Division II

Partial Qualifier

Student-athletes who do NOT meet Division II Qualifier standards will be deemed a Partial Qualifier.

Partial Qualifier: Eligible for Athletic Aid and Practice but may NOT compete during their first year of full-time enrollment at a DII school.

COVID 19

Automatic Waiver Criteria for Division II Initial Enrollment in 22-23 or 23-24

Qualifier

- 16 core courses in required subject area
- ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA
- Proof of graduation

Early Academic Qualifier

Pre-7th Semester:

- 14 core courses in required subject area
- ≥ 2.500 core-course GPA

Academic Redshirt

- N/A

Division III

Initial Eligibility Standards

- No uniform set of eligibility requirements for DIII schools
- Eligibility for admission, financial aid, practice and competition is determined by the college or university.
- DIII schools DO NOT require registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center (unless you're an international student)



NAIA

Initial Eligibility Standards



NAIA Academic Requirements

In order to practice, compete and receive athletic aid at an NAIA institution, a PSA must

- **Graduate from high school OR be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolled institution; AND**
- **Must graduate with a 2.3+ OR meet two of the three requirements:**

Test Score Requirement

Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT

HS GPA Requirement

Achieve a minimum overall HS GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

Class Rank Requirement

Graduate in the top half of your HS class

NJCAA

Academic Requirements

In order to meet NJCAA academic eligibility requirements, a freshman student-athlete must:

- **Graduate from high school; OR**
- **Receive a GED that has been authorized by a state-recognized education agency or a regional association or approved by the NJCAA National Office**



Recruiting 101

The background features a large blue shape in the upper left, a white shape in the upper right, and a green shape in the lower left. Three orange lines are drawn across the bottom left, overlapping the green shape.

Telephone Calls

Division I:

- College coach can make telephone calls beginning September 1 of a PSA's junior year.

Division II:

- College coach can make unlimited calls beginning June 15 before PSA's junior year.

Division III:

- No limit on number of calls or when they can be made by the college coach.

Social Media

Division I:

- A PSA may begin receiving electronic correspondence September 1 of their junior year.

Division II:

- A PSA may begin receiving electronic correspondence June 15 before their junior year.

**** Correspondence must be private between PSA and coach until a written commitment (not verbal) has been made****

Campus Visits

Official

- Expenses paid by institution
- Limited to 48 hours on campus
- PSA - Maximum five official visits in Div. I, unlimited in Div. II
- PSA Limit one per school
- Cannot happen until Sept. 1 of junior year in Div. I
- Cannot happen until June 15 before junior year in Div. II
- Must register with EC and provide institution with transcript before visiting

Unofficial

- Expenses paid by PSA
- Unlimited number of visits
- Cannot happen until Sept. 1 of junior year in Div. I
- Can take place at any age (Div. II & III)
- CANNOT take place during a dead period

Agents

A student-athlete becomes ineligible if he or she agrees, or has ever agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his/her ATHLETIC ability in their respective sport.

Note: This rule also applies to PSA's who agree (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent in the future.

Extra Benefits

A potential student-athlete participating in the following activities or receipt of non-permissible benefits will jeopardize the individual's athletics eligibility for intercollegiate participation.

Non-Permissible Benefits include, but are NOT limited to:

- cash or equivalent
- gift certificates
- country club, sports club or healthplex memberships
- gifts of clothing, equipment or jewelry
- Name, Image, and Likeness Agreement based on athletic participation or achievement (incentives for enrollment decisions)

Note: If it feels like a PSA is being bribed to attend a certain institution, then it is probably a violation.

Signing an NLI

By signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI), a PSA is agreeing to attend a Division I or Division II institution for one academic year.

- Not required for a PSA to receive athletic aid
- Not required for a PSA to participate in their sport
- Ends the recruiting process

Note: If a PSA signs an NLI with one school but attends a different school, the PSA could lose one full year of eligibility.

Signing Day Activities:

Division I & II:

A coach may not send PSA any gear to be displayed while he/she signs (ex. hats, jerseys, banners, etc.).

A coach may not be present when a PSA signs an NLI.

An institution will announce the PSA's signing once they have received his/her NLI.

Note: These rules are different for NAIA and NJCAA.

Sport(s)	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
DI Basketball (Early Period)	Nov 8, 2023	Nov 15, 2023
DI Basketball (Regular Period)	Apr 17, 2024	May 15, 2024
DI Football (Early Period)	Dec 20, 2023	Dec 22, 2023
DI and DII Football (midyear JC Trancer)	Dec 20, 2023	Jan 15, 2024
DI and DII Football (Regular Period)	Feb 7, 2024	Div. I: April 1, 2024 Div. II: Aug 1, 2024
All other DI and DII Sports	November 8, 2023	Aug 1, 2024



Resources

Web Resources

- Eligibilitycenter.org - for college bound student-athletes to complete their registration and check their status with the NCAA Eligibility Center
- NCAA.org - under "Student-Athletes" click on "Want to Play College Sports?"
- Actstudents.org - ACT
- Collegeboard.com - SAT
- Nationalletter.org - NLI



STUDENT-ATHLETES



WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?

The advantages of competing in college sports are both immediate and lifelong. Participating in college sports provides opportunities to learn, compete and succeed. Student-athletes receive top-notch academic support, quality medical care and regular access to outstanding coaching, facilities and equipment. Student-athletes as a group graduate at higher rates than their peers in the general student body and feel better prepared for life after college.

College-bound student-athletes preparing to enroll in a Division I or II school need to [register with the NCAA Eligibility Center](#) to ensure they have met amateurism standards and are academically prepared for college coursework. International college-bound student-athletes planning to enroll at a Division III school must also receive an amateurism-only certification from the Eligibility Center.

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for **all** student-athletes who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements. For more information, [click here](#).



Eligibility Center

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Login](#)

NOT SURE WHICH DIVISION YOUR
SCHOOL IS IN?

[Help](#) [High School Administrators](#)
Learn more or search NCAA schools.

Want to Compete at an NCAA School?

Create the Eligibility Center account that's right for you!

If you want to compete in NCAA sports, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Plan to register before starting your freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school). The information below will help guide you through the registration process.

To get started, review the three account options and choose the one that's right for you! You'll only need to create one account with the Eligibility Center. Starting with the free Profile Page is best practice, as you can transition it later to the Certification account needed for your circumstances.

Option 1:
Free Profile Page Account

Who should create this account?

Option 2:
Amateurism-Only Certification Account

Who should create this account?

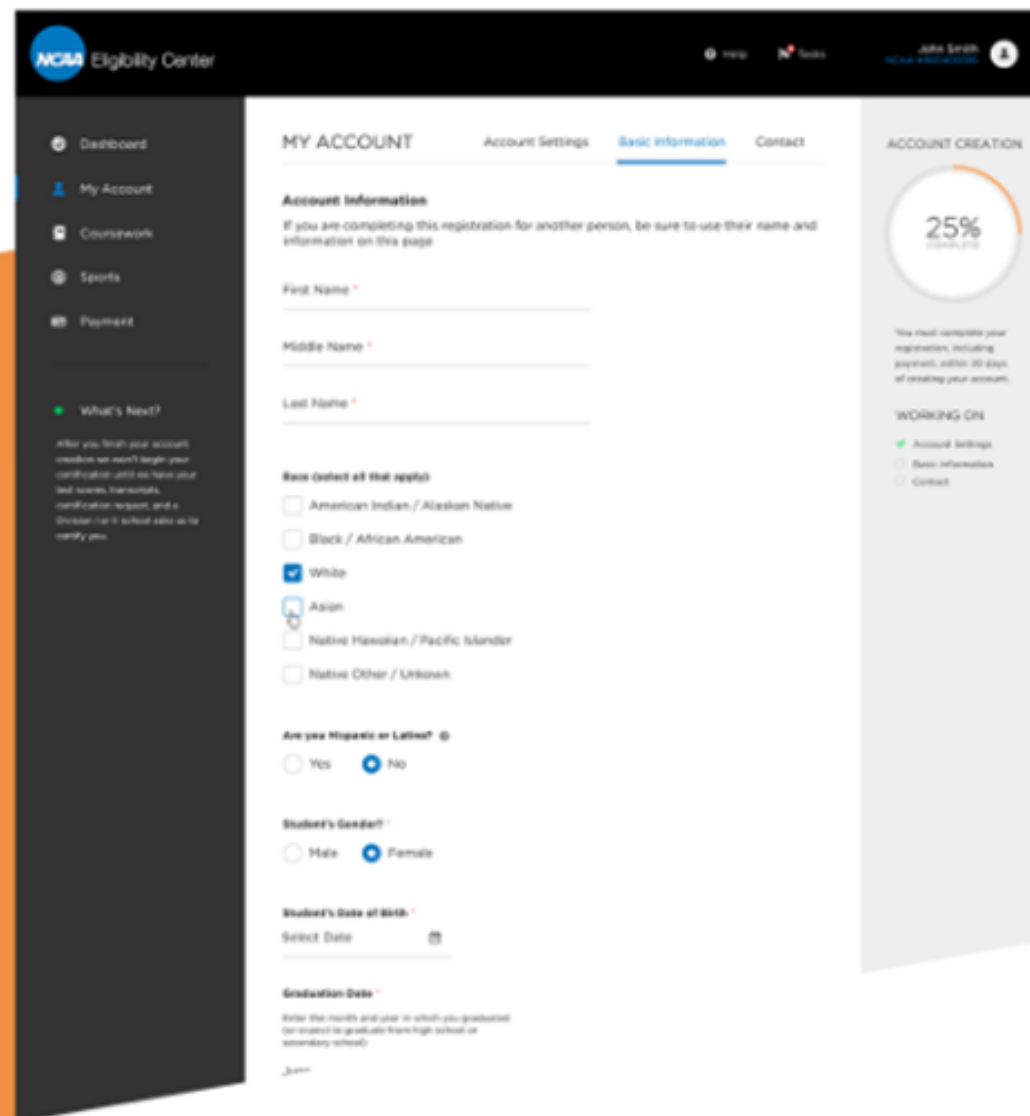
Option 3
Academic and Amateurism Certification Account

Who should create this account?

Already have an NCAA account?

If unsure, please contact Customer Service at 877-262-1492 for assistance, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

[Click to Log In](#)



The screenshot shows the 'MY ACCOUNT' page with the 'Basic Information' tab selected. The page includes a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, My Account, Coursework, Sports, Payment, and What's Next. The main content area contains the 'ACCOUNT CREATION' progress bar at 25% and the 'WORKING ON' section with checkboxes for Account Settings, Basic Information, and Contact. The 'Basic Information' section includes fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Race (with options: American Indian / Alaskan Native, Black / African American, White, Asian, Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, Native Other / Unknown), Are you Hispanic or Latino?, Student's Gender, Student's Date of Birth, and Graduation Date.

MY ACCOUNT Account Settings Basic Information Contact

Account Information
If you are completing this registration for another person, be sure to use their name and information on this page.

First Name *

Middle Name *

Last Name *

Race (Select all that apply)

☐ American Indian / Alaskan Native

☐ Black / African American

☒ White

☐ Asian

☐ Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander

☐ Native Other / Unknown

Are you Hispanic or Latino? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Student's Gender ☐ Male ☒ Female

Student's Date of Birth *

Select Date

Graduation Date *

Enter the month and year in which you graduated (or expect to graduate from high school or secondary school).

2011

MAKE REGISTRATION EASY.

Use [this checklist](#) to make sure you have all required information ready to enter.

Search our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about becoming an NCAA student-athlete.

NCAA.ORG



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[About Us](#)

[Student-Athletes](#)

[Division I](#)

[Division II](#)

[Division III](#)

[My Apps](#)

Future

[Want to Play College Sports?](#)

[The Value of College Sports](#)

[Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete](#)

[National Letter of Intent](#)

[NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

Current

[Remaining Eligible](#)

[Staying on Track to Graduate](#)

[Want to Transfer?](#)

[Student-Athlete Voice](#)

[Leadership Development Programs and Resources](#)

Former

[After the Game](#)

[Career Center](#)

[Life After the Game](#)

[Playing it Forward](#)

[Health and Wellness](#)

[Connect to Campus](#)

Other Resources

- [PlayNAIA.org](https://playnaia.org) - information for prospective student, parents, high school and club coaches about NAIA schools, sports and eligibility determination.
- [NAIA.org](https://naia.org) - provides information on NAIA rules and eligibility requirements.
- [NJCAA.org/eligibility](https://njcaa.org/eligibility) - provides information on junior college rules and eligibility requirements.



Questions?

Marcy Hutton

Mississippi College

Athletics

mhutton@mc.edu