NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements

*(Beginning August 1, 2016)*
Evolution of Initial Eligibility

1973: 2.000 Minimum GPA.

1986: 700 SAT or 15 ACT, 11 core courses with core GPA of 2.000.

1995: 700 SAT or 17 ACT, 13 core courses, sliding scale of GPA and test score (DI).

1996: SAT re-centered, 820 minimum DI and DII, with 68 sum ACT.

2003: 14 core courses, amended sliding scale, elimination of partial qualifiers (DI);
Evolution of Initial Eligibility

2005: 14 core courses (DII).

2008: 16 core courses (DI).

2013: 16 core courses (DII).

2016: DI GPA and sliding scale change, addition of course progression rules.

2018: DII GPA and addition of sliding scale.
## Division I Sliding Scale
(Abbreviated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT (critical reading/math only)</th>
<th>ACT Sum</th>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT (critical reading/math only)</th>
<th>ACT Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.550 &amp; above</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2.700</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.500</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2.600</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.400</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2.500</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2.400</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.200</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2.300</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.100</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>49</td>
<td><strong>2.299</strong></td>
<td><strong>910</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>52</td>
<td><strong>2.200</strong></td>
<td><strong>940</strong></td>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.900</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>54</td>
<td><strong>2.100</strong></td>
<td><strong>980</strong></td>
<td><strong>83</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.800</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>57</td>
<td><strong>2.000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1020</strong></td>
<td><strong>86</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.
There are **new** requirements for college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after **August 1, 2016**.
Summary of Changes

- Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 required for competition;
- Ten core courses required before beginning of senior year for competition; and
- Slight changes in GPA/test score index (sliding scale).

The following slides explain these changes in further detail.
For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. **Full qualifier** = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. **Academic redshirt** = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. **Nonqualifier** = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.
Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive athletics aid, practice and compete their first year:

- 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English;
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.

- Minimum required GPA:
  - Minimum GPA of 2.300 required for competition in those 16 core courses.

- Graduate from high school.
NCAA Division I Full Qualifier:
Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

- Core-course progression.
  - Must complete 10 core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year).
  - Of the 10 core courses completed, seven must be in the area of English, math, or science.
  - These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of core-course GPA calculation.
    - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.
### Division I Sliding Scale Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT (critical reading/math only)</th>
<th>ACT Sum</th>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT (critical reading/math only)</th>
<th>ACT Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.725</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2.725</td>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>740-750</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2.675</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.450</td>
<td>840-850</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.450</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.425</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.425</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.150</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2.150</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.125</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2.125</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.
Academic Redshirt: Requirements for Scholarship and Practice.

- 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English,
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher,
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered by any school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
- Minimum required GPA.
  - Minimum GPA of 2.000-2.299 in 16 core courses.
- Sliding scale.
  - Minimum ACT sum or SAT score (critical reading/math only) that matches the 16 core-course GPA.
Student-athletes who fail to meet the required 10 core courses prior to the start of the seventh semester (seven of which must be in English, math, or natural or physical science), will be allowed to retake core courses in the seventh or eighth semester, which will be used in their academic certification for the purpose of meeting the academic redshirt requirements.
If a college-bound student-athlete meets these requirements, he/she can receive an athletics scholarship during his/her first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.

After the first term is complete, the student-athlete must be academically successful (successfully completing nine semester hours or eight quarter hours in each applicable term) at his/her college or university to continue to practice for the remainder of the year.
What If A Student Does Not Meet Either Set of Requirements?

If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet either set of requirements, he/she is a nonqualifier.

A nonqualifier:
- Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.
- Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.
Nontraditional Courses

- Internet, correspondence, independent study, individualized instruction, credit recovery.
- Must meet core-course definition.
- Defined timeframe for completion (minimum/maximum).
- Coursework made available for review.
  - Suggests learning management system.
Nontraditional Courses

- Must have access and interaction between student and teacher for teaching, evaluating and providing assistance.
  - “Help Desk” model, where students only interact when they have questions does **not** meet this definition.
  - Think about role of teacher:
    - The teacher provides instruction, such as setting context, explaining, noting important ideas or concepts;
    - The teacher does not wait for students to ask questions; and
    - The teacher takes an active role, not a passive one.
Nontraditional Courses

Important Notes:

- Courses must academically prepare students to be successful in credit bearing, four-year college or university level courses without the need for remediation.
- Comparable in rigor and content.
- Combination of rigorous assessments.
- Courses must include instruction; cannot be students simply working on their own.
- Be as transparent as possible on transcripts.
  - Helps our certification staff process cases efficiently.
  - Better for your students.
Some Common Acronyms

  - Not to be confused with NAIA or NJCAA.
- EC: NCAA Eligibility Center (NOT the clearinghouse).
- PSA: Prospective Student-Athlete.
  - Students not yet enrolled full time in college, also referred to as college-bound student-athletes.
- HST: High school transcript.
- TS: Test score.
- POG: Proof of Graduation.
- IRL: Institutional Request List.
  - Means through which a college/university communicates interest in a college-bound student-athlete.
  - Signed contract that binds a college-bound student-athlete to a specific college/university for one academic year.
The Certification Process

First, some context:
- Approximately 180,000 registrants per year.
- Approximately 85,000 final certifications performed per year.
- Finite number of freshman roster spots available.
  - (E.g., over 281,000 senior boys and girls play basketball. There are only about 9,500 freshman roster spots in all three NCAA divisions. That is about 3.3 percent.)
The Certification Process

- Student registers in sophomore year.
- Student takes the ACT and/or SAT junior year (using score recipient code 9999).
- At the end of the junior year, student asks the high school to send his/her high school transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- If the student is on an active IRL, the NCAA Eligibility Center will perform a preliminary certification using the student’s six-semester transcript.
  - It is helpful to know where the student is academically; as it can help guide future course selection and/or academic effort.
- On/after April 1 of the student’s senior year, he/she can request a final amateurism certification.
Welcome to the NCAA Eligibility Center High School Portal

Thank you for working with us to help ensure your student-athletes are prepared for the rigors they will face, which means the relationship between your high school and the Eligibility Center is very important.

We recognize that your time is valuable, and appreciate your willingness to help. This is important because the relationship between your high school and the Eligibility Center affects the eligibility status of student-athletes and their ability to compete.

Once you have logged in to the system, you will be able to do the following:

- Submit core course changes (new titles, old titles, title changes) for your school;
- Update your school's Eligibility Center contact information;
- Run reports on students from your high school who have registered with the Eligibility Center;
- Submit fee waiver verification for eligible students.

Please Click here to log in as a High School.

Please Click here to log in as a District.

- Please Click here to subscribe to the NCAA Eligibility Center Newsletter.
Keep your List of NCAA Courses updated. Do not register students in courses that are not on your school’s List of NCAA Courses.

- Assumptions can be dangerous.

Check both sides of your school’s list: approved and denied courses.

Loop in other individuals that can help.

- Athletics personnel (AD, coaches);
- Interested/involved parents; and
- Local NCAA college/university staff.

Use resources to empower others.

- Do not give them fish, teach them to fish.
What is the Student’s Role

• The student is solely responsible for academic performance.
• You guide students in their course selection, but they must do the work.
• It is good preparation for college and for life.
Role of the High School

- Update List of NCAA Courses annually (or whenever curriculum changes).
  - Update as soon as courses have been approved by your board, and before you register students in courses.
- Send transcripts (through e-transcript providers) for all registered students.
  - At end of academic year, after graduation for registered juniors and graduated seniors.
  - One-off transcripts may be required for students who register late (e.g., during senior year).
- Guide college-bound student-athletes to take college-prep courses.
What your Role is not...

- **Who should register and who should not.**
  - Family decision.
  - Coaches should advise.
- **How can college-bound student-athletes get noticed/recruited?**
  - Family’s role.
  - Coach’s role.
- **What are the recruiting rules?**
  - NCAA member school’s responsibility.
  - Coach can advise.
- **How can a college-bound student-athlete “get eligible?”**
  - It is at least a four-year process (ninth grade counts; no “quick fixes”).
  - The student owns academic decisions, progress and performance.
Resources

- Resources tab on the NCAA Eligibility Center website (www.eligibilitycenter.org).
- Initial-Eligibility Resource Index.
- Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- Quick Reference Guide.
- Initial Eligibility Brochure.
Resources

NCAA Initial Eligibility Online Course

www.nfhslearn.com
Resources

www.2point3.org