



College-Bound
Student Athletes

- What aspiring college athletes need to know:
 - What is the NCAA and NAIA?
 - What is the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Center?
 - High School Timeline
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 - Sports Participation
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College-Bound Athletes





What is the NCAA & NAIA?



National Collegiate Athletic Association

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



NCAA vs. NAIA



What is the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Center?





DIVISION I OR II

You need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school.

You need to create a Certification Account to make official visits to Divisions I and II schools or to sign a National Letter of Intent. \$100 fee.

DIVISION III OR UNDECIDED

Create a **free** Profile Page if you plan to compete at a Division III school or are not yet sure where you want to compete.



NAIA Eligibility Center

PlayNAIA.org is the official clearinghouse for NAIA eligibility. Every student-athlete must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center to play sports at an NAIA college or university. \$100 fee.

Eligibility Center





High School Timeline

GRADE 9: PLAN

- Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades possible.
- Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.
- Sign up for a free Profile Page at eligibilitycenter.org for information on NCAA requirements and or register with the NAIA eligibility center at PlayNAIA.org.

High School Timeline



GRADE 10 PLAN

- If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.
- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org and or and or register with the NAIA eligibility center at PlayNAIA.org.
- Monitor your Eligibility Center account for next steps.

High School Timeline



GRADE 11 PLAN

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses and graduate on time with your class.
- Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999 or NAIA Eligibility using code 9876.
- Ensure your sports participation information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.

High School Timeline



GRADE 12 PLAN

- ☐ Complete your final NCAA-approved core courses as you prepare for graduation.
- ☐ Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code 9999 or NAIA Eligibility using code 9876.
- ☐ Request your final amateurism certification in your Certification Account at eligibilitycenter.org
- ☐ After you graduate, ask the school registrar to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your NCAA Eligibility Center account.

High School Timeline





Initial Eligibility Standards

Graduation vs. College vs. NCAA Requirements

	Dist. 203 Graduation Requirements	Average College Admission Requirements*	NCAA Eligibility (Div. 1) Requirements
Communication Arts	4.0	4.0	4.0~
Mathematics	3.0	4.0 <i>Minimum of Algebra 2</i>	3.0~ <i>Algebra 1 or Higher</i>
Science	2.0	3.0 - 4.0* <i>Minimum of Biology & Chemistry</i>	2.0~ <i>Must include a Lab Science</i>
Social Studies American Government (0.5) US History (1.0) Elective (1.0)	2.5	3.0 - 4.0*	2.0
Physical Education Physical Education (3.5) Health (0.5)	4.0	Varies*	N/A
Career & Technical Ed (CTE)	1.0	Varies*	N/A
Fine Arts	0.5	1.0*	N/A
Consumer Education	0.5	Varies*	N/A
Foreign Language	0.0	2.0*	N/A~
Electives	3.5	Varies*	4.0 <i>Additional courses, including: Comm Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, or Foreign Language</i>

Initial Eligibility Standards





DIVISION I: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY
ACADEMIC [REQUIREMENTS](#)
[click here](#)



DIVISION II: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY
ACADEMIC [REQUIREMENTS](#)
[click here](#)



DIVISION III: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY
ACADEMIC [REQUIREMENTS](#)
[click here](#)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



NAIA: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY
ACADEMIC [REQUIREMENTS](#)
[click here](#)

Initial Eligibility Standards





Standardized Test Score Information

Do I need to submit a standardized test score to the NCAA?

- As of January 2023, standardized test scores are not required for **all** student-athletes who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023. During the 2023 NCAA Convention, **Divisions I and II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores for these students.
- However, students should check with the NCAA school they plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Test Score Information





Sports Participation

AMATEURISM

- ▶ In general, amateurism requirements do not allow:
 - ▶ Contracts with professional teams.
 - ▶ Salary for participating in athletics.
 - ▶ Prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
 - ▶ Play with professionals.
 - ▶ Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
 - ▶ Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
 - ▶ Agreement to be represented by an agent.
 - ▶ Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.

Sports Participation



NIL Deal - Illinois

In 2023, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) approved a policy that allows high school athletes to earn money for their name, image, and likeness (NIL). However, there are some limitations:

- Athletes can't use the IHSA's name, logos, or trademarks when receiving compensation.
- They can't imply that the IHSA approves of the NIL activity.
- They can't participate in NIL activities during IHSA events.
- The compensation can't exceed \$75. This means that any clothing or meals athletes receive as a benefit of their NIL must cost less than \$75.

Sports Participation





Resources

RESOURCES

- <https://play.mynaia.org/>
- <https://www.naia.org/landing/index>
- eligibilitycenter.org
- [NCAA Initial-Eligibility Brochure](#)
- ncaa.org/playcollegesports
- [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)

Resources



- [NCompass](#)
Dist. 203 Postsecondary Planning Guide
- [In-School College Visits](#)
Instructions on how students can attend in-school college visits
 - [Upcoming College Visits](#) (Calendar for the next week)
 - [Upcoming College Visits](#) (Alpha list of ALL upcoming visits)
- [On-Campus College Visit Tips](#)
Tips for students planning to visit college campuses

Additional Resources

