



Let's Get Started...

Becoming a U.S. Collegiate Athlete

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association (ncaa.org)

Division I and Division 2 (No sports scholarships in Division 3)

Eligibility Center (eligibilitycenter.org) resources:

- PDFs with [Information for Canadians](#)
- The NCAA [Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete](#)
- Directory of schools with your sport: web3.ncaa.org/directory/

NAIA: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (PlayNAIA.org)

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

NJCAA: National Junior College Athletic Association

Eligibility Center at njcaa.org/play

Contact your local
EducationUSA adviser at
[educationusacanada.ca/
contact-us](http://educationusacanada.ca/contact-us)

NCAA Division 1 Eligibility

You must meet eligibility standards in two categories:

- Amateurism ([review NCAA.org for more information](#))
- Academic minimum of 2.3 GPA in [16 Core Courses](#)
- Not required: Official SAT or ACT scores

Fee: \$90 USD (fee waiver available)

D1 Core Courses

English - 4 units

Math - 3 units

Science - 2 units

English, Math, or Science - 1 unit

Social Science - 2 units

Additional courses - 4 units

NCAA Division 2 Eligibility

You must meet eligibility standards in two categories:

- Amateurism ([review NCAA.org for more information](#))
- Academic minimum of 2.2 GPA in [16 Core Courses](#)
- Not required: Official SAT or ACT scores

Fee: \$90 USD (fee waiver available)

D2 Core Courses

English - 3 units

Math - 2 units

Science - 2 units

English, Math, or Science - 3 unit

Social Science - 2 units

Additional courses - 4 units

NCAA Division 3 Eligibility

You must create an eligibility account to meet the following standard:

- Amateurism ([review NCAA.org for more information](#))
- Not required: 16 core courses or official SAT/ACT scores

Fee: \$70 USD (fee waiver available)

D3 fact

75% of D3 athletes receive some form of merit or need-based scholarship.



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NAIA Eligibility

Graduate with a 2.3+ GPA or meet two out of the following three academic requirements:

- Minimum overall high school GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT
- Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class

Fee: \$100 USD

NAIA fact

More than 77,000 student-athletes compete in 28 NAIA sports.

Junior College (JUCO)

Two-year colleges are called community colleges or junior colleges.

NJCAA Eligibility:

- Graduate high school
- Remain an amateur athlete

JUCO athletes can transfer to and compete in the [NCAA](#) or NAIA

JUCO options

Has scholarships:

- NJCAA D1 and D2

No scholarships:

- NJCAA D3
- CCCAA (California)
- NWAC (Northwest)

NCAA recruitment timeline

Grade 9 / Secondary 3

Meet with your guidance counsellor to plan to meet academic eligibility requirements

Build an online player profile on a website or social media and update it regularly

Grade 10 / Secondary 4

Complete Recruitment Questionnaires for teams you are interested in

June 15: For most sports, coaches may begin recruiting athletes directly (phone, email)

Grade 11 / Secondary 5

Aug 1: May go on both unofficial and official visits

Grade 12 / CEGEP

Apply to your top choice colleges or universities

Nov (D1 and D2): National Letter of Intent signing period begins

Apr 1: Request final amateurism certificate

Submit final transcripts to the eligibility center

Receive final eligibility assessment from the eligibility center