



# Initial Eligibility

# NCAA

- 1300 member institutions
- Approximately 400,000 student-athletes compete for NCAA championships
- Divided into three divisions

# NCAA Eligibility Center

The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for determining the eligibility of every prospective student-athlete in NCAA Divisions I and II using the following two prongs:

- Academic Certification

Does the student meet the legislated minimum academic requirements?

- Amateurism Certification

Has the student competed professionally in their sport?

# Objectives

For this presentation:

- Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics
  - Qualifier/Full Qualifier
  - Partial-Qualifier/ Academic Redshirt
  - Non-Qualifier
- Initial-Eligibility Overview: Amateurism
- Role of the High School
- Role of the High School Counselors
- Questions

# Academic Eligibility

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- **Qualifier**

- *Practice and compete during first year of college*
- *Receive athletics scholarship during first year of college*
- *Can play four seasons in your sport if you maintain eligibility*

- **Non-Qualifier**

- *Cannot practice OR compete during first year of college*
- *Cannot receive athletics scholarship during first year of college*
- *Can play three seasons in your sport if you maintain eligibility*

# Academic Eligibility (NEW)

## Beginning August 1, 2016

### ■ Full Qualifier

- May receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice and compete in the first year of enrollment at the Division I college or university

### ■ Academic Redshirt

- A college-bound student-athlete may receive athletics aid (scholarship) in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term but may NOT compete in the first year of enrollment. After the first term is complete, student-athlete may continue to practice if academically successful

### ■ Non-qualifier

- May not receive athletics aid (scholarship), cannot practice and cannot compete in the first year of enrollment

# NCAA Division I Requirements

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- Graduate from high school
- Successfully complete 16 Core Courses
- Have a core course GPA in combination with a SAT or ACT test score
- *Receive Amateurism Certification*

# NCAA Core Course Requirements

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- 16 core academic courses required:
  - 4 years of English
  - 3 years of Math (Algebra I and higher)
  - 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (at least one lab)
  - 1 year of Additional English, Math, or Science
  - 2 years of Social Science
  - 4 years of additional academic courses  
(foreign language, philosophy or nondoctrinal religion)



# NCAA Core Course Requirements (NEW)

## ■ Full Qualifier

- Complete 16 core courses (same as in past)
  - 10 of 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester
    - 7 of 10 courses must be English, math or science
- Have a minimum core GPA of 2.3
  - Grades earned in the 10 courses required before the senior year are “locked in” for GPA calculation
    - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used to improve the GPA if taken after start of 7<sup>th</sup> semester

# NCAA Core Course Requirements (NEW)

- Meet the competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and SAT/ACT score (this is a new scale with increased GPA/test score requirements)
- Graduate from high school

# NCAA Core Course Requirements (NEW)

## ■ Academic Redshirt

- Complete 16 core courses (same as in past)
- Have a minimum core GPA of 2.0
- Meet the academic redshirt sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score
- Graduate from high school

# NCAA Test Score Requirements

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- SAT
  - Math (200-800)
  - Verbal (200-800)
- ACT
  - Math (1-36)
  - English (1-36)
  - Science (1-36)
  - Reading (1-36)

# NCAA Sliding Scale (Prior to Aug. 1, 2016)

| Core GPA       | SAT (CR and Math) | ACT Sum |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| 3.55 and above | 400               | 37      |
| 3.4            | 460               | 42      |
| 3.0            | 620               | 52      |
| 2.75           | 720               | 59      |
| 2.5            | 820               | 68      |
| 2.25           | 920               | 77      |
| 2.0            | 1010              | 86      |

# NCAA Sliding Scale (After Aug. 1, 2016)

| GPA for Aid and Practice | GPA for Competition | SAT  | ACT Sum |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------|---------|
| 3.55                     | 4.0                 | 400  | 37      |
| 3.4                      | 3.85                | 460  | 42      |
| 3.0                      | 3.45                | 620  | 52      |
| 2.75                     | 3.2                 | 720  | 59      |
| 2.5                      | 2.95                | 820  | 68      |
| 2.0                      | 2.45                | 1020 | 86      |
|                          | 2.3                 | 1080 | 93      |

# To Report Test Scores

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Mark code 9999 when registering for  
ACT/SAT

Scores must be reported directly from  
the testing agency.

# NCAA Division II Requirements

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- GRADUATE from high school
- MINIMUM 2.0 GPA in 16 core courses
- MINIMUM 820 SAT combined score or 68  
ACT Sum Score



# NCAA Division II Requirements

- 16 core course required
  - 3 years of English
  - 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
  - 2 years of natural/physical science (1 lab)
  - 3 years of additional English, mathematics, or natural/physical science
  - 2 years of social science
  - 4 additional courses (any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

# NCAA Division III Requirements

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- No Initial Eligibility requirements mandated by the NCAA
- If admitted to a Division III institution, you are eligible to compete
- Contact Division III institution for its policies on financial aid, practice, and competition

# Eligibility Application Process

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- Online registration is REQUIRED!!!!!!!
- Apply online at:
  - <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>
- Apply beginning of junior year in high school
- Cost \$70 for domestic prospects, \$120 for international prospects

# NCAA Amateurism

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## Amateurism Red Flags:

- Receiving money for participating in athletics.
- Signing a contract with a professional team.
- Receiving prize money about actual and necessary expenses.
- Playing with professional athletes.
- Trying out, practicing or competing with a professional team.
- Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective team.
- Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- Participating in organized competition after your first opportunity to enroll in college.

# Amateurism

## Amateurism tips:

- Encourage students to update their athletics participation information on their Eligibility Center profile, especially if they participate in events outside your normal high school season.
- Stay college eligible – ALWAYS ask before you act!
- NCAA Amateurism Certification Web site:  
<http://www1.ncaa.org/membership/ach/index.html>

# Role of the High School

- Make sure your school's list of approved core courses is accurate and up to date.  
([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net))
- Send transcripts at the end of junior year and at the end of senior year.
- Meet with student-athletes often and communicate the importance of the initial-eligibility clearinghouse.

# Definition of a Core Course

- Qualifies for high school graduation in one or more of the following: English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, or nondoctrinal religion or philosophy;
- Is considered four-year college preparatory;
- Is taught at or above the high school's regular academic level;
- For mathematics courses, is at the level of Algebra I or a higher level mathematics course; and
- Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority.



# Ways that High School Counselors Can Help

- Know the eligibility requirements
- Know how to calculate a student's core course GPA
- Know that special circumstances are given to students with documented learning disabilities
- Create an efficient system to process eligibility center applications
- Help students identify colleges that fit their criteria
- Emphasize the importance of academic performance at every step of their high school career – 9<sup>th</sup> grade counts!!!
- Last but DEFINITELY not least...make sure that your list of approved courses is accurate and up to date!



# Summary

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- Student takes CORE courses
- Student takes SAT or ACT and has scores reported directly to the Eligibility Center (Code 9999)
- Student registers with the Eligibility Center
- Student has official high school transcript sent to EC after junior year for preliminary evaluation
- Student answers amateurism questionnaire
- April of senior year, student verifies amateurism questionnaire
- Immediately after graduation, student has final transcript that includes date of graduation sent to the Eligibility Center

# Additional Information

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## NCAA Eligibility Center:

Phone Number: 877-622-2321 (877/NCAA-EC1)

Phone line dedicated to the HS community

[www.ncaastudent.org](http://www.ncaastudent.org)

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

# Questions???

