



## Eligibility Center

August 19, 2015

Dear High School Administrator:

Welcome back to a new school year! The NCAA Eligibility Center staff understands what an exciting and hectic time this is and appreciates all you do for your students.

We would like to remind you about upcoming academic rule changes impacting the class of 2016 and beyond. These standards determine whether your college-bound student-athletes are eligible to practice, compete and receive financial aid in their first year at an NCAA Division I school.

### Division I Changes (effective August 1, 2016)

1. The minimum required core-course grade-point average (GPA) is increasing from 2.000 to 2.300.
2. Ten of the 16 required core courses must be completed before the beginning of a student-athlete's seventh semester.
  - a. Seven of those 10 courses must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
  - b. Once a student-athlete begins their seventh semester, they may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses.

Who do these changes impact? Your rising senior class (class of 2016) and beyond must meet these new requirements if they plan to participate in college sports at a Division I school.

### Division II Changes (effective August 1, 2018)

1. The minimum required core-course grade-point average (GPA) is increasing from 2.000 to 2.200.
2. Students need to earn a minimum SAT or ACT score matching their core-course GPA on the full qualifier sliding scale.

### What Have We Done?

The NCAA Eligibility Center has made significant efforts to educate college-bound student-athletes, the high school community and others in advance of the 2016 standards.

Here are a few highlights of those efforts:

1. An educational campaign, which increased awareness of the new standards among high school administrators from fall 2012 (55 percent) to spring 2015 (88 percent). The new academic standards were communicated through a variety of channels including informative publications, new online resources, direct mailings to approximately 25,000 high school principals and outbound phone calls and presentations to directors of athletics and school counselors.
2. Information was emailed to our registrants on multiple occasions and has been available on the homepage of our website since fall 2012.
3. A national media campaign, "2.3 Or Take A Knee," increased awareness of the 2016 standards during high-profile broadcasts.



## Eligibility Center

4. Significant enhancements to NCAA.org provide targeted information to college-bound student-athletes, high school administrators and membership. The new online resources were visited by over 361,000 people in March and April 2015.

### Where to Find Information?

1. A new section for high school administrators at [NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter](http://NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter) introduces the initial-eligibility process to counselors who are new to the NCAA, and also provides quick tips and important documents for seasoned counselors. High school staff and athletics personnel will also find immediate access to initial-eligibility printouts, videos and tutorials.
2. A new comprehensive document, The NCAA Guide for High School Counselors, is located in our new section for high school staff referenced above.
3. The NCAA Eligibility Center also offers a free online course on initial-eligibility requirements, specifically designed for high school administrators and coaches, at [nfhslearn.com/courses/14000](http://nfhslearn.com/courses/14000).

### Who Else Should You Inform?

Please help us spread the word about the new standards to these groups:

1. Students;
2. Coaches;
3. High school principal or headmaster;
4. Director of athletics or activities;
5. Middle school or junior high principals, counselors and activities directors; and
6. Parents.

### How Can You Help Your Student-Athletes?

1. Update your school's list of NCAA courses annually. If you are new to the process, or need a refresher, go to [NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter](http://NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter). Information on how and when to update your school's list will help you through the process.
2. Upload transcripts for all registered students. Information regarding the upload process can be found on the high school administrators page. Transcripts are required for:
  - a. Registered juniors who have completed three years (six semesters); and
  - b. Graduated seniors.

Academic preparation is key to student success in college. Making sure a college-bound student-athlete is academically prepared for college is a significant undertaking that requires as much attention from parents, teachers, school counselors and coaches as his or her athletics preparation.

If you have questions please browse the high school administrators page at [NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter](http://NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter), or call the NCAA customer service staff (toll free) at 877-622-2321. Again, thank you for all you do to help the students.

Sincerely,

NCAA Eligibility Center



Eligibility Center

## Task Reminders for Six-Semester Transcripts

The six-semester (or preliminary) transcript task will be assigned to high schools in mid-September requesting transcripts for all registered students who have completed their junior year (six semesters).

Please note that this is a courtesy to notify your high school that it is the time to send a transcript for an NCAA Eligibility Center registrant who currently attends (or previously attended) your school. Your school will be assigned transcript tasks throughout the year when it is time to send transcripts for those students already registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center that have attended your school or as newly registered students select your school as being attended. Your school will receive reminder task emails every 14 days until transcripts have been sent or uploaded for all of the students listed as a registrant for your school.

*Note: By registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center and accepting the Terms and Conditions, the student provides broad permission for all schools to share official high school transcripts and academic records with the NCAA Eligibility Center.*

Why is it important to send these preliminary transcripts? NCAA colleges and universities have asked for earlier academic evaluations of college-bound student-athletes whom they are actively recruiting. These earlier evaluations will assist the NCAA Eligibility Center in identifying potential issues with individual cases, and drive outbound, proactive efforts to address concerns throughout the academic year, rather than last-minute emergencies during the summer months.

How do I send the transcripts? The NCAA Eligibility Center offers several ways for high school administrators to send transcripts:

1. The fastest and easiest method is to use the NCAA Eligibility Center's direct upload feature through the High School Portal. It is free and allows you to see the receipt in real time. Click [here](#) to learn more about the upload feature.
2. Transcripts can be sent through one of the following approved e-transcript providers:
  - [ConnectEDU](#);
  - [National Transcript Center/Pearson Edustructure](#);
  - [NCAA Eligibility Center direct upload](#);
  - [Parchment](#);
  - [Scrip Safe](#);
  - USMO ET; and
  - [XAP](#).
3. Transcripts can be sent via U.S. mail or by overnight delivery to the appropriate address below:

Mailing Address:

NCAA Eligibility Center Certification Processing  
P.O. Box 7136  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207-7136

Shipping/Overnight Address:

NCAA Eligibility Center  
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202



eligibilitycenter.org

If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) during your sophomore year. We support you and your high school by providing resources to help you meet the initial-eligibility standards to participate in college sports.

### Core Courses

NCAA schools require college-bound student-athletes to build a foundation of high school courses to prepare them for the college classroom. Not all high school classes count as NCAA core courses. Only classes in English, math (Algebra 1 or higher), natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy may be approved as NCAA core courses. Visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) for a full list of your high school's core courses.

This simple formula will help you meet the 16 core-course requirement:

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

- 4 English courses (one per year)
- + 4 math courses (one per year)
- + 4 science courses (one per year)
- + 4 social science (and/or additional) courses (one per year)

### 16 NCAA CORE COURSES

### Grade-Point Average

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your grade-point average (GPA) based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

### Test Scores

You may take the ACT or SAT as many times as you want before you enroll full time in college, but remember to list the NCAA Eligibility Center (code 9999) as a score recipient whenever you take a test. If you direct the ACT or SAT to send us your scores every time you take a test, we will choose the best scores from each test subject to create your sum score. We can only accept official test scores from ACT or SAT and we can't use the scores from your high school transcript.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### DIVISION I

To play sports at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses:
  - 4 years of English
  - 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
  - 2 years of social science
  - 1 additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
  - 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
2. Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses for GPA improvement.
3. Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.
4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale for students enrolling on or after August 1, 2016.



### DIVISION II

To play sports at a Division II school, you must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

#### Before August 1, 2018

1. Complete 16 high school core courses.
2. Earn at least a 2.000 GPA in your high school core courses.
3. Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

#### After August 1, 2018

1. Complete 16 high school core courses.
2. Earn at least a 2.200 GPA in your high school core courses.
3. Earn the SAT or ACT score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II competition sliding scale.

#### Core Courses for Division II

To play sports at a Division II school, you must complete these NCAA core courses:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
- 3 additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy

### DIVISION III

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards. You can visit [NCAA.org/d3](http://NCAA.org/d3) or contact the Division III school you are planning to attend.

