What is the NCAA?

- Voluntary organization that governs intercollegiate athletics.
  - Division I – 335 member schools (120 FBS, 118 FCS, 97 no football).
    - Typically larger schools.
    - Athletics grants-in-aid available.
  - Division II – 286 member schools.
    - Typically small to medium-sized schools, smaller athletics budgets.
    - Athletics grants-in-aid available.
  - Division III – 447 member schools.
    - Typically smaller schools.
    - Grants-in-aid cannot be athletically based.
What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- Certifies initial eligibility for college-bound student-athletes wanting to participate in NCAA Divisions I and II athletics.
  - Domestic and International academic certification.
  - Domestic and International amateurism certification.
- Departments:
  - Academic certification;
  - Academic review;
  - Amateurism certification;
  - Customer service; and
  - High school review.

What is Initial Eligibility?

- Academic requirements that a college-bound student-athlete must meet in order to:
  - Practice;
  - Compete; and
  - Receive athletics aid (scholarship).
- First year at an NCAA Division I or II college/university.
- Subsequent years governed by progress-toward-degree academic requirements.
  - An enrolled student-athlete may gain/lose eligibility in each term.

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 rule.
- 2018: DII GPA and addition of sliding scale.

Who Makes the Rules?

- NCAA Divisions I and II colleges/universities.
  - Representative structure in Division I.
  - Convention voting in Division II.
  - Academic rules generally vetted through academic committees.
  - Input from secondary school community.
- NCAA Eligibility Center and NCAA national office staff use rules to guide their work.

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.
Road Map to NCAA Divisions I and II Initial Eligibility Standards

Overview

- Core-Course Requirements.
- Division I Current Initial-Eligibility Standard.
- What's New for Division I?
  - Core-Course Progression “Locked In”;
  - Concept of Academic Redshirt;
- Division II Current Standard.
- Division II New Standard.

Core Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division I</th>
<th>Division II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 core requirement:</td>
<td>16 core requirement:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years English</td>
<td>3 years English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years Math (Algebra 1 or higher)</td>
<td>2 years Math (Algebra 1 or higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years Science (including 1 lab, if offered)</td>
<td>2 years Science (including 1 lab, if offered)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year Additional English, Math or Science</td>
<td>3 years Additional English, Math or Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years Social Science</td>
<td>2 years Social Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years Additional Core</td>
<td>4 years Additional Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Core-Curriculum Time Limitation

**Division I:**
- Must graduate on time.
- Ability to take one core course after graduation.
- Three core courses after graduation with approved Education Impacting Disability.

**Division II:**
- All core courses completed following start of ninth grade and prior to full-time enrollment at collegiate institution.

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**Division I Full Qualifier Current Standard**

- Allowed to practice, receive athletics aid and compete in first academic year.
- Minimum GPA of 2.000 with corresponding test score.

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**Division I Full Qualifier Current Standard**

- Examples of coordinates are:
  - 2.300 core-course GPA requires 900 SAT or 75 sum ACT.
  - 2.500 core-course GPA requires 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT.
  - 2.950 core-course GPA requires 640 SAT or 53 sum ACT.
If a student does not meet full qualifier requirements, he/she will be a nonqualifier.

Student may not practice, receive athletics aid or compete during first academic year at NCAA Division I institution.

Effective August 1, 2016, Division I college-bound student-athletes will receive one of three academic eligibility decisions:
- Full Qualifier;
- Academic Redshirt; or
- Final Nonqualifier.

Allowed to practice, receive athletics aid and compete in first academic year.

Minimum GPA of 2.300 with corresponding test score.
Prior to the start of the seventh semester, college-bound student-athletes must complete:
- At least 10 core courses.
- Seven of which must be in English, Math and/or Science.
- Exception: International students. These courses become “locked in” and must be used in the academic evaluation.

Can receive athletics aid in first academic year.
Can practice during first semester/quarter.
Must complete nine semester or eight quarter hours of academic credit during each applicable term to maintain practice eligibility.
Cannot travel or compete.

Prospective student-athletes are not required to complete 10 core courses, including seven of English, math and science, prior to seventh semester.
Minimum 2.000 to 2.299 GPA with corresponding test score.
Division I Final Nonqualifier
New Standard

• If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet full qualifier or academic redshirt requirements, he/she will be a nonqualifier.

• A college-bound student-athlete may not practice, receive athletics aid or compete during his/her first academic year at an NCAA Division I college/university.

Division II Initial Eligibility

• Allowed to practice, receive athletics aid and compete in first academic year;
• Completion of 16 core courses;
• Minimum GPA of 2.000; and
• Test score requirements:
  • 68 ACT sum score; or
  • 820 SAT score (critical reading and math only).

Division II Full Qualifier
Current Standard
### Division II Partial Qualifier
**Current Standard**
- Allowed to practice and receive athletics aid in first academic year.
- Completion of 16 core courses with minimum GPA of 2.000; **OR**
- Test score requirements:
  - 68 ACT sum score; or
  - 820 SAT score (critical reading and math only).

### Division II Final Nonqualifier
**Current Standard**
- If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet full qualifier or partial qualifier requirements, he/she will be a nonqualifier.
- A college-bound student-athlete may not practice, receive athletics aid or compete during his/her first academic year at an NCAA Division II college/university.

### Increased Division II Standards
- Effective August 1, 2018, Division II college-bound student-athletes will be required to meet increased academic standards.
- The prospective student-athletes that will be impacted by the new standard in August 2018 will begin high school in August 2014, Current eighth grade class.
Division II Full Qualifier
New Standard (2018)

- Allowed to practice, receive athletics aid and compete in first academic year.
- Completion of 16 core courses.
- Minimum GPA of 2.200 with corresponding test score on the full qualifier sliding scale.

Division II Partial Qualifier
New Standard (2018)

- Allowed to practice and receive athletics aid in first academic year.
- Completion of 16 core courses.
- Minimum GPA of 2.000 with corresponding test score on the partial qualifier sliding scale.

Take a Break!
Before We Go Further...

www.eligibilitycenter.org

Resources and List of NCAA Courses are Available to All

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.

Early Academic Qualifier

- Run at the time of preliminary certification (six-semester mark).
- Division I:
  - 900 SAT (critical reading and math) or 75 ACT sum;
  - 3.000 core GPA; and
  - 14 units (3 English, 2 math, 2 science, 2 additional English, math or science, and 5 additional core courses).
- Division II:
  - 1000 SAT (critical reading and math) or 85 ACT sum;
  - 3.000 core GPA; and
  - 12 units (3 English, 2 math, 2 science and 5 additional core courses).

Final Certification Ready to Process - Final (RTP-F)

- Registration complete, no fee issue.
- HST received from all schools/programs attended.
  - Includes classes taken at a different program, even if it is on your HST.
- ACT and/or SAT score(s) on file.
  - Must come directly from testing agency.
    - Student must use score recipient code 9999 at time of test registration.
    - Cannot come from transcript, student report, etc.
- Student placed on active IRL by college/university.
- National Letter of Intent (NLI) prioritization.
- No outstanding academic tasks in student's account.
Bumps and How to Avoid Them

- Student’s account is incomplete.
  - Student has visibility.
  - High school has visibility to the receipt of HST and test scores.
  - POG is missing.
- Student has a fee issue.
  - Fee waiver can be requested, if the student qualifies for a fee waiver.
- Student has outstanding tasks.
  - HST questions.
  - Questions about where a course was taken and how.
- Student did not register with all schools/programs attended.

How to Avoid the Bumps

- Transparency on HST.
  - Are notations explained in a key or legend?
  - Are courses taken elsewhere clearly noted?
  - Are courses taken through a different program at your school or district clearly marked?
    - Adult/night/alternative/corrections.
    - Credit recovery/retrieval.
- Use the High School Portal on the NCAA Eligibility Center website.
  - Visibility to HST and test score receipt.

How to Avoid the Bumps

- 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?

• They own this process; they need to be active in it.
• Students need to register completely and honestly.
  ▪ Academic information, including all schools/programs attended, as well as the additional courses questions.
  ▪ Amatuerism information.
• The student is responsible for getting his/her ACT and/or SAT scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
  ▪ Use recipient code 9999 when registering for test(s).
  ▪ Contact ACT/SAT for score report (additional cost).
• Students need to be proactive when sending transcripts.

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.

Role: Updating Your List of NCAA Courses

- What is a core course?
  - Graduation credit in English, math, science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion/philosophy;
  - Academic, four-year college preparatory;
  - At or above the high school’s regular academic level, and
  - Math courses Algebra I or higher level.

Which Course Was Submitted?

- Mariachi 3-4.
- Sewing.
- Ukulele.
- Bachelor Living.
- Photography.
- Advanced Guitar.
- Flag Twirling.
  - “A college preparatory course without the academic demands.”
Life of a Core Course

- High school submits courses electronically (tutorial on High School Portal).
- Courses reviewed by high school review staff within 24-48 hours and decision is communicated via email.
  - Approve.
  - Deny.
  - Ignore.
  - Ask for more information.

What Would You Do? (Additions)

- Computer Applications.
- Pre-Algebra.
- Anthropology.
- Speech.
- Personal Finance Math.
- PIG or POD.
- PLTW Biomed Eng.
- Film Lit.
- Robotics.
- Geometry CP3.

What Would You Do? (Title Changes)

- English 1 to English I.
- Honors Biology to Bio/H.
- Government 9 to Civics.
- US History to American History.
- Shakespeare’s Plays to Set Building.
- AP Environmental Science to AP Physics C.
- Anat/Phys to Human A&P.
- Creative Writing to CrWr.
- Algebra I to 1234 Algebra 1.
If a Course is Placed on Hold...

• Upload course materials through the High School Portal on the NCAA website.
  • Course description.
  • Course outline.
  • Subject area flow chart (required in math).
  • Tutorial is available on the Resources page.

What Would You Do?

• **English 1 CP1** provides average students with the fundamental reading and writing skills essential for continued study of literature. Required reading includes selected literary works from the text as well as several additional novels. Basic compositions are also assigned.

• **English 1 CP2** emphasizes basic skills in reading and writing for students in need of remediation and individual attention. Students are assigned selections from the literature text with minimal additional outside readings. Writing assignments focus on basic writing skills.

What Would You Do?

• **Lit & Film**: Designed to read and analyze literary pieces then explore how film enhances or detracts from the work. Focus is on reading, writing, critical thinking and viewing. Texts are: The Odyssey; The Canterbury Tales, The Wizard of Oz, Night, Holes, Seabiscuit. Assignments include analyzing structure, characters, theme, plot of various texts. Writing includes journaling, compare/contrast and research papers.
**What Would You Do?**

- **Reading Films: Film Literacy**: Course follows films through history, from silent films to the talkies. Focus then shifts to WWII, post WWII and into TV and documentaries. Students learn about the language of film, from cinematography to editing and critical viewing.

**When Courses are Audited**

- Course was approved in error.
- Course is archived, acceptable through current year.
- Course is denied for following year and after.
- Ex: Basic Biology is for students who are not college bound.
  - Basic Biology (OK through 2011-12).
    - Course will be used by NCAA Eligibility Center if taken through 2011-12.
  - Basic Biology (RC12 BEGIN 2012-13).
    - Course will NOT be used if taken 2012-13 and after.

**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, cont.

• 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:
    o The teacher provides instruction, such as setting context, explaining, noting important ideas or concepts;
    o The teacher does not wait for students to ask questions; and
    o 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.

What Would You Do?

• Program is designed for students who have previously failed courses.
• Students work at their own pace.
• Teacher facilitates and supervises.
• Students have up to one semester to complete course.
• Assessments include multiple choice and True/False.
**What Would You Do?**

- Program is for students to recover credit, get ahead, graduate early.
- Students have one year to complete the course, but cannot finish faster than eight weeks.
- Students progress at their own pace.
- Teachers call students every four weeks to check on progress.

**What Would You Do?**

- Program is designed for any student.
- Students progress in accordance with pacing chart.
- Teachers work with students through online chats, texts, emails, phone calls.
- Students may finish a course in 12 weeks, but have up to a year.

**Role: Sending High School Transcript**

- HST needed from all schools/programs attended.
- Acceptable:
  - E-transcript provider;
  - Mail; or
  - Overnight delivery.
- Not Acceptable:
  - Fax; or
  - Email.
To Mail or Not to Mail?

- From your computer to the envelope to your school's outgoing mail to your local post office.
- From your post office to Indianapolis post office.
- From Indy post office to the NCAA warehouse.
- From there, mail is:
  - Opened;
  - Stamped;
  - Coded;
  - Logged;
  - Indexed and
  - Scanned.
- All told: probably 10-15 business days.
- NCAA Eligibility Center receives 500,000 pieces of mail annually.

E-Transcripts are the Key!

- The NCAA Eligibility Center uses these providers:
  - Parchment;
  - Scrip Safe;
  - ConnectEDU;
  - National Transcript Center/ Pearson Edustructure;
  - USMO ET; and
  - XAP.
- Also, free service provided by Parchment.

Student Task

- After registration, the student receives a transcript task.
  - If he/she attended multiple high schools, there will be multiple transcript tasks.
  - The student clicks to submit a request to the high school.

The NCAA Eligibility Center must receive an official final transcript and proof of graduation directly from your high school before your certification can be reviewed. Please click here to submit a request to the high school.

This task will be automatically marked as "COMPLETE" within 24 hours when this information is received.
High Schools Can Register for Free Transcript Service

- Log in to your account on the High School Portal.
  - CEEB plus PIN.

Benefits

- Helps student know he/she has a responsibility in the process.
- Saves time.
  - HST processed and available within 24 hours.
  - Timelier receipt of documents = timelier certifications.
  - Saves you potential headaches ("Did you send it? Is it there yet? The task is still in my account...send it again! Is it there yet?").

Transcript Tips

- If you do mail your transcripts, mail them once, then monitor the student’s account.
- Do not send multiple times.
- Do not mail AND send electronically.
- Do not email or fax transcripts. Ever.
- Multiple transcripts means multiple touches, which means the process is slowed.
Other Roles

- Fee Waiver.
  - Attest to ACT/SAT fee waiver through the High School Portal.
  - Tutorial on the Resources page.
- Use the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete for information about four-year college-preparatory courses.
  - Use your List of NCAA Courses.
  - Do not make assumptions.
  - Use the core-course worksheets in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.

High School Outreach Initiatives

- Launched web-based Initial-Eligibility Educational Course through collaboration with the National Federation of State High School Associations. (www.nfhslearn.com)
- Hardcopy letter sent to >25,000 high school principals, athletics directors and counselors highlighting new standards and process reminders in September 2012.
- High school administrator survey (~78% aware of new standards).
- Website updates made to NCAA.org, eligibilitycenter.org, and enforcement events site to highlight changes.
- Quarterly coaches e-newsletter.

High School Outreach Initiatives

- Launched www.2point3.org educational site.
- Updated NCAA Eligibility Center registration confirmation emails to include direction to review initial-eligibility standards.
- Launched state-specific outreach plan.
- Educational sessions at USTFCCCA (track and field, cross-country), AVCA (volleyball), ITA (tennis), AFCA (football), NSCAA (soccer), ABCA (baseball), and NIAAA/NFHS conventions.
- Mailed initial-eligibility posters to >26,000 high schools.
High School Outreach Initiatives

• Annual meeting with NACAC and its affiliates.
• NACAC/NCAA Advisory Committee.
• Webinars with NACAC.
• Outreach through NASSP.
• High School Newsletters.
• What ideas do you have about how to improve outreach?

High School and Coaches Newsletters

To subscribe:
• Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org;
• Click the link to enter as a “High School Administrator”.
• At the bottom of the log-in page, click the link to subscribe.
• To specifically subscribe to the new Coaches Newsletter, enter “Coach” as your title. You will then receive both the High School and Coaches Newsletters.

Help!

• First and foremost, the Resources page on the High School Portal.

Follow us on Twitter! @NCAA_EC
Log in to Your Account

Customer Service Staff

- Toll free 877/622-2321.
- Dedicated high school line.

Questions?