



Initial Eligibility
and the
Clearinghouse Process

Initial Eligibility

- Prospective student-athletes (prospects) must meet established NCAA standards to:
 - Practice
 - Compete
 - Receive institutional financial aid
- In Division I and II, must be certified by NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- In Division III, institutions decide, based on admissions and other standards.

Elements of Initial Eligibility

- Graduation from high school;
- Minimum number of core courses;
- Minimum core grade-point average and;
- Minimum test score on either the SAT or ACT.

Division I Core-Course

Effective Aug. 1, 2008

- 16 Core-course rule
 - 4 years English
 - 3 years math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years natural/physical science (one lab)
 - 1 year additional English, math or science
 - 2 years social studies
 - 4 years additional courses (any area above or foreign language, computer science, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)

Initial-Eligibility Index

- Division I
 - Freshmen may establish initial eligibility by using the NCAA Initial Eligibility Index.

Division I Initial-Eligibility Index

To be used with 16 core courses

This is an abbreviated version of the index. For the full index, see the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

<u>Core Grade-Point Average</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u> (Sum of Scores)
3.550	400	37
3.000	620	52
2.750	720	59
2.500	820	68
2.250	920	77
2.000	1010	86

Determination of Initial Eligibility

- All prospects must register with NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
 - At conclusion of junior year.
 - Clearinghouse will not process a transcript with fewer than six semesters.
 - Register at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
 - Preferred method
 - Register on paper form contained in NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete

Determination of Initial Eligibility

- High school must send the prospect's transcript(s) to the clearinghouse.
 - Transcript(s) must come directly from the high school or institution's admissions office.
 - Students with multiple high-school attendance:
 - Acceptable: All high schools send transcripts
 - Acceptable: Graduating high school sends transcripts
 - Unacceptable: Graduating high school incorporates other schools' courses and grades onto its transcript

Determination of Initial Eligibility

- Clearinghouse prioritizes certification reports:
 - Prospects on an Institutional Request List (IRL);
 - Prospects with a documented disability; and
 - Prospects who request a report.
- Due to the high volume of registrants the Clearinghouse receives, expect delayed confirmation of initial eligibility status the longer you wait to register.

Certification Decisions

- Division I
 - Qualifier
 - Meets all requirements.
 - May practice, compete and receive aid.
 - Four years of competition within a five year period.

Certification Decisions

- Division I, continued.
 - Nonqualifier
 - Does not meet requirements for qualifier (i.e., lacks core courses, hasn't graduated, doesn't meet sliding scale)
 - May not practice, compete and may not receive athletics aid (need based financial aid only).
 - Three seasons of competition in Division I.
 - May earn fourth season back by completing at least 80% of his/her designated degree program.

Certification Decisions

- Division II
 - Qualifier
 - Meets all requirements.
 - May practice, compete and receive aid.
 - Four years of competition.
 - Partial Qualifier
 - Has graduated from high school
 - Has minimum test score OR has 13 core courses and 2.000
 - May practice and receive aid.
 - May not compete.
 - Four seasons of competition.

Certification Decisions

- Division II, continued.
 - Nonqualifier
 - Does not meet requirements for qualifier or partial qualifier (lacks core course/GPA AND test score or has not graduated from high school).
 - May not practice, may not compete and may not receive aid.
 - Four seasons of competition.

Core-Curriculum Time Limitation

■ Division I

- Prospect has to complete core curriculum in grades 9-12.
- A PSA must complete his or her core-curriculum requirements not later than the high school graduation date of the PSA's class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade)].
 - One core course after high school graduation may be used if the PSA graduates from high school within the the core-curriculum time limitation.

Test-Score Requirements

- The minimum required ACT or SAT score must be achieved under national testing conditions on a national testing date except that a state-administered ACT may be used to meet the test-score requirement.
- All scores must be reported to the NCAA Clearinghouse through the applicable testing agency through an official test-score report.
NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

Test Score Requirements for Official Visits to College Campuses

- Institutions may not provide an official visit to a high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete who has not presented them with a score from a PSAT, an SAT, a PLAN or an ACT test taken on a national testing date under national testing. The score must be presented through a testing agency document, on a high school (or college) academic transcript (official or unofficial) or through the use of the applicable testing agency's automated-voice system.

Test-Score Time Limitation

- SAT/ACT must be taken prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Core Courses Prior to 9th grade

- Courses taken prior to the ninth grade (including in the summer before ninth grade) cannot be used for initial-eligibility purposes.
- A waiver is available under certain circumstances.

Participation Before Clearinghouse Certification

- Prior to clearinghouse certification, student-athletes are only permitted to practice during the following time frame:

Division I

- Recruited: 14 consecutive days
- Nonrecruited: 45 consecutive days

No Competition

Students with Disabilities

- Must present objective evidence of the existence of a learning disability.
- Accommodations are available:
 - Nonstandard test (not administered on a national testing date);
 - Specialized Coursework; and
 - Courses after high-school graduation

Step by step...

- Ninth and tenth grades:
 - Select college prep coursework
 - Work hard to obtain good grades
 - Check to see that the courses you are taking are on your high school's NCAA core-course list
 - Check to see that courses on your transcript match your high school's list

Step by step...

- Eleventh grade:
 - Register to take ACT and/or SAT
 - When registering, pick the clearinghouse as one of the places to send your score (code 9999)
 - ACT/SAT must be on national test date
 - Continue to take college prep coursework
 - Continue to check your high school's list and your transcript
 - Continue to concentrate on getting good grades

Step by step...

- Eleventh grade continued:
 - After your junior year, register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse
 - Online: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
 - Ask your counselor to send your transcript to the clearinghouse
 - **Can't be faxed! Must be sent by mail by someone at your high school**

Step by step...

- Twelfth grade:
 - Take ACT/SAT again if necessary
 - Continue to take college prep coursework
 - Continue to check your high school's list and your transcript
 - At the end of your senior year, ask your counselor to send your final transcript to the clearinghouse. Transcript must have date of high school graduation.



Questions?