

# Initial-Eligibility Standards

If you want to compete in NCAA sports, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org). Plan to register before your freshman year of high school. For more information on registration, visit [on.ncaa.com/RegChecklist](https://on.ncaa.com/RegChecklist).

## Academic Requirements

**Division I and II** schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

### Division I

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b> (Algebra I or higher)	<b>SCIENCE</b> (Including one year of lab, if offered)	<b>EXTRA</b> (English, math or science)	<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>OTHER</b> Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
<b>4 years</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>4 years</b>

2. Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
3. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
5. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

### Division II

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b> (Algebra I or higher)	<b>SCIENCE</b> (Including one year of lab, if offered)	<b>EXTRA</b> (English, math or science)	<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>OTHER</b> Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
<b>3 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>4 years</b>

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

### Division III

While **Division III schools** set their own admissions and academic requirements, **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers) who are enrolling at a Division III school after Aug. 1, 2023, must be certified as an amateur by the Eligibility Center. Contact the Division III school you plan to attend for more information about its academic requirements.

GRADE  
**9**  
REGISTER

- » If you haven't yet, [register](https://eligibilitycenter.org) for a free Profile Page account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org) for information on NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.
- » Use NCAA Research's [interactive map](#) to help locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- » Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist) to ensure you're taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!

GRADE  
**10**  
PLAN

- » If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, [transition](#) it to the required [certification account](#).
- » Monitor the [task list](#) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.
- » If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding [approved courses](#) you can take.

GRADE  
**11**  
STUDY

- » Ensure your [sports participation](#) information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- » Check with your high school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved [core courses](#) and graduate on time with your class.
- » Share your [NCAA ID](#) with NCAA schools recruiting you so each school can place you on its [institutional request list](#).
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

GRADE  
**12**  
GRADUATE

- » [Request your final amateurism certification](#) beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).
- » Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school you plan to attend.
- » Complete your final NCAA-approved [core courses](#) as you prepare for graduation.
- » After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your final [official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

**4 x 4 = 16**

**9<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

**4 CORE COURSES**

**10<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

**4 CORE COURSES**

**11<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

**4 CORE COURSES**

**12<sup>th</sup>** GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

**4 CORE COURSES**



**CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):  
877-262-1492 (toll free), Monday-Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time



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