

**NCAA Initial Eligibility:  
For the College Bound  
Student-Athlete**

**Sacramento State  
Student-Athlete  
Resource Center (SARC)**



# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- ✓ **Steps to Achieving Your Eligibility**
  - ✓ **College Sport Options**
  - ✓ **Academic Eligibility Requirements**
    - ✓ **New Initial Eligibility Rules Class of 2016 & beyond**
    - ✓ **Division I, II and III**
    - ✓ **Amateurism Certification**
    - ✓ **Transfer Eligibility (2-4 & 4-2-4)**

# College Sport Options

- ❖ **NCAA Division – I, II, III**
  - ❖ **Division I – offers athletic scholarships**
    - ❖ There are two divisions for football
      - ❖ Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Div. I-A)
      - ❖ Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Div. I-AA)
  - ❖ **Division II – offers some athletic scholarships**
  - ❖ **Division III – offers no athletic scholarships**

**NOTE: Athletic scholarships can be a one year contract or multiyear agreement.**

  - ❖ **NAIA**
  - ❖ **Community College**



Eligibility Center

# STUDENT REGISTRATION

Welcome to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Your student-athlete experience begins here. At this site, you'll find the tools and information you need to begin your college experience.

Explore this site to learn more about the NCAA, its athletics divisions, its sports and other information.

Click on the phone or use the login box in the top right corner to complete your registration for eligibility.

**Checklist:**

- Create account
- Complete registration

**CLASS OF 2016 AND BEYOND...**  
Initial-eligibility standards are changing.  
[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

**LOGIN NEW ACCOUNT**  
Username (e-mail)  
Password or PIN  
Forgot password GO

Follow the Eligibility Center on Twitter  
NCAA Division II on Facebook

A blue speech bubble on the right side of the image contains the text: "Click here to create or log onto your account."

# INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



# Core Courses with the NCAA Eligibility Center

- Go to the NCAA EC website and click on the High School Administrators button
- Search for your List of NCAA Courses offered at your High School

The screenshot shows the homepage of the NCAA Eligibility Center. At the top, there is a dark header with the "NCAA Eligibility Center" logo and a "WELCOME!" message. Below the header, a red box contains the text "Click [here](#) to view important reminders for 2015 grads." The main content area has a green background featuring a male student-athlete and the text "NCAA COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETES" with a "ENTER HERE" button. At the bottom, a yellow box contains the text "HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS" with a "ENTER HERE" button. A red arrow points to the "ENTER HERE" button for "HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS". At the very bottom, a small note says "Click [here](#) to view the technical requirements for this website."

The screenshot shows the "High School Portal" search interface. The top navigation bar includes "Home", "Login", "Resources", and "List of NCAA Courses" (which is highlighted). Below the navigation, a section titled "High School Selection" with a red arrow pointing to it. It contains a search form with fields for "NCAA High School Code" and "CEEB/ACT Code" separated by "OR", and fields for "State", "City", and "High School Name". A red arrow points to the "State" dropdown menu, which is set to "ALL". A "Search" button is at the bottom of the form.



## WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

- ▶ A course that qualifies for high school graduation in one or more of the following: English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or comparative 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 higher; and
- ▶ Is taught by a qualified instructor.



## WHAT ARE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES?

Courses taught through:

- ▶ The Internet (online or virtual);
- ▶ Distance learning;
- ▶ Independent study;
- ▶ Individualized instruction;
- ▶ Correspondence;
- ▶ Computer software programs; or
- ▶ Other similar means.



## **THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING NONTRADITIONAL COURSES**

- ▶ Must include regular ongoing access between the instructor and student.
- ▶ Must have a defined time period for completion (i.e., eight weeks).
- ▶ Should be clearly identified as nontraditional courses on the high school transcript.



## **TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Algebra I, foreign language, etc.) and college core courses can be used if placed on the high school transcript
- ▶ Check the NCAA high school portal regularly for any assigned tasks
- ▶ Update your core course list any time a new course is added
- ▶ Archive core courses 4 years after they are no longer being offered



## CORE-COURSE TIME LIMITATION

### Division I

- ▶ From the time you enter the ninth grade, you have four (4) years or eight (8) semesters to complete your core-course requirement. If you fail to complete high school "on time" in eight semesters, core courses taken after the eighth semester will not be counted toward your NCAA academic-eligibility requirements.
- ▶ "On time" also means that if your high school graduation takes place June 1, you must graduate June 1. If you do not graduate June 1 with the rest of your high school class, you have not completed your requirements "on time."

### Division II

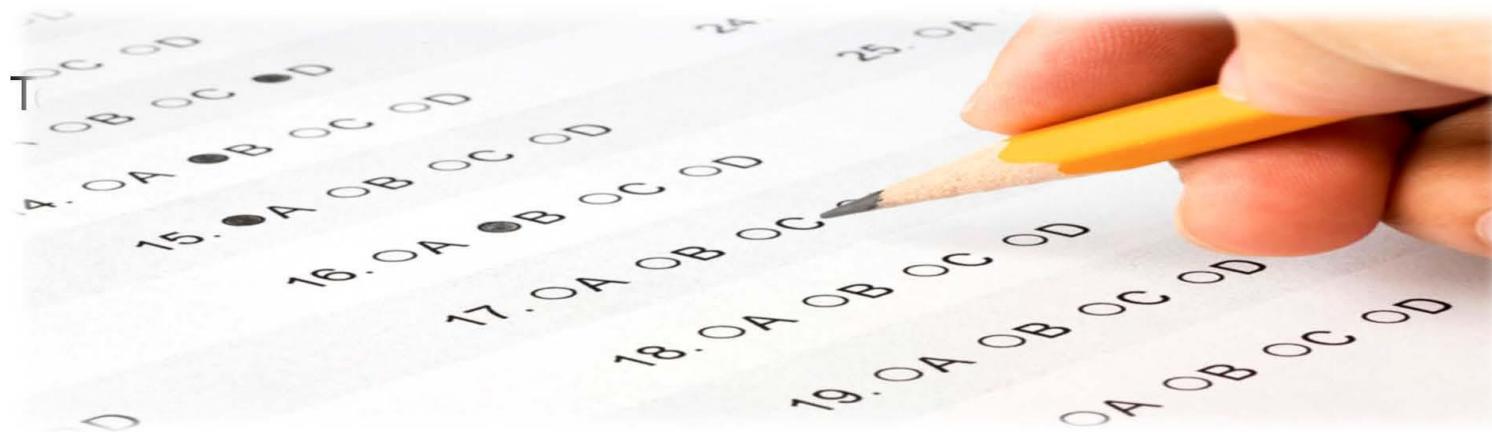
You are permitted to use all core courses completed from your ninth-grade year until the time you enroll full time at a college or university.



## TAKING THE ACT AND/OR SAT

Be sure to enter the “9999” code when registering for the ACT or SAT.

- ▶ This requests for your official test scores to be sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.





Eligibility Center

## YOUR BEST TEST SCORES WILL BE USED TO CERTIFY YOU

Test Score

	<u>Math</u>	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Total</u>
SAT (10/14)	350	470	820
<u>SAT (12/14)</u>	<u>420</u>	440	860
Scores Used	420	470	890



Eligibility Center

# WHAT ARE THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS?





## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Graduate from high school.
- ▶ Complete NCAA-approved courses.
- ▶ Earn a minimum required core-course grade-point average (GPA).
- ▶ Earn a required SAT or ACT sum score.





## **SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

- ▶ Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 required;
- ▶ Ten core courses are required before the beginning of senior year; and
- ▶ Seven of the ten core courses must be in the areas of English, math, or science.



## NCAA DIVISION I INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

There are three possible academic outcomes:

1. **Qualifier** = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. **Academic Redshirt** = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. **Nonqualifier** = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.



# EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIERS

Students who meet the following criteria after six semesters will be certified as qualifiers:

**For Division I:** Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 900 or minimum sum score of 75 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses:

- 3 English;
- 2 math;
- 2 science;
- 2 additional core courses in English, math or science; and
- 5 additional core courses in any area.

**For Division II:** Minimum SAT (math and critical reading) of 1000 or minimum sum score of 85 on the ACT; and a core-course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 12 core courses:

- 3 English;
- 2 math;
- 2 science; and
- 5 additional core courses in any area.



## NCAA DIVISION I QUALIFIER: REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETICS AID, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive **athletics aid, practice and compete** their first year:

- ▶ 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English;
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
- ▶ Minimum required GPA:
  - Minimum GPA of **2.300** in those 16 core courses.





## ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

If you fail to meet the required 10 core courses **before** the start of your seventh semester (seven of which must be in English, math, or natural or physical science), you will be allowed to retake core courses in your seventh and eighth semester, which will be used in your academic certification for the purpose of meeting the academic redshirt requirements.

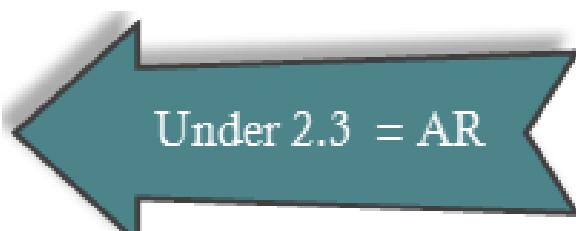




## ABBREVIATED DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE

Core GPA	SAT (critical reading/math only)	ACT Sum
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

**The full sliding scale** can be found at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.



Under 2.3 = AR



## WHAT IF YOU DO NOT MEET EITHER SET OF REQUIREMENTS?

If you do not meet either set of requirements, you are a **nonqualifier**.

A **nonqualifier**:

- ▶ Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.
- ▶ Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.





Eligibility Center

## **NEW NCAA DIVISION II COMPETITION ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2018)**

### **Division II**

- ▶ Complete the required 16 core courses.
- ▶ Earn a minimum 2.200 GPA or better in your core courses.
- ▶ Earn a Minimum SAT or ACT score that matches the 16 core-course GPA on the full qualifier sliding scale.





## DIVISION III CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Unlike Divisions I and II, there is no uniform set of eligibility requirements for Division III schools.
- ▶ Eligibility for admission, financial aid, practice and competition is determined by the college or university.
- ▶ The NCAA Eligibility Center does not perform certifications for Division III college-bound student-athletes.





# REQUEST FINAL AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

- ▶ During your senior year, you will be asked to make sure all of your sports participation information is complete and accurate.
- ▶ You will be able to request your final amateurism certification to be completed beginning April 1 (for fall enrollees) or October 1 (for spring enrollees).



# **NCAA Division I Two-Year College Transfers**

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# Types of Transfer Requirements

Division I  
Transfers

2-4  
Transfers

4-2-4  
Transfers

# Transfer Certification

## Overview

- Determining transfer status.
- Types of transfers and requirements.
  - Two-year and 4-2-4 transfers.
- Transfers and other applicable legislation.
  - Progress-toward-degree (PTD) requirements.
  - One-time transfer exception.
  - Financial aid.

# Evaluating Transfers

Determining the start of initial full-time enrollment.

Did the SA:

- Register as a full-time student for a regular term;

and

- Attend a class or classes on the first day?

NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.2.1.1

# Evaluating Transfers

If yes to both, SA has triggered:

- Transfer status
- Initial full-time enrollment; and
- Use of a term for PTD purposes.
  - Six-hour rule.
  - 24-hour rule.
  - 40/60/80.



# Evaluating Transfers

If not enrolled full time, other ways an SA can trigger transfer status:

- Reporting for regular squad practice.
  - Prior to the beginning of a semester or quarter.
- Practiced or competed while enrolled less than full time; or
- Received institutional financial aid while attending a summer term.



# Two-Year College Transfers

## 2-4 Transfers – Financial Aid, Practice and Competition

### Qualifier

Minimum one full-time term attended.

Average of 12 hours transferable per full-time term.  
(e.g., three terms = 36 transferable)

2.500 GPA on transfer credit.

### Nonqualifier

Graduate from two-year college.

Minimum of three full time terms attended.

Minimum 48-semester or 72-quarter hours transferable.

Six/eight hours transferable English, three/four math, three/four science.

2.500 GPA on transfer credit.

## 2-4 Transfers – Financial Aid and Practice

### Qualifier

Earns aid and practice via qualifier status.

### Nonqualifier

Graduate from two-year college.

Minimum three full-time terms attended.

Minimum 48-semester or 72-quarter hours transferable.

Six/eight hours transferable English, three/four math, three/four science.

2.000 GPA on transfer credit.

## 2-4 Transfers Requirements

### Qualifier

### Nonqualifier

Limit of two hours of physical education (PE) activity coursework.\*

Excess hours removed from transfer total  
and GPA calculation.

\*See PE/education degree at certifying institution exception.

# 2-4 Transfer Nonqualifier - Hours Earned in the Summer

Summer Limits.

- No more than 18/27 hours total.
- No more than nine/13.5 hours in the summer prior to transfer.
- Effects 48/72 core-course requirement.
-

## 4-2-4 Transfer Requirements

## 4-2-4 Transfer Requirements - Qualifiers

4-2-4

First four-year  
institution.

Two-year  
institution.

Certifying four-year  
institution.

Graduate.

Average of 12 hours  
per term of  
attendance at two-  
year institution.

2.500 GPA.

Two PE activity  
hours.

One calendar year from  
first four-year prior to  
competition.

- 

Bylaw 14.5.6

# 4-2-4 Transfer Requirements –

## Nonqualifier

4-2-4

First four-year  
institution.

Two-year  
institution.

Certifying four-  
year institution.

Graduate.

Average of 12 hours  
per term of  
attendance at  
two-year institution.

2.500 GPA.

Two PE activity  
hours.

One calendar year from first four-  
year prior to competition.

*Six/eight hours transferable English,*  
*three/four math, three/four science.*

# Don't Forget 4-2-4

- Monitor the calendar year elapse requirement from the four-year institution.
- Average of 12 credit hours must be earned at the two-year institution (part-time hours must transfer back).
- Different standard for qualifiers and nonqualifiers (core-course requirements).
- Midyear transfers in baseball and basketball not eligible for competition immediately.

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# Evaluating Transfer, Don't Forget PTD

## Transfer Requirements

- 1 Six hours.
- 2 24-semester/36-quarter hours.
- 3 30-semester/42-quarter hours.
- 4 Six hours and percentage.

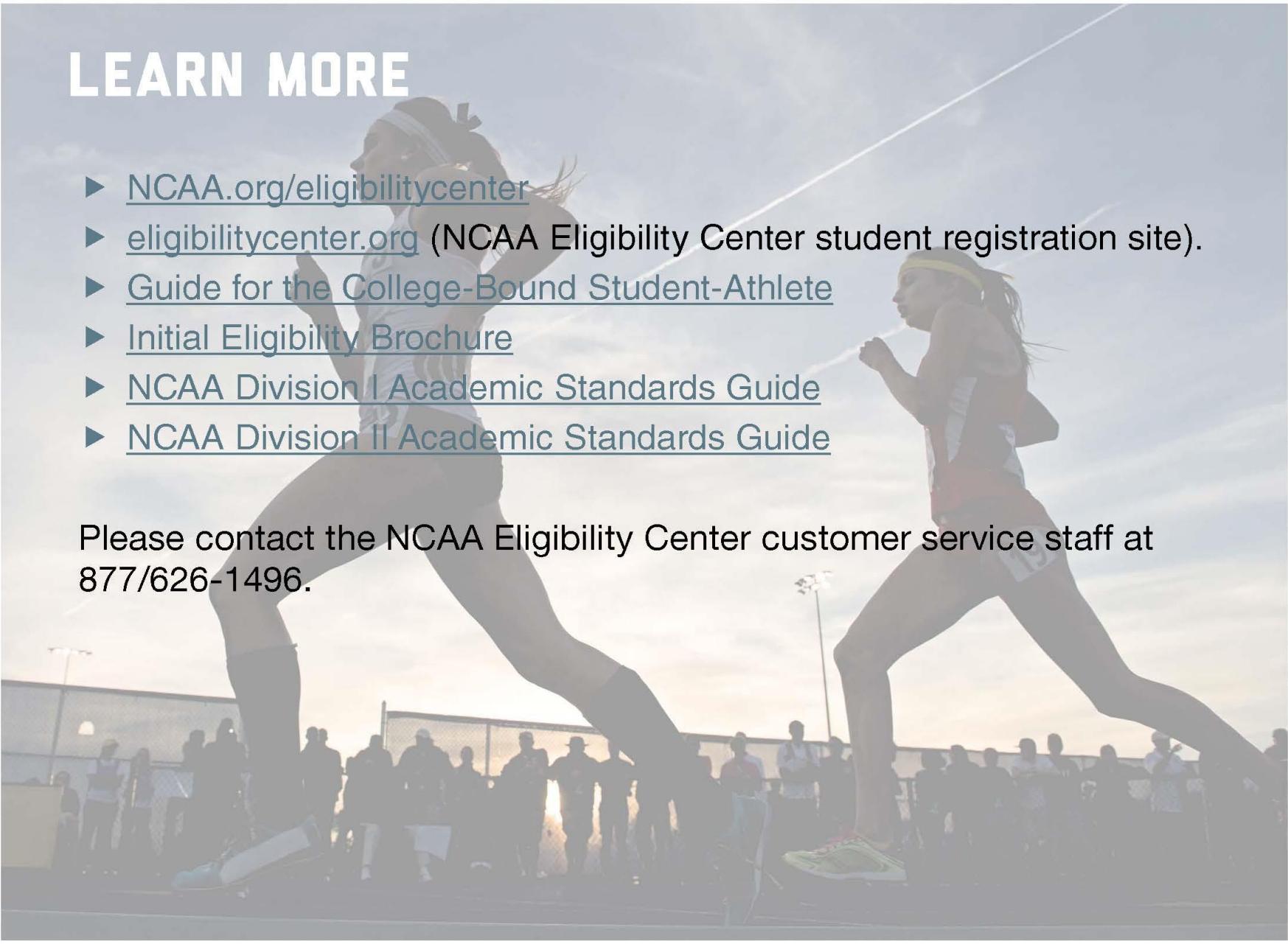
# When Evaluating Transfers, Don't Forget PTD

- In addition to transfer requirements:
  - Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the previous term of full-time enrollment;
  - Designate a degree program; and
  - 40/60/80% of the course requirements in designated degree program.
    - 40% of degree completed by start of 3<sup>rd</sup> year
    - 60% of degree completed by start of 4<sup>th</sup> year
    - 80% of degree completed by start of 5<sup>th</sup> year

# Summer Aid Legislation

- Applicable to **ALL** transfer types.
- Condition to the awarding of athletically related financial aid to PSA to attend summer school prior to initial full-time enrollment at certifying institution.
- Summer coursework is not used for the purpose of completing transfer eligibility requirements.

# LEARN MORE

A photograph showing the silhouettes of two female runners in mid-stride on a track. The runner on the left is wearing a blue top and shorts, while the runner on the right is wearing a red top and black shorts. They are running towards the right. In the background, there are spectators, a fence, and stadium lights under a cloudy sky at sunset.

- ▶ [NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter](http://NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter)
- ▶ [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) (NCAA Eligibility Center student registration site).
- ▶ [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#)
- ▶ [Initial Eligibility Brochure](#)
- ▶ [NCAA Division I Academic Standards Guide](#)
- ▶ [NCAA Division II Academic Standards Guide](#)

Please contact the NCAA Eligibility Center customer service staff at 877/626-1496.

# Questions?

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