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# ATHLETICS IN COLLEGE: NAVIGATING THE RECRUITING PROCESS

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# My Experience

- Recruited Mainly as a Football Punter and Kicker

- *Accepted a scholarship to Michigan State University*
- *Started 4 years as the punter and placeholder for field goals*
- *Spent 2 years working as a strength coach for the football team after graduation*

- Relationships with others who have played collegiate athletics

- *Wife played softball at Ashland University (Division II)*
- *Sister played soccer at Otterbein University (Division III)*
- *Many other friends that have played different sports at various levels*

# Eligibility Requirements

## **DIVISION I – 2016**

### **Qualifier Requirements**

*\*Athletics aid, practice, and competition*

- 16 core courses
  - Ten (10) core courses completed before the start of seventh semester. Seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
    - "Locked in" for core-course GPA calculation.
- Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
- Graduate from high school.

## **DIVISION II**

### **16 Core Courses**

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

# Eligibility Requirements

## Division I continued...

Complete a total of 16 NCAA core courses in the following areas:

- 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 offered).
- + 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.

Core Courses = College Prep Courses

How to plan your high school courses to 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)

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16 NCAA core courses

# Eligibility Requirements

## ■ Division I

- **2.3 G.P.A.** to be eligible for competition (plus sliding scale ACT score)
- **2.0 G.P.A.** to be eligible for scholarship and practice (plus sliding scale ACT score)
  - ACT sliding scale
    - G.P.A. = 3.55+      ACT sum = 37 or more      ACT Avg. = 9.25
    - G.P.A. = 2.3      ACT sum = 75 or more      ACT Avg. = 18.75
    - G.P.A. = 2.0      ACT sum = 86 or more      ACT Avg. = 21.5

## ■ Division II

- **2.0 G.P.A.** to be eligible for competition
- ACT sum = 68      ACT Avg. = **17**
  - On August 1, 2018, Division II will implement a sliding scale

- [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Quick\\_Reference\\_Sheet.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf)





# NCAA RECRUITING FACTS

College sports offer student-athletes opportunities to learn, compete and succeed.

More than  
**460,000**  
Student-athletes

**19,000**  
Teams

**3** Divisions  
**1** Association

## DIVISION I

Division I schools, on average, enroll the most students, manage the largest athletics budgets, offer a wide array of academic programs and provide the most athletics scholarships.

### PARTICIPATION

- 173,500 student-athletes
- 346 colleges and universities

### ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS

53 percent of all student-athletes receive some level of athletics aid

### ACADEMICS

2012 Graduation Success Rate: 81 percent\*

### OTHER STATS

**Average Enrollment:** 12,900  
**Average Number of Sports:** 18  
**Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports:** 6 percent  
**Division I National Championships:** 26 (1 out of every 8.5 student-athletes participates)

## DIVISION II

Division II provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, high-level athletics competition and community engagement. Many participants are first-generation college students.

### PARTICIPATION

- 109,100 student-athletes
- 300 colleges and universities

### ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS

56 percent of all student-athletes receive some level of athletics aid

### ACADEMICS

2012 Academic Success Rate: 71 percent\*

### OTHER STATS

**Average Enrollment:** 4,200  
**Average Number of Sports:** 15  
**Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports:** 14 percent  
**Division II National Championships:** 25 (1 out of every 7 student-athletes participates)

## DIVISION III

The Division III experience provides an integrated environment that focuses on academic success while offering competitive athletics and meaningful non-athletics opportunities.

### PARTICIPATION

- 183,500 student-athletes
- 450 colleges and universities

### FINANCIAL AID

75 percent of all student-athletes receive some form of academic grant or need-based scholarship; institutional gift aid totals \$13,500 on average

### ACADEMICS

2012 Academic Success Rate: 87 percent\*

### OTHER STATS

**Average Enrollment:** 2,600  
**Average Number of Sports:** 18  
**Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports:** 21 percent  
**Division III National Championships:** 28 (1 out of every 10 student-athletes participates)

Want to play NCAA sports? Visit [www.NCAA.org/playcollegesports](http://www.NCAA.org/playcollegesports)

\*Graduation rate for student-athletes, including those who transfer from one school to another.





# Facts about NCAA sports

## Does the NCAA award athletics scholarships?

Individual schools award athletics scholarships. Divisions I and II schools provide \$2.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 150,000 student-athletes. Division III schools, with more than 180,000 student-athletes, do not offer athletically related financial aid, but many student-athletes receive some form of academic grant or need-based scholarship.

## Do many high school athletes earn athletics scholarships?

Very few, in fact. About 2 percent of high school athletes are awarded some form of athletics scholarship to compete in college.

## Do NCAA student-athletes have difficulty meeting graduation requirements with the time demands of their sport?

While competing in college does require strong time-management skills and some thoughtful planning with academic advisors, on average NCAA student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.

## Do many NCAA student-athletes go on to play professionally?

Fewer than 2 percent of NCAA student-athletes go on to be professional athletes. In reality, most student-athletes depend on academics to prepare them for life after college. Education is important. There are more than 460,000 NCAA student-athletes, and most of them will go pro in something other than sports.

### ESTIMATED PROBABILITY OF COMPETING IN NCAA ATHLETICS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Student-Athletes	All Sports	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball	Men's Ice Hockey	Men's Soccer
High School Student-Athletes	7,400,000	538,700	433,100	1,100,000	474,800	35,200	411,000
NCAA Student-Athletes	460,000	18,000	16,200	70,100	32,500	4,000	23,400
Percentage Moving from High School to NCAA	6%	3%	4%	6%	7%	11%	6%
Percentage Moving from NCAA to Professional	2%	1%	1%	2%	9%	1%	2%



# Thinking of Going Pro?

There are more than 480,000 NCAA student-athletes, and fewer than 2 percent will go pro in their sport.

For the rest, the experiences of college athletics and the life lessons they learn along the way will help them as they pursue careers in business, education, athletics administration, communications, law, medicine and many more fields. Education is a vital part of the college athletics experience, and student-athletes treat it that way.

Overall, student-athletes graduate at higher rates than their peers in the student body, and those rates rise each year.

<b>Student-Athletes</b>	<b>Men's Basketball</b>	<b>Women's Basketball</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Men's Ice Hockey</b>	<b>Men's Soccer</b>
High School Student-Athletes	541,054	433,344	1,093,234	482,629	35,393	417,419
High School Senior Student-Athletes	154,587	123,813	312,353	137,894	10,112	119,263
NCAA Student-Athletes	18,320	16,319	71,291	33,431	3,976	23,602
NCAA Freshman Roster Positions	5,234	4,663	20,369	9,552	1,136	6,743
NCAA Senior Student-Athletes	4,071	3,626	15,842	7,429	884	5,245
NCAA Student-Athletes Drafted	47	32	255	638	60	72
Percent High School to NCAA	3.4%	3.8%	6.5%	6.9%	11.2%	5.7%
Percent NCAA to Professional	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%	8.6%	6.8%	1.4%
Percent High School to Professional	0.03%	0.03%	0.08%	0.53%	0.04%	0.06%

\*Percentages based on estimated data.



**Total Number of Allowable Sports Scholarships**

<b>Division I Sports</b>	<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
Baseball / Softball	11.7	12
Basketball	13	15
Track & Field	12.6	18
Football	85	0
Golf	4.5	6
Gymnastics	6.3	12
Field Hockey	0	12
Ice Hockey	18	18
Lacrosse	12.6	12
Rowing	0	20
Soccer	9.9	12
Swimming / Diving	9.9	8.1
Tennis	4.5	8
Volleyball	4.5	12
Water Polo	4.5	8
Wrestling	9.9	0

Division II Sports	Men's	Women's
Baseball / Softball	9	7.2
Badminton	0	10
Basketball	10	10
Bowling	0	5
Track & Field	12.69	12.69
Fencing	4.5	4.5
Football	36	0
Golf	3.6	5.4
Gymnastics	5.4	6
Handball	0	12
Field Hockey	0	6.3
Ice Hockey	13.5	18
Lacrosse	10.8	9.9
Rifle	3.6	7.2
Rowing	0	20
Skiing	6.3	6.3
Soccer	9	9.9
Squash	9	7.2
Swimming / Diving	0	9
Synchronized Swimming	0	5
Tennis	4.5	6
Volleyball	4.5	8
Water Polo	4.5	8
Wrestling	9	0

# What are College Coaches Looking For?

## 1) Athletic Potential

- *Collegiate athletics are very competitive at all levels. Having the right physical tools is the way you get an opportunity.*

## 2) Good Character

- *Want players who will be good representatives for the university*

## 3) Academically Proficient

- *Coaches do not want to worry about keeping their players eligible*

## 4) Hardworking and Coachable

- *Players who will put in the work to develop and improve*



# How Do I Get Noticed?

## ■ High School Participation

- *Perform well in your sport*
- *Send highlight tapes to college coaches, recruiting coordinators, and travel team coaches*

## ■ Travel Team Participation

- *For most sports, travel team competition is the most important for recruiting*
- *Perform well and participate on elite teams*

## ■ Summer Camps

- *Opportunity for coaches to see you in person in their own drills*
- *Showcase athletic potential and demonstrate you are coachable*
- *Shows you are interested in their school*

# Do I Really Want to Play in College?

- Huge Time Commitment

- *No matter what sport or level, college athletics require a lot of time*

**Average Hours Spent Per Week In-Season on  
Athletic Activities in 2010 (Student-Athlete Self-Report)**

Division I							
	Baseball	Men's Basketball	Football (FBS/FCS)		All Other Men's Sports	Women's Basketball	All Other Women's Sports
Athletic Hrs	42.1	39.2	43.3	41.6	32.0	37.6	33.3

- Increased Competition and Pressure to Perform

- *A lot of competition for playing time*
- *Coaches are more demanding, and their job security depends on winning*

# Positives of College Athletics

## ■ Discipline and Accountability

- *Forced to learn valuable life skills: time management, punctuality, ability to handle adversity, self-discipline, teamwork, develop a great work ethic, etc.*
- *Have someone making sure you are going to class and doing the right things*

## ■ Part of a Team

- *Group you can trust and depend on as well as socialize with*
- *They face the same difficulties and successes as you*

## ■ Resume and Career Builder

- *Being a college athlete looks great on your resume*
- *You learn the skills it takes to be successful in any occupation*



# How Do I Choose the Right School?

## ■ What Level Can/Should I Play?

- *Assess your ability as well as your desire*
- *How serious do you want to take your athletics?*
  - *Are you doing this because you want to or other people want you to?*

## ■ How Far From Home?

- *Different answer for everyone*
- *Nice for parents, family, and friends to see your games*
- *Lots of great Division I, II, and III schools in Ohio*

## ■ Find the Right Fit

- *Don't get caught up on going to the biggest athletic school no matter what*
  - *Find a school you could see yourself at if you weren't playing sports*
- *Find coaches you like and ones that recruit other kids similar to yourself*
- *Look for coaches and programs that focus on more than just their sport*

# Questions?

- Contact Information:

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