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Purpose of this session

- Review existing NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements at the Division I level
  - Cover new requirements that will be implemented in 2016
- Discuss registration process with the NCAA Eligibility Center
  - Briefly review basic NCAA recruiting legislation
- Provide the opportunity to ask questions
NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements

General Overview

- NCAA Initial-Eligibility rules impact a student-athlete’s ability to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during the freshman year of collegiate enrollment at DI and DII schools.

- Determination of initial-eligibility is based upon high school performance in the classroom and performance on standardized test scores (i.e., ACT or SAT).

- NCAA Division I requires 16 core courses in high school.

- Student must graduate from high school.
Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade-point averages (GPA) from high school to determine eligibility status.

The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not utilized to determine initial-eligibility.

The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the following four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science.
NCAA Division I
Core Course Requirements

- Requires a total of 16 core courses

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 1 year 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).
NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Additional Information

- Core Course requirements must be completed no later than the high school graduation date for the student’s class.

- Exception #1: One core course can be completed within a year of high school graduation but prior to full-time collegiate enrollment (provided the student graduated with his/her class).

- Exception #2: Students with education-impacting disabilities may use up to three core courses after graduation (provided the student graduated with his/her class) to meet the core-course requirements.

- College courses may be used to satisfy core-course requirements if accepted by the high school, provided the courses are accepted for any other student, meet all other requirements for core courses and are placed on the student’s high school transcript.

- Coursework taken prior to ninth grade may be used as a core course if the course appears on the high school transcript; is listed with course title, grade and credit; is high school level coursework and is on the high school’s list of NCAA core courses.
Non-traditional courses (i.e., internet, distance learning, independent study, individualized instruction) may be used as a core course as long as they meet criteria established by the NCAA that includes meeting core requirements, interaction and instruction between the student and the teacher a defined time period for completion and other requirements.

A repeated core course may be used to satisfy the requirements with the best grade in the course being utilized to calculate the core GPA.

Any repeat of a core course will require repeating the entire course/semester in order for the course to be used to meet NCAA requirements.

Any repeated course, especially those in non-traditional courses, will likely be reviewed by the NCAA Eligibility Center for course content and evaluation of the student’s completed work.
NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements
ACT/SAT Scores

The minimum required SAT or ACT score must be achieved on a national testing date under national testing conditions, except that a state-administered ACT may be used.

The minimum required test score must be achieved prior to initial full-time enrollment during a regular term at any collegiate institution.

The highest subsets of scores from either test taken on different testing dates may be combined to meet the minimum test requirement for that particular test. Subsets of ACT and SAT results cannot be combined however.

Students with education-impacting disabilities may use test scores achieved during a nonstandard administration of the SAT or ACT. A student who takes a nonstandard SAT or ACT still must achieve the minimum required score but the test is not required to be administered on a national testing date.
NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements
New Rules for DI

- Division I initial-eligibility rules will change for students that first enroll as a full-time college student after August 1, 2016 (which will impact this year’s junior class).

- Division I will require 10 core classes to be completed prior to the seventh semester (first semester of senior year of high school). These courses may not be repeated during senior year and must be used to certify final status.

- Of these 10 core courses completed prior to seventh semester, seven must be from a combination of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science.

- Students that fail to meet this requirement (10 & 7) may be able to receive athletics aid and practice during first year of collegiate enrollment but would not be eligible to compete.
NCAA Initial-Eligibility Requirements

New Rules for DI

- After 8/1/16, the minimum core GPA requirement to receive athletics aid and practice during the first year will be 2.00 with a corresponding test based upon GPA (for example: 2.00=1020 SAT or 86 ACT; 2.275=910 SAT or 76 ACT).

- After 8/1/16, the minimum core GPA requirement to compete during the first year will be 2.30 with a corresponding test based upon GPA (for example: 2.30=1080 SAT or 93 ACT; 2.50=1000 SAT or 85 ACT; 3.00=800 SAT or 66 ACT).

- The NCAA core GPA is calculated using the best 16 grades for NCAA core courses that meet the course distribution requirements. The core GPA may be calculated using additional courses that meet the distribution requirements but are not utilized in meeting the 16 core units requirement.
NCAA Eligibility Center
Registration Process

- NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the Initial-Eligibility (academic) status for all freshman student-athletes at the Division I & II level.

- A two-year college transfer that wants to compete at the DI or DII level without graduating from the JC will also have to be certified as a qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

- The amateur standing of every student-athlete at the DI & DII is also certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

- Prospective student-athletes can begin the registration process through the Eligibility Center web-site at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

- Registration includes a $70 fee (Waiver of this fee is possible).
NCAA Eligibility Center
Registration Process

- Recommend to send an official transcript at the end of junior year and upon graduation from high school (final transcript documenting graduation).

- SAT and ACT test scores must be sent directly from testing agency to the Eligibility Center. Test scores that appear on high school transcript cannot be used by Eligibility Center to determine Initial-Eligibility status.

- NCAA Eligibility Center’s code with testing agencies is “9999”.

- Upon registering the student will receive NCAA Eligibility Center log-in information and an NCAA ID Number. It is important to retain this information even after you have enrolled at any collegiate institution.
NCAA Eligibility Center Registration Process

- NCAA Eligibility Center registration must be completed before a prospect can take an official paid visit to a Division I campus.

- Completion of the preliminary amateurism questionnaire is required by the prospect prior to a Division I institution providing a National Letter of Intent or a Statement of Financial Aid.

- After April 1 of the prospect’s senior year of high school the student will need to request Final Amateurism Certification in order to be certified as an amateur in their chosen sport.

- Students participating in multiple sports must be certified as an amateur in each of the sports (Note: track and cross country are separate sports).

- As NCAA recruiting legislation is changed it may become more important to register earlier with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
Basic NCAA Recruiting Rules

Timeline: First Permissible Dates-DI

Sending recruiting materials and correspondence: September 1 of the prospect’s junior year in high school, except in men’s basketball and ice hockey (June 15 after sophomore year in high school).

Placing a telephone call to prospect or prospect’s family: July 1 following the prospect’s junior year in high school, except in men’s basketball (June 15 after sophomore year in high school) and football (one call between April 15 and May 31 of junior year and no further calls until September 1 of senior year in high school).

Having contact with a prospect & his/her family: July 1 after junior year in high school, except men’s basketball (start of junior year in high school—must take place at school), women’s basketball (September 1 of junior year), and football (approximately December 1 of senior year of high school).

Providing official visit to a prospect: First day of classes of prospect’s senior year of high school, except in men’s basketball (January 1 of junior year in high school) and women’s basketball (Thursday following NCAA Championship game).
Basic NCAA Recruiting Rules

Other limitations-DI

Unofficial visits: There is no limit on the number of unofficial visits taken by a prospect (institutional or total) and a prospect may begin taking them at any point. However, recruiting dead periods may prevent them at certain times of the year.

Official visit limits: A prospect may receive only five official visits and only one official visit per institution.

Permissible Official Visit Expenses: An institution may provide transportation to and from campus, lodging, meals and limited entertainment to the prospect on an official visit. Parents or legal guardians may receive meals, lodging and complimentary admissions to home athletic contests during a prospect’s official visit.

Complimentary admissions to home contests: A prospect may receive a maximum of three complimentary admissions to a home contest at any point during an official of unofficial visit.

Financial Aid with an Athletic Component: Certain types of outside and institutional scholarships may contact against athletic team limits.
Available Resources

- [www.ncaapublications.com](http://www.ncaapublications.com)
- Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete
- NCAA Initial Eligibility Brochure
- National Letter of Intent
  - [www.nationalletter.org](http://www.nationalletter.org)
- Compliance Offices
Questions?