Purpose
The Eligibility Center evaluates a prospective student-athlete’s academic record to determine whether he or she is eligible to participate at a Division I or II college as a freshman student-athlete.

Eligibility Center Certification vs. College Admission
NCAA initial eligibility certification from the Eligibility Center is separate from college admissions. Each institution makes its own admissions decisions based on established admissions criteria. Students must apply for college admission separately. A prospective student-athlete may gain admission to an institution but not meet NCAA initial-eligibility standards or may meet initial-eligibility standards but not gain admission.

Who Should Register
High school students who intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college should register with the Eligibility Center.

When Should Students Register
There is no deadline to register with the Eligibility Center; however, the Eligibility Center recommends that students register after his or her junior year in high school. Students can register with the Eligibility Center by completing the on-line registration form at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Please note that students must be registered with and certified as eligible by the Eligibility Center to be eligible for an athletics scholarship, practice and intercollegiate competition their first year at a Division I or II institution.

Requirements for Initial-Eligibility Certification
Students must meet the following academic standards in order to be certified by the Eligibility Center:

- Graduate from high school;
- Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 16 academic courses;
- Present a minimum required grade-point average in the core course; and
- Achieve a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core course grade-point average on the initial-eligibility sliding scale.

Core Courses
To meet the core-course requirement, the course must be defined as a recognized academic course and qualify for high school graduation credit in one or a combination of the following areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion. The course must be considered college preparatory by the high school. In addition, the course must be taught by a qualified instructor at or above the high school’s regular academic level (i.e., remedial courses shall not be considered core courses). A list of your high school’s approved core courses is available on-line at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
High school administrators should make sure the high school’s List of Approved Core Courses is accurate and up to date. In addition, the high school should check the content of each course for compliance with NCAA defined standards of acceptability.

**ACT/SAT Test**

In Divisions I and II, students must achieve the minimum required SAT or ACT score before his or her first full-time college enrollment. The minimum required SAT or ACT 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 prospective student-athletes, including natives of foreign countries, must achieve the minimum required test score on a national testing date.

Students with a learning disability may take a nonstandard test to satisfy test score requirements. In order to take a nonstandard test, students must register for nonstandard testing as outlined by ACT or SAT, submitting a properly documented and confirmed diagnosis. Students must follow procedures governed by ACT or SAT. Students who take a nonstandard ACT or SAT may take the test on a date other than a national testing date, but he or she must achieve the required test score.

Please note that the ACT sum score is used, not the composite score. To obtain the sum score, add the four subscores together (English, math, science and reading). The same applies for the SAT. To obtain the sum score, add the verbal and math sections together. Students may take the SAT or ACT more than one time. If a student takes either test more than once, he or she may use the best subscore from different tests to meet the minimum test-score requirements.

The SAT and ACT have added a writing component to their tests. The SAT writing section is mandatory, while the ACT writing section is optional. Students should check an institution’s admission policy regarding the writing section of the ACT. Some institutions require that incoming students complete the ACT writing section. The writing component of the ACT or SAT will not be used to determine a prospective student-athlete’s eligibility status.

**Home-Schooled Students**

Home-schooled students must register with the Eligibility Center and meet the same requirements as all other students. After registering, the home-school student must send the following information to the Eligibility Center:

- Standardized test score(s) must be on an official transcript from a traditional high school or be sent directly from the testing agency;
- Transcript listing credits earned and grades (home-school transcript and any other official transcript from other high schools, community colleges, etc.);
- Proof of high school graduation;
- Evidence that home schooling was conducted in accordance with state law; and
- List of texts used throughout home schooling (including text titles, publisher and in which courses the text was used).