



Road Map to NCAA Initial Eligibility Standards





Overview

- What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?
- Initial Eligibility Rules
 - Division I
 - New Legislation Effective August 1, 2016
 - Division II
 - New Legislation Effective August 1, 2018
 - Early Academic Qualifier Status
 - Frequently Asked Questions



NCAA Eligibility Center

- Formerly known as the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- Certifies initial eligibility for college-bound student-athletes wanting to participate in Division I and II athletics.
 - Academic Certification
 - Amateurism Certification
- Departments
 - Academic Certification, Academic Review, High School Review, Customer Services and Amateurism Certification



Initial Eligibility Rules

- What is initial eligibility?
 - Academic requirements that a college-bound student-athlete must meet in order to:
 - Practice,
 - Compete; and
 - Receive athletics aid (scholarship).
 - First year at a Division I or II institution.
 - Subsequent years governed by NCAA progress-toward-degree academic requirements.



Initial Eligibility Rules

- Academic initial-eligibility requirements are different for Divisions I, II and III.
- It is possible for a student to be eligible in one division and not another.
- Eligibility Center certification is separate from the college admissions process.
- It is possible for a student to be certified by the Eligibility Center but not meet the institution's admissions standards. In addition, a student could meet the institution's admissions standards but not be certified by the Eligibility Center.



Division I Initial Eligibility Rules



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING IN A DIVISION I INSTITUTION PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2016**
 - ✓ Graduate from high school
 - ✓ Complete 16 NCAA approved core courses (based on high school's list of approved core courses)
 - ✓ Earn a minimum GPA in the 16 core courses
 - ✓ Earn a minimum SAT and/or ACT score



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**
- Graduate from high school on time (i.e., no later than the high school graduation date of the student's ninth grade class).
 - If a student is in high school for more than four years the Eligibility Center will only use courses taken in the first four years of high school unless a waiver is filed by the member institution.
- Students who graduate on time may use up to one core course completed in the year after graduation to meet eligibility requirements ("plus one").
- Students who graduate early (in less than 8 semesters) must still meet core course requirements.



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
- Complete 16 core courses
 - Only courses completed in grades 9-12 will count
 - Courses completed in 8th grade can be used provided course is listed on high school transcript and a grade is assigned
 - Must be taught at or above high school's regular academic level (no remedial courses)
 - Considered four-year college preparatory

16 Core Course Requirement	
	4 years of English
	3 years of Math (Algebra I or higher)
	2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including 1 lab if offered)
	1 additional year of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science
	2 years of Social Science
	4 years of additional coursework from any of the categories above or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
- High school's list of approved core courses is available on the Eligibility Center website: www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - List of approved core courses
 - List of archived core courses
 - List of denied core courses and reason for denial



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **CORE COURSE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE**
- Only those courses listed on the high school's list of approved core courses will be used in the core course GPA calculation.
- Best grades will be used in each subject area.
- Core course GPA is different than the student's high school GPA and GPA used in the college admissions process.



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT**
- SAT and ACT
 - Test scores are calculated by adding up the best subscore from each test to meet the minimum test score requirement.
 - ACT: Math, Science, English, Reading
 - SAT: Math, Verbal/Critical Reading
 - Writing Component: Not used in determining a student's academic certification status.
 - ACT and SAT code: 9999
 - Tests may be taken more than one time.



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- SAT

	MATH	VERBAL/CRITICAL READING	TOTAL SCORE
SAT (10/13)	350	470	820
SAT (12/13)	420	440	860
Scores Used	420	470	890



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- ACT

	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	SUM SCORE
ACT (3/13)	11	13	11	14	49
ACT (6/13)	15	15	17	17	64
ACT (9/13)	15	15	16	18	64
Scores Used	15	15	17	18	65



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- GPA/TEST SCORE SLIDING SCALE

GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
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2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I



- **ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION STATUS**
- **Qualifier**
 - ✓ Meets the academic requirements (high school graduation, 16 core courses, GPA/test score requirement).
 - ✓ May practice, compete and receive athletics aid the first year of college.



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I



- **Nonqualifier**
 - ⊗ Does not meet one or more of the academic requirements (high school graduation, 16 core courses, GPA/test score requirement).
 - ⊗ May not practice, compete or receive athletics aid the first year of college.



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- **EXAMPLES**
- **Qualifier**
 - PSA earns a 2.700 GPA and a 70 ACT
 - 2.700 GPA = 60 ACT/730 SAT
 - PSA meets sliding scale
- **Nonqualifier**
 - PSA earns a 2.550 GPA and a 62 ACT
 - 2.550 GPA = 66 ACT/800 SAT
 - PSA did not meet sliding scale



Division I Initial Eligibility Rules
Effective for students enrolling in
college on or after August 1,
2016



Increased Division I Standards

- Effective August 1, 2016, Division I college-bound student-athletes will be required to meet increased academic standards regardless of when the individual graduates from high school.
- The PSAs that will be impacted by the new standard in August 1, 2016 are currently juniors in high school.





Increased Division I Standards

- New Standards
 - Core Course Requirement
 - 10 locked-in courses prior to 7th semester
 - Qualifier GPA/Test Score Sliding Scale
 - Minimum GPA 2.300
 - Academic Redshirt
 - New certification category
 - GPA 2.000-2.299



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I Effective August 1, 2016



- **CORE COURSE REQUIREMENT**
- Same distribution as current requirements.
- Prior to the start of the PSA's 7th semester the PSA must complete:
 - A minimum of 10 core courses.
 - 7 of the 10 core courses must be in English, Math, and/or Natural/Physical Science.
- The 10 core courses become locked-in and will be used in the academic evaluation.
 - A repeat of any of the locked-in courses will not be used to improve the GPA if the repeat occurs after the 7th semester begins.
 - "Plus-one" courses cannot be used to improve grades earned in courses that were locked-in.

Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I Effective August 1, 2016


- **GPA/TEST SCORE SLIDING SCALE - QUALIFIER**

GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
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2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75






Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I Effective August 1, 2016

– Academic Redshirt





- Complete 16 core courses (same distribution).
- Did not complete 10 core courses or 7 in English/Math/Natural/Physical Science prior to 7th semester.
- Meet the academic redshirt sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score
 - Minimum 2.000 to 2.299 GPA with corresponding test score.
- May receive athletics aid in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term but may NOT compete the first year of enrollment. Must earn 9 credit hours first semester to practice second semester.

Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I
Effective August 1, 2016



- GPA/TEST SCORE SLIDING SCALE – ACADEMIC REDSHIRT**

GPA	SAT	ACT
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
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2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- EXAMPLES – ACADEMIC REDSHIRT**
- PSA completes 9 core courses prior to the 7th semester. PSA earns a 2.575 GPA with a 67 ACT. [2.575 GPA = 65 ACT]
 - PSA cannot be certified as a qualifier because only 9 of the 10 required courses were completed prior to the 7th semester. PSA meets academic redshirt sliding scale and is eligible for practice and athletics aid.

Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I

- EXAMPLES – ACADEMIC REDSHIRT**
- PSA completes 16 core courses with a 2.200 GPA and 80 ACT. [2.200 GPA = 79 ACT]
 - PSA is an academic redshirt under the new sliding scale because the minimum GPA is 2.300.
- PSA completes 16 core courses with a 2.100 GPA and 80 ACT. [2.100 GPA = 83 ACT]
 - PSA is a nonqualifier. Did not meet sliding scale.

Initial Eligibility Rules – Division I Effective August 1, 2016

QUALIFIER	ACADEMIC REDSHIRT	NONQUALIFIER
Complete 16 core courses •10 of the 16 core courses must be completed before the PSA's 7 th semester •7 of the 10 courses must be in English, Math or Natural/Physical Science	Complete 16 core courses	Does not meet requirements for qualifier or academic redshirt
Minimum core course GPA = 2.300	Minimum core course GPA = 2.000	
Meet the GPA/test score sliding scale	Meet the GPA/test score sliding scale	
Graduate from high school	Graduate from high school	



Division II Initial Eligibility Rules



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division II


- **FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING IN A DIVISION I INSTITUTION PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2018**
 - ✓ Graduate from high school
 - ✓ Complete 16 core courses
 - ✓ Earn a 2.000 GPA or better in core courses
 - ✓ Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or ACT score of 68




Academic Requirements – Division II Core-Course Requirement

- Complete 16 core courses
 - All courses completed prior to full-time collegiate enrollment will be used
 - Must be taught at or above high school's regular academic level (no remedial courses)
 - Considered four-year college preparatory
 - High school's list of approved core courses is available on the Eligibility Center's website



16 Core Course Requirement
3 years of English
2 years of Math (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including 1 lab if offered)
3 extra year of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science
2 years of Social Science
4 years of additional coursework from any of the categories above or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy



Academic Requirements – Division II Academic Certification Status



- **Qualifier**
 - ✓ Completes 16 core courses
 - ✓ Minimum 2.000 GPA; and
 - ✓ Earn a minimum 68 ACT sum score or 820 SAT score (critical reading and math)
 - ✓ May practice, compete and receive athletics aid the first year of college.

Academic Requirements – Division II Academic Certification Status



- **Partial Qualifier**
 - The student has graduated from high school and completed 16 core courses and meets one of the following:
 - Combined SAT score of 820 or ACT score of 68; OR
 - Completes 16 core courses with a 2.000 core course GPA.
 - May practice and receive athletics financial aid the first year of college. May not compete for one year.




Academic Requirements – Division II Academic Certification Status



- **Nonqualifier**

- ⊗ Does not graduate from high school, or, if the student graduated and is missing both the core course GPA or minimum number of core courses and the required ACT/SAT scores.
- ⊗ May not practice, compete or receive athletics aid during the first year of enrollment. Student can receive need based financial aid.



Division II Initial Eligibility Rules Effective for students enrolling in college on or after August 1, 2018





Increased Division II Standards

- Effective August 1, 2018, Division II college-bound student-athletes will be required to meet increased academic standards regardless of when the individual graduates from high school.
- The PSAs that will be impacted by the new standard in August 1, 2018 are currently freshmen in high school.




Increased Division I Standards



- **New Standards**
 - Eliminates “flat” GPA of 2.000 and 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT
 - Establishes two new sliding scales (qualifier, partial qualifier)
 - Establishes minimum 2.200 core GPA for qualifiers
 - Retains 16 core course requirement

Academic Requirements – Division II Academic Certification Status





- **Qualifier**
 - ✓ Completes 16 core courses.
 - ✓ Minimum 2.200 GPA with corresponding test score on the qualifier sliding scale.
 - ✓ May practice, compete and receive athletics aid the first year of college.

Academic Requirements – Division II GPA/Test Score Sliding Scale

- Qualifier GPA and test score sliding scale (after to August 1, 2018)

GPA	SAT	ACT
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	420	39
3.225	430	40
---	---	---
2.275	810	67
2.250	820	68
2.225	830	69
2.200	840 & above	70 & above

Academic Requirements – Division II Academic Certification Status



- **Partial Qualifier**
 - Completes 16 core courses.
 - Minimum 2.000 GPA with corresponding test score on the partial qualifier sliding scale.
 - May practice and receive athletics aid the first year of college. May not compete.



Academic Requirements – Division II GPA/Test Score Sliding Scale

- Partial qualifier GPA and test score sliding scale (after to August 1, 2018)

GPA	SAT	ACT
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	420	39
2.975	430	40
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2.075	790	65
2.050	800	66
2.025	810	67
2.000	820 & above	68 & above



Initial Eligibility Rules – Division II Effective August 1, 2018

QUALIFIER	PARTIAL QUALIFIER	NONQUALIFIER
Complete 16 core courses	Complete 16 core courses	Does not meet requirements for qualifier or academic redshirt
Minimum core course GPA = 2.200	Minimum core course GPA = 2.000	
Meet the GPA/test score sliding scale	Meet the GPA/test score sliding scale	
Graduate from high school	Graduate from high school	



Academic Requirements – Division III

- Division III Academic Certification Status
 - Division III institutions do not require certification by the Eligibility Center.
 - Eligibility for admissions, financial aid, practice and competition is determined by the college or university.
 - Division III student-athletes do not receive athletics scholarships, but can receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.



Early Academic Certification



Early Academic Certification – Division I

- Students who meet the following criteria after **six semesters** will be certified as an **automatic qualifier**.
 - Minimum SAT of 900 or ACT of 75
 - Core course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses
 - » 3 English;
 - » 2 Math;
 - » 2 Natural/Physical Science;
 - » 2 Additional courses in English, Math or Natural/Physical Science; and
 - » 5 Additional courses
 - Students are still required to submit a final high school transcript including date of graduation.



Early Academic Certification – Division II

- Students who meet the following criteria after **six semesters** will be certified as an **automatic qualifier**.
 - Minimum SAT of 1000 or ACT of 85
 - Core course GPA of 3.000 or higher in a minimum of 12 core courses
 - 3 English
 - 2 Math
 - 2 Natural/Physical Science; and
 - 5 Additional courses
 - Students are still required to submit final high school transcript including date of graduation.



Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

- Core courses taken in 8th grade
 - Can be used to meet core course requirements.
 - Course must be listed on high school's list of approved core courses.
 - Course must be listed on high school transcript.
 - Course must be assigned a grade and unit of credit (e.g., semester, year).



Frequently Asked Questions

- College courses/dual enrollment – Completed prior to high school graduation
 - Course must be accepted by the high school and meet the requirements of a core course.
 - In Division I the course must be placed on the student’s high school transcript.
 - The course should not be included on the high school’s list of approved core courses.



Frequently Asked Questions

- College courses/dual enrollment – Completed after high school graduation
 - Educational institution awarding grade/credit must submit transcript to the Eligibility Center.
 - The course is not placed on the student’s high school transcript.
 - The course should not be included on the high school’s list of approved core courses.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Multiple high schools
 - If a student attended more than one high school, or took courses from more than one program, the Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from each high school or program.
 - The Eligibility Center will not accept grades from one high school/program transcribed on another high school’s transcript.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Students with Education-Impacting Disabilities
 - Must meet the same initial-eligibility requirements as all other students.
 - Division I
 - Student graduates on time, may use up to three additional core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
 - Division II
 - Students may use any approved core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
 - Divisions I and II
 - May take a nonstandard ACT/SAT to satisfy test score requirements.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Nontraditional courses
 - Courses taught through:
 - Internet (online or virtual)
 - Distance learning
 - Independent study
 - Individualized instruction
 - Correspondence
 - Computer software programs
 - Credit recovery



Frequently Asked Questions

- Nontraditional courses – Things to consider before taking nontraditional courses
 - Must meet core-course definition
 - Must include ongoing access between the instructor and student, as well as regular interaction for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance.
 - Example: Exchanging of e-mails between the teacher and the student, online chats, phone calls, feedback on assignments and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual instruction.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Nontraditional courses – Things to consider before taking nontraditional courses
 - Must have a defined time period for completion (minimum/maximum).
 - Should be clearly identified as a nontraditional course on the high school transcript.
 - Must be four-year college preparatory and needs to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting.
 - Coursework made available for review.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Credit vs. Grade Report
 - Credit
 - Measurement that assigns value to a grade earned
 - Must be awarded for coursework to be used in an academic certification
 - Grade Report
 - The Eligibility Center considers a grade report to be an academic record that does not include credit
 - Some online programs do not award credit (e.g., APEX, NJ Virtual, MI Virtual, etc.)
 - Coursework from non-credit awarding institutions cannot be used unless credit is awarded by the home high school
 - Grade reports can be faxed



QUESTIONS SO FAR?



Take a Break!