

# Preparing for College—As a Student-Athlete

## 1. **Academics are important!**

To become a student-athlete at a collegiate level, you must first be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. This process requires you to create an account, send in official transcripts, and send in official test scores (SAT or ACT). The NCAA then uses guidelines to determine if each student will be eligible to compete.

*When considering your high school course work and grades:* the NCAA looks at what they call the “16 core courses.” These classes are required to be sure that each student-athlete is taking enough substantial classes in a timely fashion that prepare them for their collegiate experience. The student-athlete’s GPA is determined by averaging the grades from those 16 core courses.

*When considering your SAT and ACT test scores:* the NCAA has a sliding scale to determine a student-athlete’s test score needed to be certified. This is based off their GPA from their core courses.

\*Please refer to the NCAA Eligibility Center Quick Reference Guide (resources below) for more in depth information regarding Core Courses, GPA, and Test Score requirements and policies.

## 2. **Stay organized!**

When going through the application and certification process there are many items to keep track of. Keep in mind, applying for the university you are going to attend and registering on the NCAA Eligibility Center website are two different processes.

*Official transcripts:* Make sure that official transcripts are sent to *both* the NCAA and the university.

*Test scores:* When taking your SAT and/or ACT, you can indicate that you want your test scores sent to a specific school as well as to the NCAA. Remember to mark these on your test. If you have already taken these tests without getting them sent off to either place, utilize the College Board website to get scores sent where they are needed.

## 3. **Finish what you started!**

It is recommended that you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center no later than the time that you are applying to college. Therefore, your university can add you to their NCAA list. Though you will send many items in early on, don’t forget about final transcripts. As soon as you graduate, one last final transcript is needed by the NCAA for proof of graduation. This is also going to be required by most universities. Don’t forget this step, as many times participation cannot begin until this final step is complete.

## 4. **Resources**

- Academic counselors/advisors: Many colleges have athletic academic advisors that support the student-athletes academic need during their time in college. These individuals can usually help you with academic related admission and eligibility questions
- Your current high school counselors
- College coaches
- NCAA Eligibility Center website: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- NCAA Eligibility Center Quick Reference Guide: [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Quick\\_Reference\\_Sheet.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf)