

How to become NAIA or NCAA eligible for college

NAIA ELIGIBILITY

Do I meet the freshman eligibility requirements?

If you will graduate from a U.S. high school this spring and enroll in college this coming fall, the requirements are simple. An entering freshman must: Be a graduate of an accredited high school.

Meet two of the three following requirements.

1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT

- Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT
- Tests must be taken on an international testing date prior to the start of the term in which you intend to participate in athletics and scores must be achieved on a single test date.
- The minimum SAT must be achieved on the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math sections only; the Writing score cannot be used. Minimum score requirements for tests taken prior to May 1, 2019 varied.
 - For tests taken prior to March 1, 2016: 18 ACT, 860 SAT (reading, math)
 - For tests taken between March 1, 2016 and May 1, 2019: 16 ACT, 860 SAT (evidence-based reading & writing, math)

2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT

- Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- The NAIA accepts the grade point average determined by the high school, provided it is recorded and awarded in the same manner as for every other student at the school.

3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT

- Graduate in the top half of your high school class
- If a student's class rank does not appear on the transcript, a signed letter from the principal or headmaster, vice principal or guidance counselor written on the school's letterhead and

with the school's official seal, stating the student's final class rank position or percent may be submitted.

- **Exception:** Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Mid-Year Eligibility Opportunity

If you do not meet requirements for an entering freshman, you can satisfy one of the initial requirements in addition to earning 12 institutional credits hours with a grade of "C" or better during your first term of attendance at your NAIA school to be eligible. .

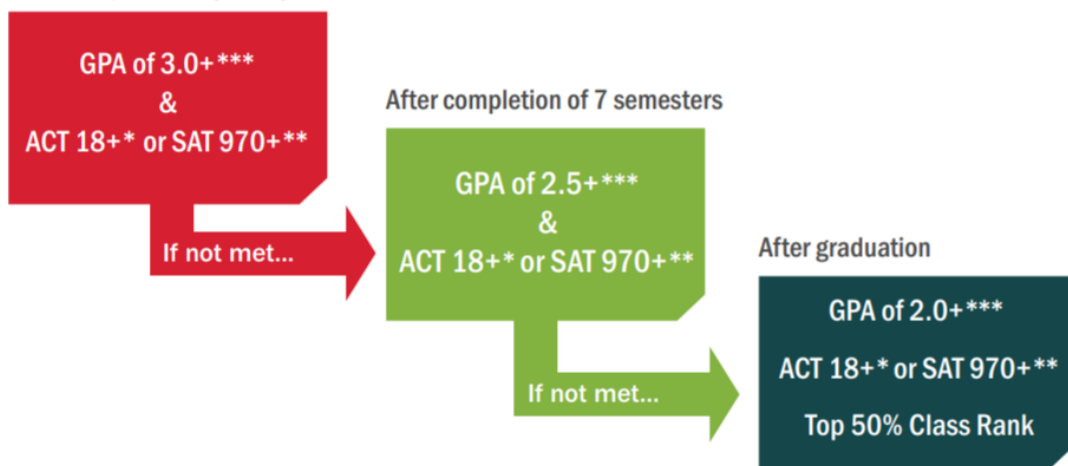
Learning disabilities

Students with diagnosed learning disabilities, who do not meet the freshman eligibility requirements, may have their academic profiles reviewed by the NAIA Learning Disability Advisory Committee at the request of an NAIA institution. The LDAC will then provide recommendations to the National Eligibility Committee to assist with a final decision.

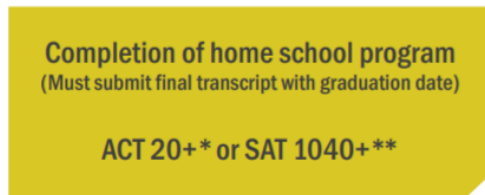
Meeting Early Decision and Freshman Requirements

Use the chart below to determine what is required to gain eligibility as a high school student. GED, HiSet and home school requirements are also shown.

After completion of junior year



Home School Students



GED/HiSet Students



*EXCEPTION: ACT tests taken March 1, 2016 through April 30, 2019 require a composite score of 16. ACT test taken during this time by home school students require a composite score of 18.

**EXCEPTION: SAT tests taken March 1, 2016 through April 30, 2019 require a score of 860. SAT test taken during this time by home school students require a score of 950.

***GPA requirements are based on 4.00 scale

Additional exceptions or interpretations may apply. Please see the [NAIA Handbook](#) and [Interpretations Library](#) for more details.

How to Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center

To register with the NAIA Eligibility Center, athletes must take the following three actions:

- Create a profile at **PlayNAIA.org**. ([Click here for a video on how to register or follow steps below](#))
- Send all required documents to the NAIA Eligibility Center
- Get on the priority list (referred to as the "short list") to ensure the NAIA reviews their information

Step 1: Create an online NAIA profile

NAIA registration starts with recruits building their NAIA profile, which serves as their home base in the academic eligibility process. Athletes can build their profile as early as your freshmen year of high school and no later than senior year. Go to PlayNAIA.org and click the "Register Student" button. You may want to build your profile with your parents, as there will be a fee that needs to be paid to complete the set-up process. Overall, it only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete this first step in the NAIA registration process. Familiarize yourself with your account, paying special attention to the "Current Tasks" list. When the NAIA has any status updates for you, they will be reflected in the Current Tasks list portion of your profile.

Step 2: Send the NAIA Eligibility Center all required documents

In the NAIA registration process, athletes have to submit documentation to prove that they meet the academic requirements. **There are two primary records athletes must provide: their high school transcript and their ACT or SAT scores.**

How to send the NAIA an athlete's transcript:

Transcripts must be sent through the **High School Portal** because all high school records are required to be uploaded by official high school personnel through that portal. Inform Mrs. Njoroge that you are ready to have your transcript sent.

How to send the NAIA test scores:

Students must request that their test scores be sent directly to the NAIA from the testing center. To do so, athletes should use the code 9876 when taking their test. There will be a box on the front of the test, which indicates to the testing center the student wants copies of their scores sent.

Step 3: Secure a spot on the priority, or "short list" to make sure the NAIA reviews your information

To make sure your information gets reviewed by the NAIA on time, you need to be on the "short list". This is a list of athletes who are actively getting recruited and need their eligibility decision completed quickly. To get on the short list, you need to get added by the NAIA coach recruiting them. Typically, you need to provide the coach with your Eligibility Center ID Number (ECID#), which you can find in your NAIA profile.

First-time college students who go straight to an NAIA school after high school graduation are not required to be on a school's short list to receive an eligibility decision, but it can help provide priority in your review.

How much does it cost to sign up for the NAIA Eligibility Center?

- High school students from the U.S. and Canada: \$90

This is a nonrefundable registration fee and covers all services the NAIA Eligibility Center provides.

U.S. students with a demonstrated need can get their NAIA registration fee waived. Athletes who received a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT test or the federal free or reduced-cost lunch program, should contact their high school counselor, who can provide confirmation of their eligibility for a fee waiver to the NAIA Eligibility Center. High school fee waiver confirmations must be completed by high school counselors through the online NAIA High School Portal.

How do I contact the NAIA?

Families can contact the customer relations team Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5 pm CT by: Filling out the **NAIA Contact Us** form on [PlayNAIA.org](https://www.playnaia.org) or Twitter: @PlayNAIA

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

What You Need Before You Register

Below is a list of items that we recommend you have prepared prior to beginning your registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Or download our Registration Checklist (PDF) to have on hand.

- **Valid email address** the student checks frequently and will have access to after high school.
- **Basic education history**, including a list of all high schools you have attended and the dates during which you attended them.
- **Sports participation history (Certification Accounts only)**, including details about any teams with which you have practiced or played or events in which you participated, as well as information about any individuals that have advised you or marketed your skills.
- **Payment (Certification Accounts only)**. The registration fee is \$90 for students. You must pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. Some students may be eligible for a fee waiver.

Online Registration

On the NCAA Eligibility Center website, you will find the tools and information to guide you toward your goal of becoming an NCAA student-athlete. Allow at least 30 to 45 minutes to register completely for a Certification Account (Those going to Division I or II), and 15 to 30 minutes to create a Profile Page (Those going Division III). If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and exit once your account has been created.

Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center by following these steps:

1. Visit www.eligibilitycenter.org and read the two account descriptions.
2. Decide if you would like to sign up with a Certification Account or Profile Page. If you plan to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school, select the "Create an Account" button. If you plan to compete at an NCAA Division III school or are currently unsure where you want to compete, select the "Create a Profile Page" button. *Reminder: you may transition from a Profile Page to a Certification Account, but may not move from a Certification Account to a Profile Page.*

3. On the next page, provide a valid email address to create either account and begin the registration process. Be sure you provide an email address that you check frequently and will be active even after you complete high school.
4. Check your email inbox for an email containing a verification code and return to eligibilitycenter.org. Enter your verification code and continue registering.
5. Complete the Account, Basic Information and Contact pages.
6. Certification Accounts will be prompted to pay the nonrefundable registration fee. Students have 30 days after receiving a verification code to pay before their account is dropped out of the system. After submitting payment, return to your Dashboard to complete registration.
7. Both accounts types will be prompted to enter their most recent Schools information. Please include all schools, even if you did not receive grades or credits. If you have completed coursework at home, you may or may not be a home school student for the purposes of NCAA initial-eligibility.
8. After entering School information, Certification Accounts will be taken to the Sports page. Please select the sport(s) you plan to compete in and continue to answer the Sports questions.
9. After completing the School section (Profile Pages) and Sports section (Certification Accounts) you will be taken back to your Dashboard.

Registration Fee and Waiver

Your Certification Account will be eligible for processing once the nonrefundable registration fee is paid or waived. You must pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. The registration fee is \$90 for students. Profile Pages do NOT need to pay unless they transition to a Certification Account.

You are eligible for a registration fee waiver if you have received a waiver of the SAT or ACT fee. You must have an authorized high school official (Mrs. Njoroge) submit your fee waiver documentation online after you complete your registration. Please see me if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver.

Division I academic eligibility

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Four years of English
 - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
 - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve your core-course GPA.
- Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

What if I don't meet the requirements?

If you have not met all the Division I academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year at college. However, if you qualify as an academic redshirt you may practice during your first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

To qualify as an academic redshirt, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following academic requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Four years of English
 - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)

- Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
- One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
- Two years of social science
- Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.

If you are concerned you may not meet the Division I academic requirements, consider taking the following actions:

- Ask for advice and accountability from your high school counselor. Check in with the admissions or compliance office at the college you hope to attend.
- Get tutoring or other study help.
- Graduate on time. Division I schools allow college-bound student-athletes who graduate on-time to take one core course during the year after they graduate high school.
- Avoid quick fixes through credit recovery programs. These courses may not be accepted by the NCAA.
- Keep your coursework. If the NCAA Eligibility Center needs to review your record due to irregularities, you may be asked to provide your coursework.
- Follow your high school's policies. The best thing to do is work within the rules.

Division II Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division II school, you must meet academic requirements for your core courses, grade-point average (GPA) and test scores.

You must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Three years of English.
 - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
 - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
 - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a 2.2 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

For more details about the Eligibility Center's response to COVID-19, [click here \(PDF\)](#).

What if I don't meet the requirements?

If you enroll full-time at a Division II school, and you have not met all the Division II academic requirements, you may not compete in your first year. However, if you meet the requirements to be a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year at college. To be a partial qualifier, you must graduate high school and meet **ALL** the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Three years of English.
 - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).

- Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
 - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale.

If you are concerned you may not meet the Division II academic requirements, consider taking the following actions:

- Ask for advice and accountability from your high school counselor. Check in with the admissions or compliance office at the college you hope to attend.
- Get tutoring or other study help.
- Graduate on time. Division I schools allow college-bound student-athletes who graduate on-time to take one core course during the year after they graduate high school.
- Avoid quick fixes through credit recovery programs. These courses may not be accepted by the NCAA.
- Keep your coursework. If the NCAA Eligibility Center needs to review your record due to irregularities, you may be asked to provide your coursework.
- Follow your high school's policies. The best thing to do is work within the rules.

High School Timeline

Grade 9

- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes.

Grade 10

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.

Grade 11

- Check with your counselor to make sure you will graduate on time with the required number of NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Grade 12

- Finish your last NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- Complete all academic and amateurism questions in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to submit your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Registration Checklist

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP TO BECOMING AN NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE

If you want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. Plan to register during your freshman year of high school.

To get started, choose from our two account types:

1. Profile Page Account: If you plan to compete at an NCAA Division III school or are currently unsure in which division you want to compete, create a free Profile Page account. If at any time you wish to pursue a Division I or II path, you can transition your Profile Page to a Certification account.

2. Certification Account: You must be certified by the Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. Before you can make official visits or sign a National Letter of Intent, you must have a completed Certification account (including submitted payment or fee waiver).

For Certification accounts, please allow between 30 and 45 minutes to register completely. If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and return later to finish your account. Accounts that are not completed (registration fee paid or fee waiver eligible) will be deleted after 30 days.

 **Help** Need help while registering? Click on the Help icon (located in the top task bar) for answers to your questions.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items you should have with you as you create an account at eligibilitycenter.org:

VALID EMAIL FOR STUDENT

To register, you need a valid email address that you check regularly and will have access to after high school. The NCAA Eligibility Center uses email to update you about your account throughout the process. Please note: If you have a sibling who has previously registered, you will need to use a different email address than the one in your sibling's account.

BASIC STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

This includes information such as your date of birth, primary and secondary contact information and address.

BASIC STUDENT EDUCATION HISTORY

We will ask you to provide details about all secondary and high schools and additional programs you have attended in the United States and internationally. Be sure to include all schools, regardless of whether you received grades or credits from that school or not. If you attended ninth grade at a junior high school located in the same school system in which you later attended high school, do not list your ninth-grade school.

STUDENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION HISTORY

In this section, you'll select the sport(s) you plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For Certification accounts, we will ask you to provide details for any expenses or awards you received, any teams you have practiced or played with, or certain events in which you participated. We also ask about any individuals who have advised you or marketed your skills. This information helps the NCAA Eligibility Center certify your [amateur status](#) when requested by you or an NCAA school.

PAYMENT (CERTIFICATION ACCOUNTS ONLY)

Your Certification account registration is complete only after the registration fee is paid (or upon submission of a [fee waiver](#), if you are eligible). You may pay online by debit, credit card or e-check. The registration fee for students in the United States, U.S. territories (includes American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and Canada is \$90. The fee for all other international students is \$150. Profile Page accounts do not have a fee.

All fees are nonrefundable once you have successfully registered. If you completed a duplicate registration and paid your registration fee twice, you may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee. To request a refund, complete and submit an [Eligibility Center refund form](#).

For more information: ncaa.org/playcollegesports | eligibilitycenter.org

Search Frequently Asked Questions: ncaa.org/studentfaq

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