

A photograph of college football players in red jerseys and yellow pants huddled together on a field. The players are wearing red helmets with "Pitt" written on them. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal band that contains the text.

# WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?

NCAA Eligibility Center Guide 2017-18







# AGENDA

- What is the NCAA?
- What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?
- High school timeline.
  - Registration.
- Initial-eligibility requirements.
  - Division I.
  - Division II.
- Sports participation.
- Resources.


# WHAT IS THE NCAA?

- NCAA members and the national office are dedicated to the lifelong success of college athletes. They are committed to providing a pathway to opportunity by prioritizing academics, well-being and fairness for student-athletes.
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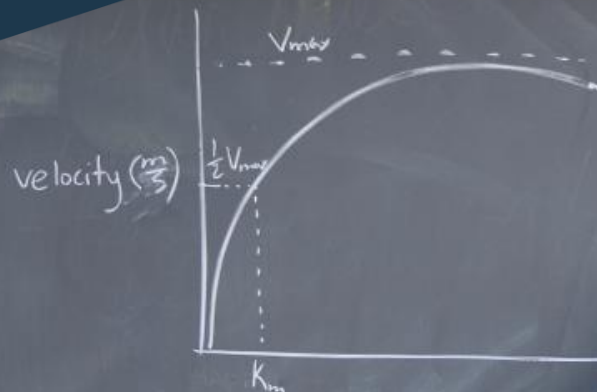
# NCAA FAST FACTS

- 1,123 colleges and universities.
  - 98 voting athletics conferences.
  - 39 affiliated organizations.
  - Almost half a million student-athletes.
  - 19,500 teams.
  - 90 championships.
  - 24 sports.
  - Three divisions.
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# WHAT IS THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER?

- The NCAA Eligibility Center evaluates and certifies prospective student-athletes for collegiate competition at Divisions I and II schools.
  - We focus on:
    - Academic preparedness.
    - Sports participation.
    - High school courses.
    - Customer service.
  - Students who want to compete at NCAA Division I or Division II schools need to meet NCAA Eligibility Center:
    - Academic initial-eligibility requirements.
    - Amateurism requirements.
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$$V = \frac{V_{max}[S]}{K_m + [S]}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \\ &= -2 \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i) x_i \\ &= -2 \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i) \end{aligned}$$

# HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

Follow these suggestions to prepare for Division I and Division II initial-eligibility requirements.





# GRADE 9: PLAN

- Work hard to earn the best grades possible.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your school's NCAA core courses to make sure you are taking NCAA-approved courses.
- Register for a free Profile Page at **[eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org)** to receive reminders about NCAA academic and amateurism requirements.




# GRADE 10: REGISTER

- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **[eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org)**.
- If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.





# GRADE 11: STUDY

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses.
  - Take the **ACT** or **SAT** and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using **code 9999**.
  - At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you took classes at more than one high school or program, ask each to submit an official transcript.
  - Make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class.
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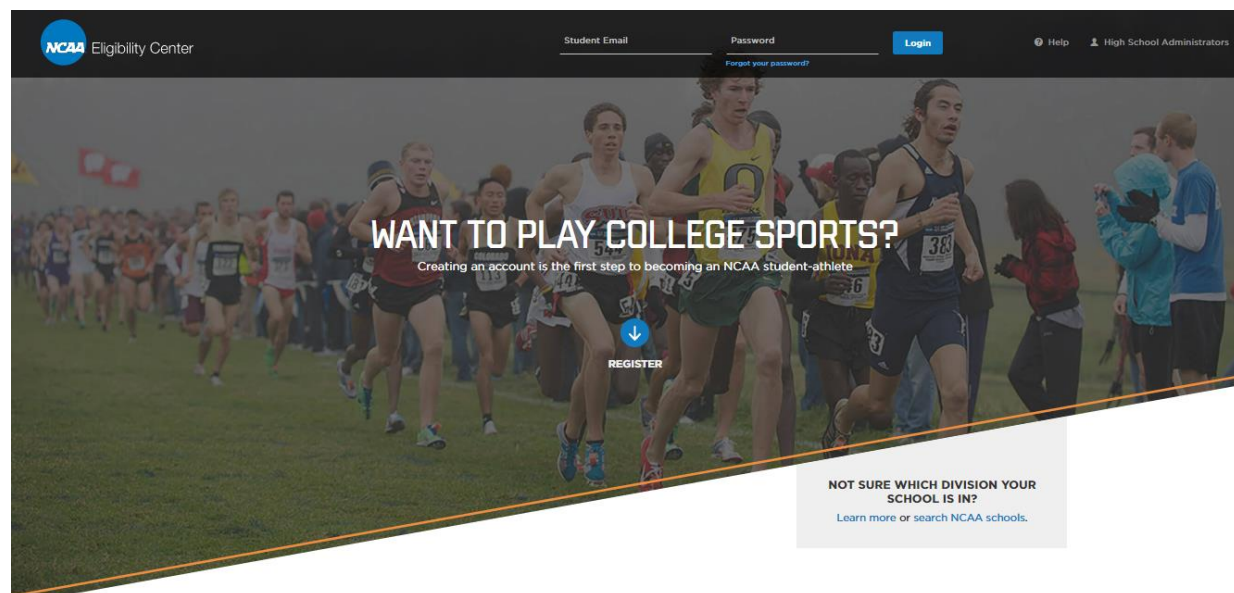
# GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- Complete your final NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code **9999**.
- Request your final amateurism certification in your Certification Account at **eligibilitycenter.org**:
  - April 1 (fall enrollees).
  - Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees).
- After you graduate on time, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Reminder: Only students on an NCAA Division I or Division II school's institutional request list will receive a certification.



# REGISTRATION

Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page at **eligibilitycenter.org** to begin your process to becoming an NCAA student-athlete.




# TWO ACCOUNT TYPES

## ■ Certification Account

- Division I or Division II students.
- Domestic fee \$80.
- International fee \$135.
- Account information, school and sports history.
- Required for signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with a Division I or Division II NCAA school.
- Required to go on an official visit to a Division I or Division II NCAA school.

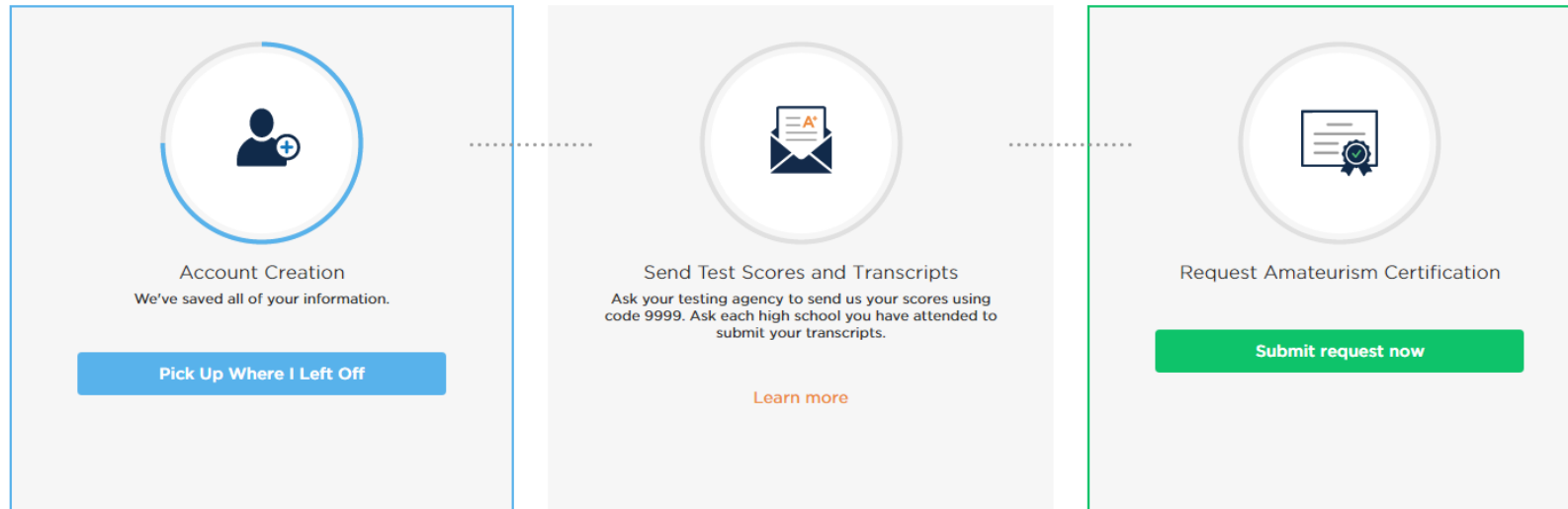
## ■ Profile Page

- Undecided students.
  - Division III students.
  - No fee.
  - Account information and school history.
  - Can transition to a Certification Account at any time.
  - Will not receive an academic or amateurism certification.
- 





## CERTIFICATION PROCESS



## ELIGIBILITY STATUS

- Review your Dashboard for open tasks.
- Update your graduation or enrollment dates if needed.
- Review your combined SAT and ACT sum test scores.
- View your transcripts on file.
- Edit your account, schools or sports information.

# INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS


The NCAA's commitment to academics ensures students are better equipped to succeed in college and prepare for lifelong success. Students need to meet the following academic requirements to be eligible to compete in college sports.



# WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?


- NCAA core courses include courses that:
  - Qualify for high school graduation in English, mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher), natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or comparative religion or philosophy.
  - Are considered four-year college preparatory.
  - Are taught at or above the high school's regular academic level.
  - Are taught by a qualified instructor.
- Tip: You can [find your school's list](#) of NCAA-approved core courses by going to [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).

# WHAT ARE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES?


- Courses taught online or through:
    - Blended learning.
    - Distance learning.
    - Credit recovery.
    - Independent study.
    - Other similar means.
  - **Tip:** Taking online or virtual nontraditional courses does not necessarily mean a student is home-schooled. Review our **Home School Toolkit** for questions about home schooling.
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# BEFORE YOU TAKE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES

- Consider these requirements. A nontraditional course:
    - Must meet NCAA core-course requirements.
    - Must include regular ongoing access between the instructor and student.
    - Must have a defined time period for completion (for example, eight weeks).
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# DIVISION I INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- To play Division I sports you need to meet the following academic requirements:
    - Graduate high school on time.
    - Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in the correct subjects.
    - Earn a minimum core-course GPA of 2.300.
    - Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.
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# DIVISION I CORE-COURSE TIME LIMITATION

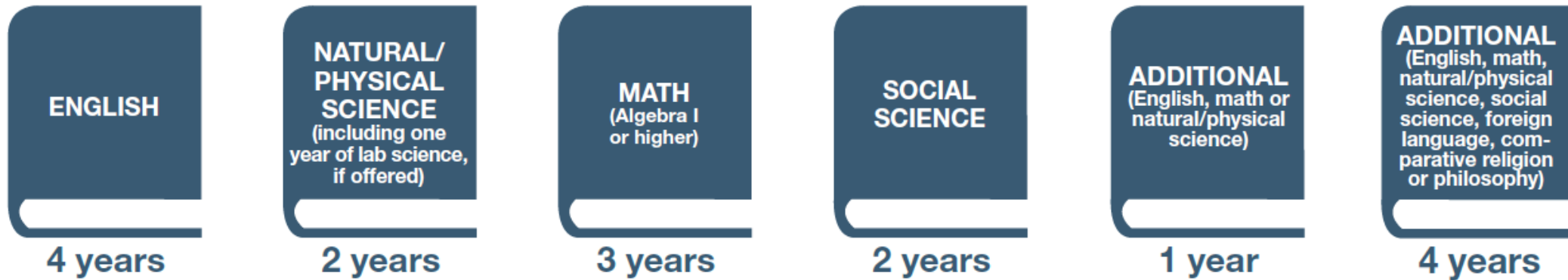
- When you enter ninth grade, you have four years (eight semesters) to complete your core-course requirement.
- If you do not complete high school on time, your core courses taken after high school will not count toward NCAA requirements.
- On time: If your high school graduation takes place June 1, you must graduate June 1. If you do not graduate June 1, you have not completed your requirements on time.





# DIVISION I CORE COURSES

Complete 10 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.



- Core-course requirements must be met in the time limitation.
- The following must be completed by the start of the student's seventh semester in high school:
  - 10 NCAA-approved core courses from your school's list in the appropriate subjects.
  - Seven of the 10 courses must be in English, math or science.

# Division I Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes you have taken.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

## English (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
✓	Example: English 9	.5		A		$(.5 \times 4) = 2$
	<b>Total English Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Mathematics (3 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		$(1.0 \times 3) = 3$
	<b>Total Mathematics Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Natural/physical science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	<b>Total Natural/Physical Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (1 year required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	<b>Total Additional Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Social science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	<b>Total Social Science Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>

## Additional academic courses (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total Additional Academic Units</b>					<b>Total Quality Points</b>
	Total Quality Points from each subject area / Total Credits = Core-Course GPA		/		=	
		<b>Quality Points</b>	/	<b>Credits</b>	=	<b>Core-Course GPA</b>

**Core-Course GPA (16 required)** Beginning August 1, 2016, 10 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester and seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science for competition purposes. Grades and credits may be earned at any time for academic redshirt purposes.

# Test Scores

When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, he or she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of **9999** so his or her scores are sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will **NOT** be used in his or her academic certification.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. A student may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before he or she enrolls full time in college. If a student takes either test more than once, the best subscores from each test are used for the academic certification process.

If you took the SAT in March 2016 or after, and plan to attend an NCAA Division I college or university in the 2018-19 or 2019-20 academic years, use the following charts to understand the core-course GPA you need to meet NCAA Division I requirements.

For more information on the SAT, click [here](#) to visit the College Board's website.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
3.550	400	400	37
3.525	410	410	38
3.500	430	420	39
3.475	440	430	40
3.450	460	440	41
3.425	470	450	41
3.400	490	460	42
3.375	500	470	42
3.350	520	480	43
3.325	530	490	44
3.300	550	500	44
3.275	560	510	45
3.250	580	520	46
3.225	590	530	46
3.200	600	540	47
3.175	620	550	47
3.150	630	560	48
3.125	650	570	49
3.100	660	580	49
3.075	680	590	50
3.050	690	600	50
3.025	710	610	51
3.000	720	620	52
2.975	730	630	52
2.950	740	640	53
2.925	750	650	53
2.900	750	660	54
2.875	760	670	55
2.850	770	680	56
2.825	780	690	56
2.800	790	700	57
2.775	800	710	58

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
2.750	810	720	59
2.725	820	730	60
2.700	830	740	61
2.675	840	750	61
2.650	850	760	62
2.625	860	770	63
2.600	860	780	64
2.575	870	790	65
2.550	880	800	66
2.525	890	810	67
2.500	900	820	68
2.475	910	830	69
2.450	920	840	70
2.425	930	850	70
2.400	940	860	71
2.375	950	870	72
2.350	960	880	73
2.325	970	890	74
2.300	980	900	75
2.299	990	910	76
2.275	990	910	76
2.250	1000	920	77
2.225	1010	930	78
2.200	1020	940	79
2.175	1030	950	80
2.150	1040	960	81
2.125	1050	970	82
2.100	1060	980	83
2.075	1070	990	84
2.050	1080	1000	85
2.025	1090	1010	86
2.000	1100	1020	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

\*Final concordance research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.



# DIVISION I TEST SCORES

- Take the SAT or ACT as many times as you wish.
- Use code **9999** when registering to send scores directly to us.
- We will use your best scores to certify you:
  - SAT combined score.
  - ACT sum score.
- Your test score and GPA will be matched on our Division I sliding scale.

	MATH	CRITICAL READING	TOTAL
<b>SAT</b> (October 2016)	390	<b>510</b>	900
<b>SAT</b> (December 2016)	<b>460</b>	470	930
<b>SCORES USED</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>970</b>

Please note: If you took the SAT in March 2016 or after, you need to apply the College Board's concordance table to your score. Learn more at [ncaa.org/test-scores](http://ncaa.org/test-scores).

# DIVISION I QUALIFIER

- You are eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics aid your first year of college enrollment.
- Qualifiers meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - 10/7 core-course progression.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the sliding scale.



# DIVISION I REDSHIRT

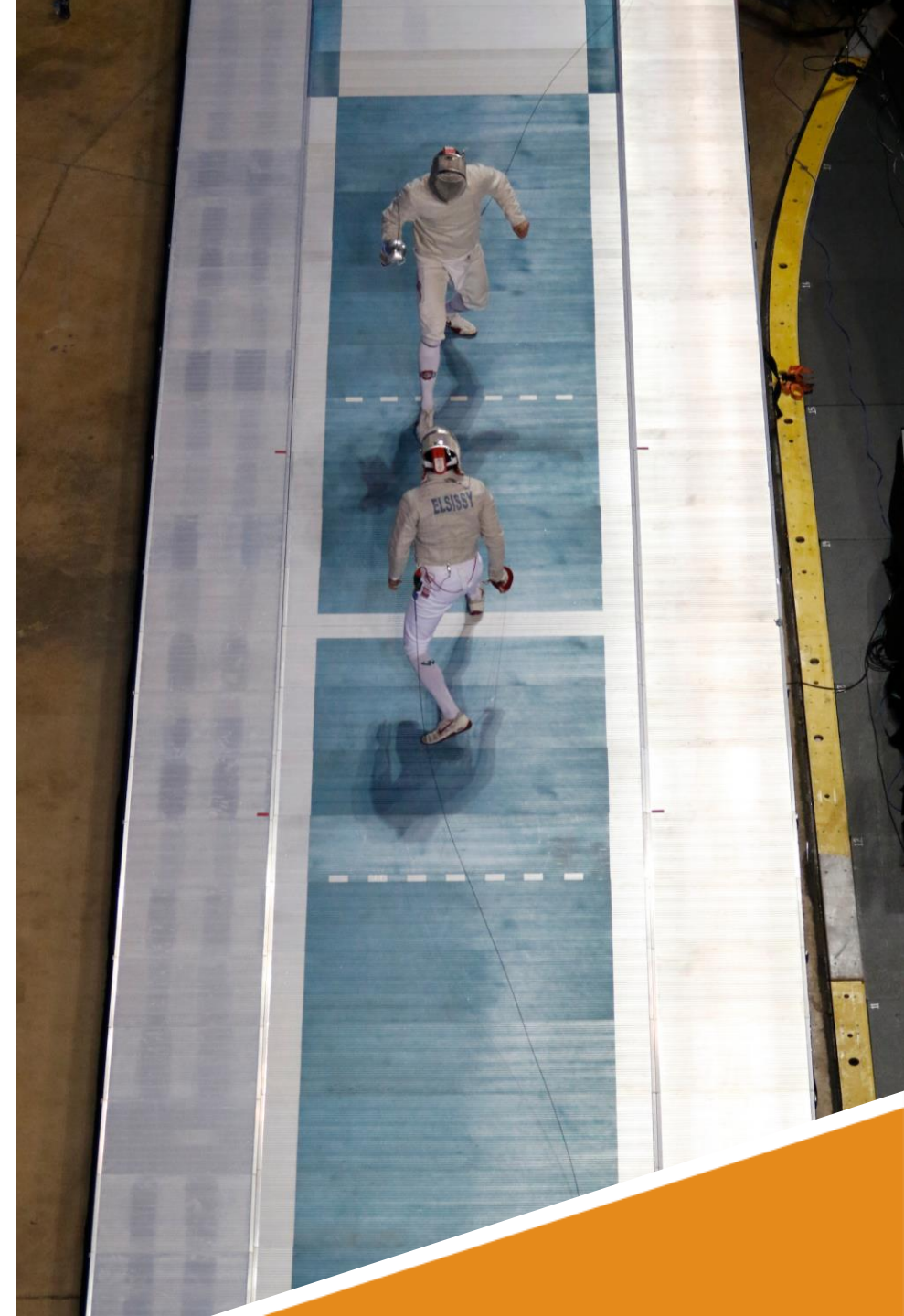
- You may receive athletics aid and practice your first academic term but not compete.
- You must pass nine semester hours (eight quarter hours) your first academic term to continue practicing the rest of the year.
- Redshirts meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.000 to 2.299.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the sliding scale.
- You may retake core courses if you fail to meet the required 10 courses before your senior year.






# DIVISION I NONQUALIFIER

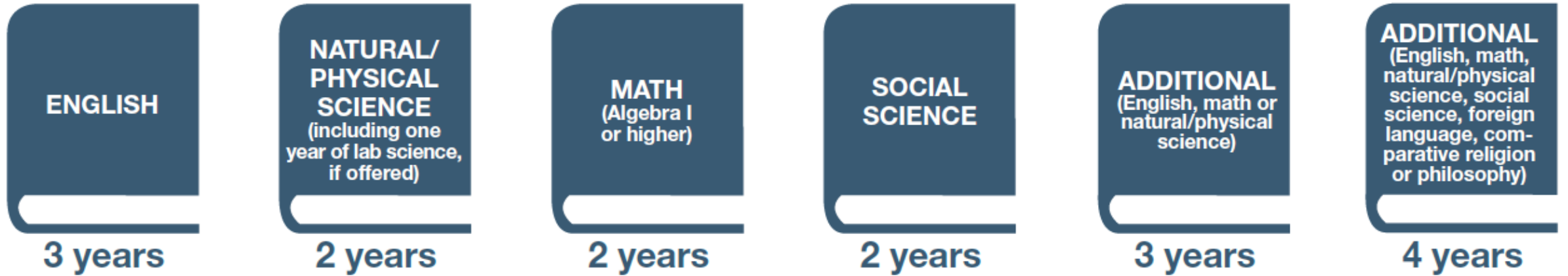
- You are not eligible to practice, compete or receive athletics aid your first year.



# DIVISION II INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- To play Division II sports you need to meet the following academic requirements:
    - Graduate high school.
    - Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses.
    - Earn a minimum core-course GPA of 2.200.
    - Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the full-qualifier scale.
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# DIVISION II CORE COURSES



- Core-course time limitation
  - You can use all core courses completed starting your ninth-grade year until you enroll full time at a Division II college or university.



# DIVISION II TEST SCORES

- Take the SAT or ACT as many times as you wish.
- Use code **9999** when registering to send scores directly to us.
- We will use your best scores to certify you:
  - SAT combined score.
  - ACT sum score.
- Your test score and GPA will be matched on our Division II sliding scale.

	MATH	CRITICAL READING	TOTAL
<b>SAT</b> (October 2016)	390	<b>510</b>	900
<b>SAT</b> (December 2016)	<b>460</b>	470	930
<b>SCORES USED</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>970</b>

Please note: If you took the SAT in March 2016 or after, you need to apply the College Board's concordance table to your score. Learn more at [ncaa.org/test-scores](http://ncaa.org/test-scores).

# DIVISION II QUALIFIER

- You are eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics aid your first year of college enrollment.
- Qualifiers meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.200.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the full-qualifier sliding scale.



# DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER

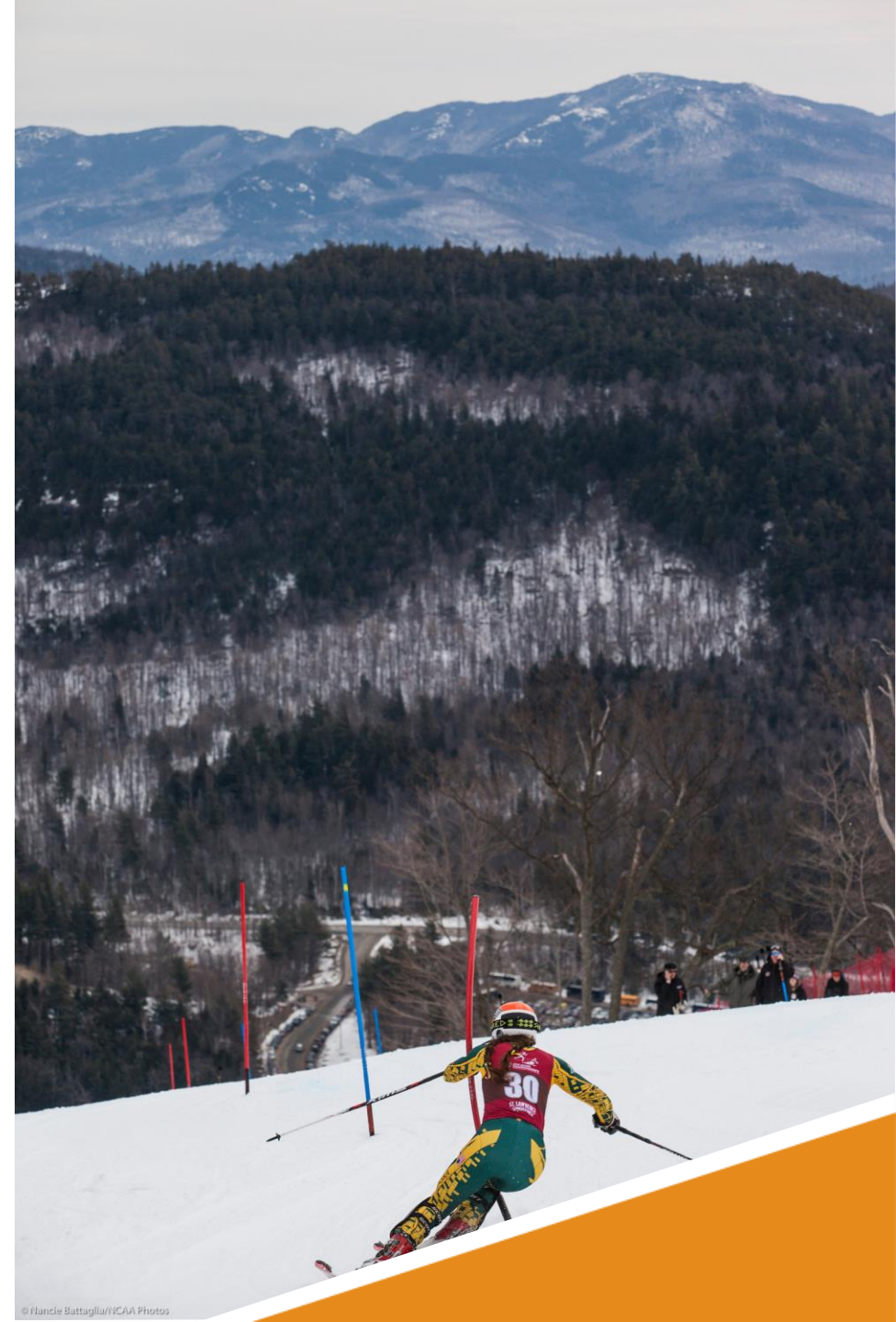
- You are allowed to practice and receive athletics aid in your first academic year but cannot compete.
- Partial qualifiers meet:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.000.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the partial-qualifier sliding scale.





# DIVISION II NONQUALIFIER

- You are not eligible to practice, compete or receive athletics aid your first year.





# DIVISION III INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Each Division III college or university determines its own eligibility for:
  - Admission.
  - Financial aid.
  - Practice and competition.
- The NCAA Eligibility Center does not perform certifications for Division III college-bound student-athletes.
- Division III student-athletes may register for a free Profile Page, but it is not required.





# SPORTS PARTICIPATION

The NCAA Eligibility Center also evaluates amateurism. Follow these tips to stay eligible to compete in college sports before full-time enrollment.



# AMATEURISM

- In general, amateurism requirements do not allow:
  - Contracts with professional teams.
  - Salary for participating in athletics.
  - Prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
  - Play with professionals.
  - Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
  - Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
  - Agreement to be represented by an agent.
  - Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.
- Tip: If you have questions about actions that could impact your amateurism, contact the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure your decision will not impact your future eligibility.

# SPORTS PARTICIPATION

- When you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center for a Certification Account, select the sport(s) you would like to play in college.
  - Complete questions about sports participation.
  - Update your information frequently if you play for multiple teams or attend events outside the traditional high school setting.
- Request final amateurism certification before you enroll full time at a Division I or Division II school.
- Over **94 percent** of students don't require additional amateurism questions from the NCAA Eligibility Center after they request final amateurism.





# KEEP IN MIND

- Share your NCAA ID number with schools recruiting you.
- Don't forget to apply to the school of your choosing and confirm you've been accepted.
- Learn about the NLI.
- Request final amateurism certification before you enroll full time in college.
- Ask your counselor to send your final transcript(s) with proof of graduation.



A background image showing several students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a young man in a red shirt is focused on his laptop. Behind him, a young woman with blonde hair is also working on a laptop. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at their screens and others talking. The scene is brightly lit, typical of a modern educational environment.

# RESOURCES

For more information about initial eligibility, amateurism requirements and other valuable insight, visit the following resources.

# LEARN MORE

## ▶ Visit our websites:

- ▶ [ncaa.org/playcollegesports](https://ncaa.org/playcollegesports).
- ▶ [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).


## ▶ Get updates on Twitter [@NCAAEC](https://twitter.com/NCAAEC) and Instagram [@playcollegesports](https://www.instagram.com/playcollegesports).

## ▶ Visit [nationalletter.org](https://nationalletter.org) to learn about the NLI.

## ▶ Download our resources:

- ▶ [Initial-Eligibility Brochure](#).
- ▶ [Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#).
- ▶ [DI Initial-Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet](#).
- ▶ [DII Initial-Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet](#).

# THANK YOU

- ▶ Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center:
    - ▶ 317-917-6222.
    - ▶ 877-262-1492 (toll free).
    - ▶ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.
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[ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org)



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[ncaa.org/playcollegesports](https://ncaa.org/playcollegesports)  
[eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org)