



NCAA Eligibility Center

*Session on NCAA Initial Eligibility
Presented by
Mercy College*

Initial-Eligibility

The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for determining the eligibility of every prospective student-athlete in NCAA Divisions I and II using the following two prongs:

- Academic Certification

Does the student meet the legislated minimum academic requirements?

- Amateurism Certification

Has the student competed professionally in their sport?

Objectives

For this presentation:

- Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics
 - Qualifier
 - Partial-Qualifier
 - NonQualifier
- Initial-Eligibility Overview: Amateurism
- Role of the High School
- Role of the High School Counselors
- Questions



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Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements

In order to compete as a freshman, an athlete must:

- Graduate from high school; and
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in a prescribed distribution of 14 core courses; and
- Earn a combined SAT score of at least 820 (Critical Reading + Math) or an ACT sum score of at least 68.
 - No sliding scale for Division II

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

Academic initial-eligibility requirements *are different* for each of the three divisions.

It is possible for a student to be a qualifier in one division and not another.

Final Eligibility Center Certification Decisions:

1. Qualifier
2. Partial-Qualifier
3. NonQualifier

Final Eligibility Center Certification Decisions:

Qualifier:

All four initial-eligibility requirements (i.e., high school graduation, minimum number of core courses, core course grade-point average and test scores) must be satisfied at the time of initial full-time enrollment to be certified as a qualifier. Qualifiers may practice, compete and receive athletically related financial aid.

Final Eligibility Center Certification Decisions:

Partial Qualifier:

A partial qualifier is a student-athlete who does not meet the requirements for a qualifier but who, at the time of graduation from high school, presents one of the following requirements:

- a. Successful completion of the required core curriculum consisting of a minimum number of courses and a specified minimum grade-point average in the core curriculum; OR
- b. Specified minimum SAT or ACT score.

A partial qualifier is eligible for practice conducted only in the institution's regular practice facility and athletically related financial aid, but may not compete in any outside competition during the first academic year in residence.

Final Eligibility Center Certification Decisions:

NonQualifier:

- . **A nonqualifier is a student-athlete who has not graduated from high school or who presented neither the core curriculum grade-point average and SAT or ACT score required for a qualifier.**
 - a. **A nonqualifier is not eligible for practice, competition or receive athletically related financial aid for one full academic year at the certifying institution.**

If a student-athlete's final certification status is a partial or nonqualifier, the student-athlete must establish an academic year of residency prior to representing the institution in outside competition.

- b. **A student-athlete who has never applied to the Eligibility Center is by default a nonqualifier until he or she applies and receives a final certification decision.**

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Academics

Division II

14 Core Courses

- 3 years English
- 2 years math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)
- 2 years additional English, math or natural/physical science
- 2 years social science
- 3 years additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)



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Initial-Eligibility Overview: Amateurism

Initial-Eligibility Overview: Amateurism

Amateurism Red Flags:

- Receiving money for participating in athletics.
- Signing a contract with a professional team.
- Receiving prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
- Playing with professional athletes.
- Trying out, practicing or competing with a professional team.
- Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- Participating in organized competition after your first opportunity to enroll in college.

Initial-Eligibility Overview:

Amateurism

Amateurism tips:

- Encourage students to update their athletics participation information on their Eligibility Center profile, especially if they participate in events outside your normal high school season.
- Stay college eligible – always ask before you act!
- NCAA Amateurism Certification Web site: www1.ncaa.org/membership/ach/index.html.



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Role of the High School

Role of the High School:

- Make sure your school's list of approved core courses is accurate and up to date. (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- Send transcripts at the end of the junior year and at the end of the senior year using online grad list.
- Meet with student-athletes often and communicate the importance of the initial-eligibility clearinghouse.

Definition of a Core Course

- Qualifies for high school graduation in one or more of the following: English, mathematics, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion or philosophy;
- Is considered four-year college preparatory;
- Is taught at or above the high school's regular academic level;
- For mathematics courses, is at the level of Algebra I or a higher level mathematics course; and
- Is taught by a qualified instructor as defined by the appropriate academic authority.

Ways that High School Counselors Can Help

- Know the eligibility requirements
- Know how to calculate a student's core-course GPA
- Know that special considerations are given to students with documented learning disabilities
- Create an efficient system to process eligibility center applications (including submission of an official transcript at the end of the junior and senior years)
- Help students identify colleges that fit their criteria (e.g. academics, size, distance from home, location etc.)
 - Apply the “broken leg test” by asking if the student would be happy if athletics could not be factored into the equation
- Emphasize the importance of academic performance at every step of their high school career – 9th grade counts!!!
- Last but DEFINITELY not least...make sure that your list of approved core courses is as accurate and up to date as possible.

Status**Task****Completed****Register / Pay.**

If incomplete, click [here](#) to download payment form. Fax completed form to 317/968-5104.

Completed**Preliminary Transcript(s) (any high school work through junior year).**

If incomplete, please click [here](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to submit your transcript(s) to the Eligibility Center and additional information about what transcripts are needed.

Current High School Attending

Code	Name	Transcript
364931	SYLVANIA SOUTHVIEW HIGH	Received

Completed**Official Test Score.**

If incomplete, please go to the appropriate testing agency's Web site (links below) and request scores to be sent by entering code 9999.

ACT**SAT**

Please click [here](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to request testing agencies to send your test score to the Eligibility Center.

Incomplete**Final Transcript.**

If incomplete, please ask your high school guidance counselor to submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

Incomplete**Final Amateurism Certification. (Note: time sensitive)**

If incomplete, please click [here](#) to view step-by-step instructions on how to finalize your amateurism certification.

All of the above steps must be complete prior to certification.

For details of your certification status, download this [instruction sheet](#) and use it to guide you through your Web status report.

Resources

- 877/622-2321 (877/NCAA-EC1)
 - Phone line dedicated to the high school community
- www.ncaastudent.org
 - 2007-08 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Questions?





Eligibility Center

Contact Information:

NCAA Eligibility Center

P.O. Box 7110

Indianapolis, IN 46206

877/622-2321 (877/NCAA-EC1)