

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE?

The NCAA Constitution requires student athletes to achieve certain minimum high school grade-point averages on core courses and minimum SAT/ACT scores to participate in Division I or Division II NCAA Intercollegiate athletics and to receive any athletically related financial aid as freshmen. Students who fail to achieve the minimum standards to compete in college may attend a prep school (such as Fork Union) or attend community college for a time in hopes of improving their SAT/ACT scores for Division I or II standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center has published a document, 2018-2019 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete, that lays out in detail all requirements for collegiate athletic eligibility. It can be found at this link: <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA19.pdf>.

To play at the Division I level, a student must:

1. Complete 16 core courses, including:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science
- 1 additional year of English, math, or natural/physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of additional courses, including any of the above, foreign language, or religion/philosophy. (10 of these courses --including 7 in English, math or natural/physical science-- must be completed before the seventh semester of high school, with grades being locked in after that time.)

2. Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in 8 academic semesters for 4 consecutive academic years from the start of the 9th grade.

3. Hold at least a 2.3 GPA and achieve an ACT/SAT score that corresponds to his GPA. (See page 19 of the Guide.)

To play at the Division II level, a student must:

1. Complete 16 core courses, including:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of natural/physical science
- 2 years of social science
- 3 additional years of English, math, or natural/physical science
- 4 years of additional courses, including any of the above, foreign language, or religion/philosophy.

2. Hold at least a 2.2 GPA and achieve an ACT/SAT score that corresponds to his GPA. (See page 23 of the Guide.)

If you are an athlete interested in playing Division I or II at the college-level, it is recommended that you meet with your high school coach and let him/her know of your interest in playing college athletics at the D-I or II level. To play at the D-I or II level, you have to be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Before your sophomore year, follow the steps below:

- Log on to www.eligibilitycenter.org and pre-register with the NCAA Clearinghouse Eligibility Center. You will receive an ID number and password. Write these down and save for future use.
- Request an official copy of your FUMA transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse AND request official transcripts from other high schools you attended be sent, as well.
- Contact www.collegeboard.org and/or www.act.com to have SAT and/or ACT scores sent to the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse code is 9999.

Below is a valuable resource that helps to explain the athletic recruiting process and details a student athlete's path to playing sports at the college level, from the freshman year to a student's senior year:

<https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/athletic-recruiting/>

The following questions should be considered if you are interested in playing at the collegiate level:

- I know this school has a great (football, basketball, hockey, etc.) program, but how highly rated are its academic programs?
- Are my high school grades and test scores good enough for your school to admit me?
- Does my college counselor consider this school a good match for me considering my grades, test scores, and athletic aspirations?
- What does my coach think about this college with respect to my athletic abilities and performance?
- On an average day, how many hours will athletics take away from my academic obligations?
- If I start to experience academic difficulty, what supports are available through the athletic department?
- If I am accepted on an athletic scholarship and become seriously injured and unable to play, do I lose my scholarship?
- If I obtain an athletic scholarship, for what expenses am I still responsible?
- Can I afford to travel home from this school during vacation periods, or am I expected to stay on campus for practice and game responsibilities?
- What do present and former athletes have to say about the school and the athletic department?
- Do my skills seem to fit into the playing style of this team?