

The background of the slide features a large, stylized logo of a buffalo's head in shades of blue and grey. The logo is centered and takes up most of the frame. Overlaid on the logo is white text.

Division I eligibility, scholarships and recruiting

Kelly Cruttenden

Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance University at Buffalo

TM

NCAA rules tutorial for those considering DI or II athletics



Division I vs II vs III athletics

- Level of athletic scholarships offered and number of sports offered
- Time commitment
- Level of play
- Eligibility standards



- Division I—higher level of athletic scholarships
- Division II—lower level of athletic scholarships
- Division III—cannot offer athletic scholarships at all



DI—UB, Stony Brook, Albany, Binghamton, Niagara, Canisius, St. Bonaventure, Penn State, Michigan State, Duke, Stanford

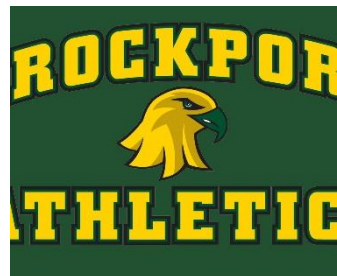
DII—Roberts Wesleyan, Daemen, D'Youville, PA state schools, CW Post, Dowling, Concordia, Dominican, Le Moyne, Mercy, NIT, Nyack, Pace, Queens, Saint Rose, St. Thomas Aquinas College

DIII-Cortland, Brockport, Buff State, St John Fisher, Nazareth, University of Rochester, Ithaca, Keuka



We live in a Division III
“hotbed”....

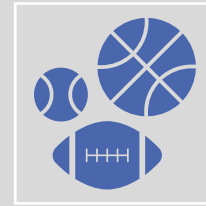
Within three-five hours of the
Western NY area, there are
countless excellent,
affordable DIII schools with
successful athletic programs
and great academics.





#jucoproduct

- Many local junior colleges have GREAT athletic programs.
- Affordable; have no NCAA initial eligibility requirements
- Good way to get your “gen-eds” or “pre-reqs” completed before entering a four-year school.



All divisions
recruit out of
junior college
athletic
programs each
year.

At UB we have
20+ junior
college transfer
student athletes
on teams.



Athletics Scholarship Basics

- Contracts that can be issued for 1-5 years [some conferences mandate four-year agreements]
- May be “full” (tuition, fees, room, board and books); or
- May include a cost of attendance stipend for supplies, clothing, etc
- May be “partial” or a percentage of a full scholarship (.5 or .75); or
- May be issued as a dollar amount (\$5000) or
- May be issued as an item like “tuition” or “room and board”

~~The National Letter of Intent~~

- The NLI program has been eliminated, and all scholarships are administered directly by the athletic departments. Football and basketball still have signing periods.



Men's Varsity Sports	DI	DII
Baseball	11.7	9
Basketball - NCAA I is a head count sport	13	10
Cross Country - NCAA limits include Track & Field	12.6	12.6
Fencing	4.5	4.5
Football - NCAA I FBS - head count sport	85	-
Football - NCAA I FCS	63	-
Football - Other Divisions	-	36
Golf	4.5	3.6
Gymnastics	6.3	5.4
Ice Hockey	18	13.5
Lacrosse	12.6	10.8
Rifle - Includes women on co-ed teams	3.6	3.6
Skiing	6.3	6.3
Soccer	9.9	9
Swimming & Diving	9.9	8.1
Tennis	4.5	4.5
Track & Field - NCAA limits include X-Country	12.6	12.6
Volleyball	4.5	4.5
Water Polo	4.5	4.5
Wrestling	9.9	9


Women's Varsity Sports	Division I	Division II
Archery	5	5
Badminton	6	8
Basketball	15	10
Bowling	5	5
Cross Country/Track	20	12.6
Fencing	5	4.5
Field Hockey	12	6.3
Golf	6	5.4
Gymnastics	12	6
Ice Hockey	18	18
Lacrosse	12	9.9
Rowing	20	20
Rugby	12	
Skiing	7	6.3
Soccer	14	9.9
Softball	12	7.2
Squash	12	9
Swimming	14	8.1
Synchronized Swim.	5	5
Team Handball	10	12
Tennis	8	6
Volleyball	12	8
Waterpolo	8	8



Roster limits and scholarship limits will be impacted
by the April 7th court decision on House VS NCAA

Sport	New Roster Limit	Increase
Baseball (M)	34	22.3
Basketball (M)	15	2
Basketball (W)	15	0
Beach Volleyball (W)	19	13
Bowling (W)	11	6
Cross Country (M)	17	12
Cross Country (W)	17	11
Equestrian (W)	50	35
Field Hockey (W)	27	15
Football (M)	105	20
Golf (M)	9	4.5
Golf (W)	9	3
Gym (M)	20	13.7
Gym (W)	20	8
Ice Hockey (M)	26	8
Ice Hockey (W)	26	8
Water Polo (W)	24	16
Wrestling (M)	30	20.1
Wrestling (W)	30	20

Track (M)	45	35.4
Track (W)	45	27
Lacrosse (M)	48	35.4
Lacrosse (W)	38	26
Rowing (W)	68	48
Skiing (M)	16	9.7
Skiing (W)	16	9
Soccer (M)	28	18.1
Soccer (W)	28	14
Softball (W)	25	13
Swim (M)	30	20.1
Swim (W)	30	16
Tennis (M)	10	5.5
Tennis (W)	10	2
Triathlon (W)	14	7.5
Volleyball (M)	18	13.5
Volleyball (W)	18	6
Water Polo (M)	24	19.5

A black football with a pebbled texture is positioned on the left side of the frame, leaning against a stack of three books. The books have dark covers and yellowed, aged pages. The background is a solid, light gray.

Scholarship Basics

Can be taken away for:

- **Quitting the team voluntarily**
- **Becoming academically ineligible**
- **Disciplinary reasons**

All athletic scholarships will outline rules, expectations, and other stipulations.

NCAA has implemented additional protections for scholarships.

NCAA department that determines
freshmen initial eligibility for
Division I and II intercollegiate athletic
competition and athletic scholarships



Eligibility
Center

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for **all** student-athletes who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements. For more information, [click here](#).



[Forgot your password?](#)

[Login](#)

NOT SURE WHICH DIVISION YOUR
SCHOOL IS IN?

[Learn more or search NCAA schools.](#) [Help](#) [High School Administrators](#)

Want to Compete at an NCAA School?

Create the Eligibility Center account that's right for you!

If you want to compete in NCAA sports, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Plan to register before starting your freshman year of high school (or year nine of secondary school). The information below will help guide you through the registration process.

To get started, review the three account options and choose the one that's right for you! You'll only need to create one account with the Eligibility Center. Starting with the free Profile Page is best practice, as you can transition it later to the Certification account needed for your circumstances.

Option 1:
Free Profile Page Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

Option 2:
Amateurism-Only Certification Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

Option 3:
Academic and Amateurism Certification Account

[Who should create this account?](#)

[Already have an NCAA account?](#)

NCAA EC
registration is
for any student
who plans on
competing at
the DI or II level

3 types of NCAA
accounts

- Graduation from high school
- ~~SAT or ACT minimum score~~
- Minimum core course grade point average.
- Completion of 16 core courses in grades 9-12—eight semesters of high school (one course after the completion of eight semesters)
- Complete of 10 core classes through the first six semester, 7 must be math, English and Science



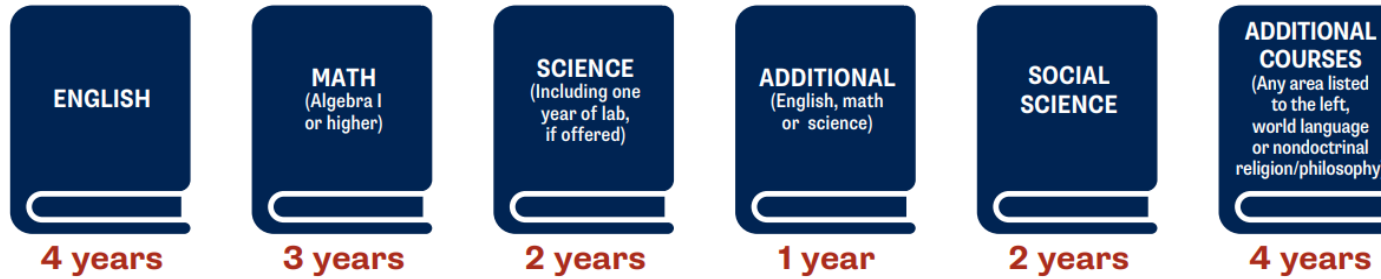
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a Division I or II school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved **core-course credits**, earn a minimum 2.3 (Division I) or 2.2 (Division II) **core-course GPA** and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DIVISION I

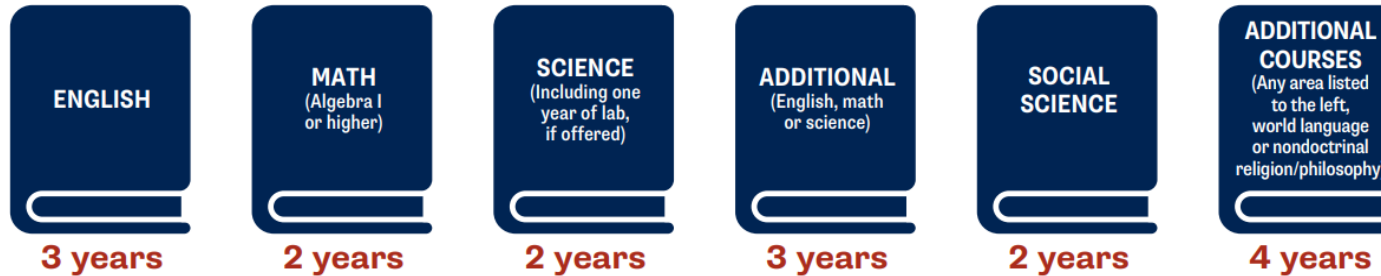
Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



For Division I, 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of your seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

DIVISION II

Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The Eligibility Center calculates your **core-course GPA** based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

- » Division I requires a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
- » Division II requires a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.

- Are you on track?
- Registered?
- Have a transcript on file?
- Met with your counselor to ensure you have the right classes?

- List of your high school's approved core courses
- Available on www.eligibilitycenter.org

web3.ncaa.org/hsportal/exec/hsAction

BookmarksHome - Intranet Ho...Athletics' Inquiry Fo...Kelly CruttendenMy TIAA

ing disabilities. The course must be quantitatively and qualitatively the same as the regular equivalent and there must be

A legislation permits a student to receive credit for a core course only one time. As a result, if a student repeats a core course, the grade earned in the course will be included in the calculation of the student's core course grade point average. Likewise, if a student repeats a core course, only receive credit for one of the duplicative courses, and the course with the highest grade earned will be included in the

Approved Courses

English

Course Number	Title	Notes
	AM LITERATURE	
	CREATIVE WRITING	
	ENGLISH 10/R	
	ENGLISH 11 HONORS	
	ENGLISH 11/R	
	ENGLISH 12/AP	
	ENGLISH 12/R	
	ENGLISH 9 HONORS	
	ENGLISH 9/R	
	HUMANITIES	
	JOURNALISM 1	
	JOURNALISM 2	
	LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION/AP	
	WORLD LITERATURE	
	WRITING	

Social Science

Title	Notes
20TH CENTURY IB	
ADOLESCENT PSYCH	
AMERICAN HIST/S	
AP PSYCHOLOGY	
CHILD PSYCHOLOGY	
ECONOMICS 12/R	
ECONOMICS 12/S	
EUROPEAN HISTORY/AP	
GLOBAL HISTORY /GEOGRAPHY 10	
GLOBAL HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY 9	

be here to search

N

P

X

O

A



Eligibility Center

Register before junior
year

Pay the registration fee

Counselor uploads
transcript at the end of
each academic year

Upon graduation,
counselor uploads final
transcript with proof of
graduation

April 1 senior year-
finalize "amateur"
status with the NCAA
through your eligibility
center account

A male tennis player is captured in a dynamic pose on a green tennis court. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a small blue logo on the left chest, blue athletic shorts with a white bull logo on the left leg and a Nike swoosh on the right, and black socks with white stripes at the top. He is holding a blue and black tennis racket with both hands, preparing for a backhand stroke. A yellow tennis ball is visible in the air to his left. The background is a textured green tarp.

Division I recruiting – the basics



June 15th at the end of grade 10:

- Most sports can start calling and sending emails, texts, messages and printed recruiting materials.
*Softball and w. basketball are slightly later.
- Camp brochures, admissions materials and NCAA educational materials can be mailed at any time.



- Evaluation: A coach comes to watch your game, practice, camp, clinic, tournament, PE class—this can take place at any time during your athletic career during permissible recruiting periods
- Contact: A coach talks to you, face to face, not on the institution's campus (at your school, home, game)

Recruiting Contacts

Most sports: August
1 at the beginning of
11th grade

Baseball: July 1 after
11th grade

Football: January 1 of
11th grade

Men's basketball:
first day of 11th
grade

Women's basketball:
September 1 of 12th
grade

Softball and Lacrosse:
September 1 of 11th
grade



Recruiting Visits to college campuses

NEW-Unlimited official paid visits --the school can pay travel, hotel, food, entertainment for you and your family.

Unofficial visits-where you pay all your expenses to visit campus and meet the coaches. Normally requested by the coach but recruits can ask to set these up as well. Tour campus, watch practice, attend a game, attend class, meet with academic staff, etc.



Unofficial visits

- Most sports-August 1 junior year
- Football and women's basketball-any time
- Men's basketball-August 1 start of grade 10
- Baseball, softball, lacrosse-September 1 junior year
- Men's ice hockey-January 1 sophomore year
- These are VERY common and a main form of on campus recruiting in Division I.





Official Paid Visits

Most sports-August 1 junior year

Baseball, softball, lacrosse-September 1 junior year

Women's basketball-April junior year

Football- April 1- June junior year; September 1 senior year

Typically reserved for the top prospects at each school and those being offered athletic scholarships



-
- Have schedules, highlight video, and game video (links to online video) readily available and accessible online for coaches [online profiles]
 - Have a copy of your transcript and test scores [if you have them, if not, that's ok] available upon request
 - Recruiting services
 - Follow the teams on social media—twitter, Instagram, Snapchat—good insight on their programs
 - Schedule campus visits, coordinate with the coaching staff

- Stay in contact—be responsive to emails, direct messages on social media, calls and texts
- Attend summer camps at your top schools
- Attend competitions at your top schools
- Recruit yourself—the number of kids looking for scholarships is EXPONENTIALLY higher than the number of scholarships available

Recommendation




Who are good people to speak on your behalf to college coaches? Who can attest to your athletic and academic ability? Which of your current coaches can start the recruiting conversations with college coaches?

- High school coach
- Travel/AAU/club coach
- Counselor and teachers
- Trainers or personal coaches


A lot of college recruiting starts with conversations between college coaches and high school, club, travel and AAU coaches.



A hand holding a silver stopwatch in the foreground, with a swimming pool and lane markers in the background. The image is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like shape that separates it from the text on the right.

Different styles/methods of recruiting

- Recruiting is very specific to Division, to coach, to sport and to school.
- Some sports rely on times and are looking for those who run/swim/jump/throw/pitch the fastest.
- Some coaches watch a lot of film to recruit.
- Some go to high school games, while some only watch large club/travel tournaments.

An aerial photograph of a university campus, likely the University of Buffalo, showing a large red running track and a green football field with "BUFFALO" written on the end zones. In the background, there are several large academic buildings, parking lots filled with cars, and a body of water. A large, semi-transparent circular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing a list of factors for choosing a school.

Pick a school for the **major**, the **location**, the **career/internship opportunities**, the programs, the **clubs**, the **faculty**, the **class size**, the **opportunity for financial aid**----what's the best fit for you? What level fits best—I, II or III?

PRIORITIES



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- Close or far? Location?
- Big or small?
- High level academics
- Athletic \$\$
- Quality, winning coaches
- Playing time, ability to start right away
- Tradition/winning history
- New athletic facilities
- Job placement %
- On-campus apartments



- Not every student athlete in DI or DII is on an athletic scholarship.
- Many athletes on DI/II rosters are NON scholarship players—"walk-ons".
- Can walk-ons earn scholarships? YES
- Do all walk-ons earn scholarships? NO

Have your questions ready



How many other athletes are they recruiting at your position?



How many athletes are already on the team in my position?



Will I play as a freshman or will I “redshirt”?



How much scholarship money is available? Are there other grants or scholarships available?



Will I go home for the summer or does the team stay and train and take classes?

Do I go home for winter break/spring break or will I be on campus practicing?

Am I restricted from any majors due to class conflicts with practice times?

What level of academic support to athletes have access to?

Counseling services? Nutrition services?
Mental health services? Medical services?

High school grades MATTER.

- Every school has different admissions standards...find out what they are for your top choices.

- Don't think "if the coach wants me to play, then he/she will get me in to school". This is NOT true at most schools.





Have a very firm understanding of:

- The cost of school, including living expenses and travel
- How much athletic \$\$, if any, you will get
- Other funding, including grants and loans
- TAP, excelsior, loans, grants, Pell
- The criteria to get and KEEP any aid

The background of the slide features a collage of US currency, including a \$50 bill and a \$100 bill. Overlaid on this is a document with several sections redacted with solid red blocks. A white horizontal line is drawn across the bottom of the redacted area. The text boxes are semi-transparent blue with white text.

Name Image Likeness NIL

Transfer Portal

The House Settlement, revenue sharing

Questions?

