ELIGIBILITY CENTER

NCAA INITIAL ELIGIBILTY

College-Bound Student-Athletes

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WHAT IS THE NCAA?

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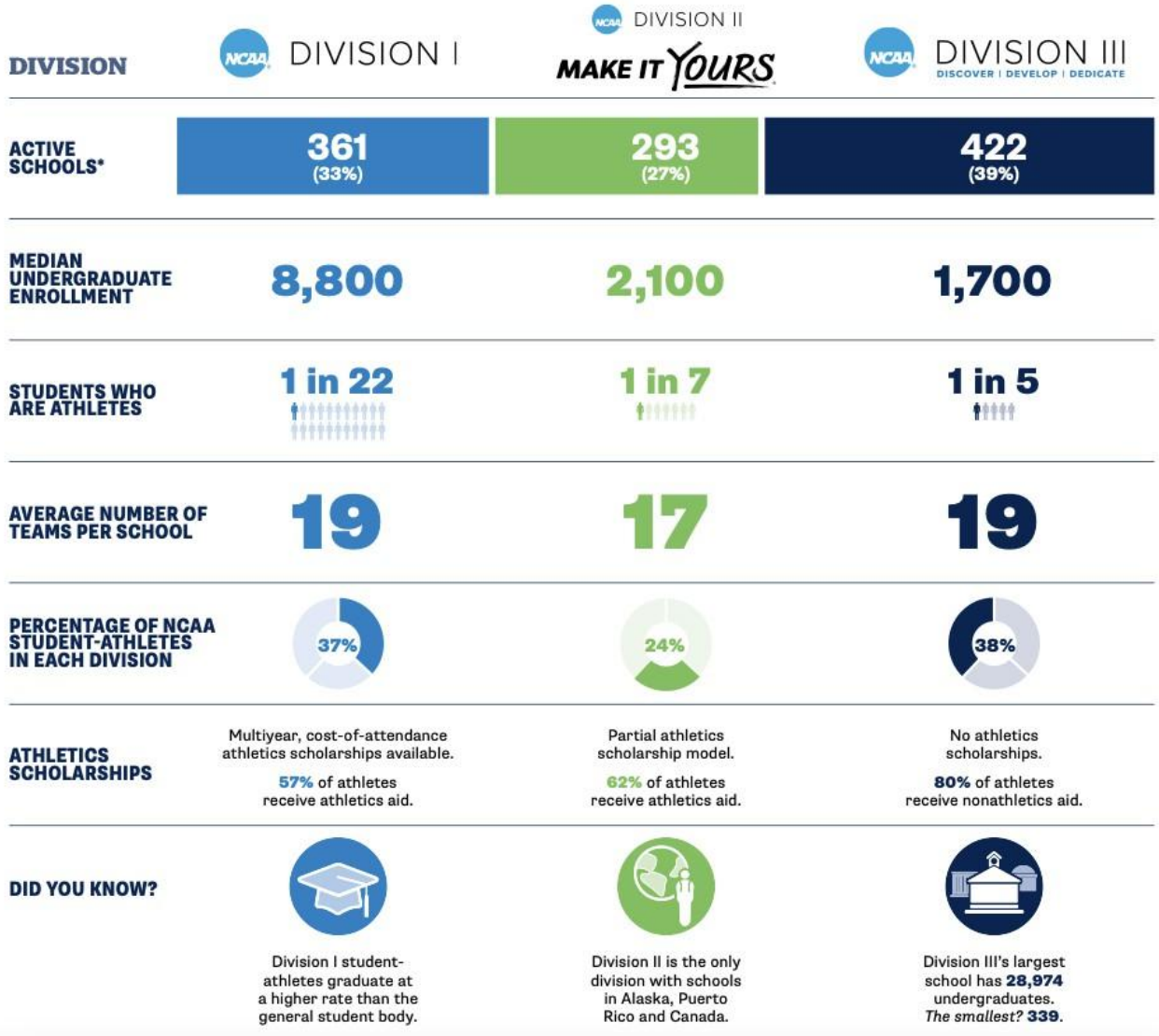
NCAA THREE DIVISIONS



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NCAA SPORTS

FALL SPORTS	
MEN:	**WOMEN:**
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Field Hockey
Soccer	Soccer
Water Polo	Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS	
MEN:	**WOMEN:**
Basketball	Basketball
Fencing	Bowling
Gymnastics	Fencing
Ice Hockey	Gymnastics
Indoor Track and Field	Ice Hockey
Rifle	Indoor Track and Field
Skiing	Rifle
Swimming and Diving	Skiing
Wrestling	Swimming and Diving
	Wrestling

SPRING SPORTS	
MEN:	**WOMEN:**
Baseball	Beach Volleyball
Golf	Golf
Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Outdoor Track and Field	Outdoor Track and Field
Tennis	Rowing
Volleyball	Softball
	Tennis
	Water Polo

EMERGING SPORTS
WOMEN:
Acrobatics and Tumbling
Equestrian (Divisions I and II only)
Rugby
Stunt
Triathlon

Note: Student-athletes competing in emerging sports must register with the Eligibility Center and meet the same standards as all other students.

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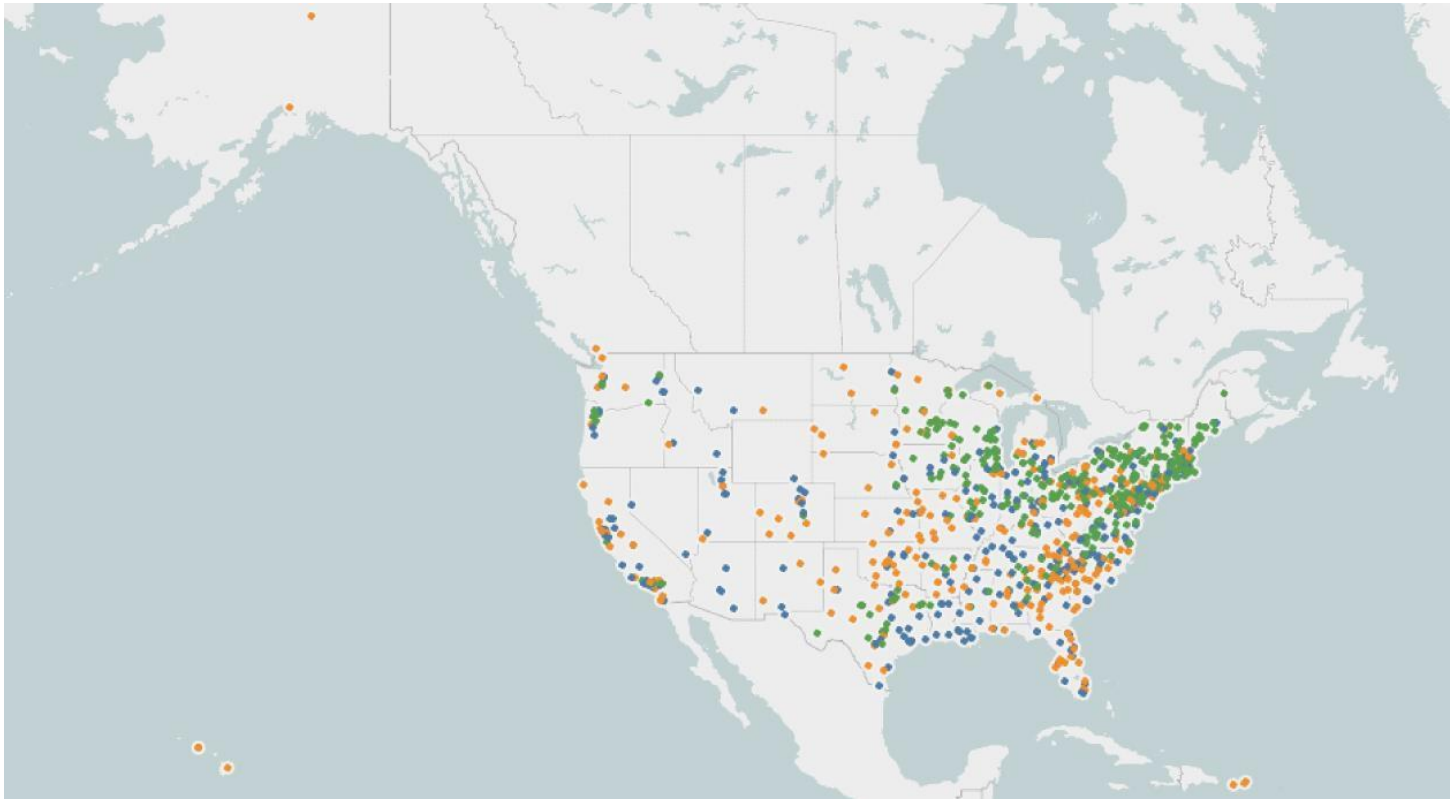
NCAA SCHOOLS

- Use this interactive map to locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.



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CHOOSING AN NCAA SCHOOL

School Size

School Location

Majors and Minors

Cost of Attendance

Admission Requirements

Culture and Affiliations

Student-to-Faculty Ratio

Playing Time

- Visit on.ncaa.com/choosing for suggestions of questions to ask NCAA schools recruiting you.

COLLEGE ADMISSION

- Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school before you can compete.
  - NCAA certification does **NOT** include acceptance to the NCAA school.
- Ask college admission about:
  - Cost of attendance.
    - Financial aid and scholarships.
    - FAFSA.
  - Standardized test scores.
    - May be required for college admission or scholarships.
    - **NOT** required for NCAA certification.
  - For more questions to ask, visit on.ncaa.com/choosingcollege.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Understand what is covered by the NCAA school, and the costs you would be responsible for outside of that aid.

- Academic scholarships.
- Athletics scholarships.
- Expectations and requirements to maintain each type.
  - Annual scholarships.
  - Full scholarships.
  - Partial scholarships.
  - Scholarship renewals.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Only about 2% of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college.

Possible Elements of Financial Aid	Division I	Division II
Tuition and fees	✓	✓
Room and board	✓	✓
Books	✓	✓
Course-related books and supplies	✓	✓
Multiyear scholarship options	✓	✗
One-year scholarship option	✓	✓
Funding for degree completion to finish your bachelor's or master's degree after your time playing NCAA sports ends	✓	✓

Note: Division III does not offer athletics scholarships.

ATHLETICS AID

- By signing for athletics aid, you agree to attend that Division I or II school.
- Athletics aid is:
  - Voluntary and ends the recruiting process.
  - Provided for a minimum of one academic year.
    - You must be admitted to the NCAA school.
    - You must be eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules.

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THINKING OF GOING PRO?

Of the student-athletes participating in college sports with professional leagues, **less than 2%** become professional athletes.

	Baseball	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Men's Ice Hockey	Women's Soccer	Softball
High School Student-Athletes	478,451	537,438	373,366	1,028,761	33,013	377,838	344,952
NCAA Student-Athletes	38,849	19,213	16,668	77,204	4,388	29,959	21,646
Drafted NCAA Student-Athletes	444	46	33	259	69	47	24
Percentage High School to NCAA	8.1%	3.6%	4.5%	7.5%	13.3%	7.9%	6.3%
*Percentage NCAA to Major Professional	5.1%	1.1%	0.9%	1.5%	7.1%	0.7%	0.5%

Note: High school and college participation data are from the 2022-23 academic year.
*The percentage of NCAA student-athletes moving on to major professional leagues is based on the number of draft picks in the 2023 MLB, NBA, WNBA, NFL, NHL, NWSL and WPF drafts.

- For the rest, the experiences of college athletics and life lessons learned along the way will help them pursue careers in business, education, athletics administration, communications, law, medicine and many more fields.

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RECRUITING

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ARE YOU BEING RECRUITED?

- You're being actively recruited if an NCAA coach:

Calls

Texts

Emails

Messages via Social Media

Visits Your High School

Pays Expenses to Visit Campus

Issues Athletics Aid

Writes Offer of Financial Aid

- Recruiting can begin as early as ninth grade.
  - In most cases, recruiting starts in eleventh grade.

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RECRUITING CALENDARS

Recruiting calendars promote your well-being and ensure fairness among schools by defining certain periods during the year in which recruiting may or may not occur in a particular sport.

Division, Sport and Grade Level Determines Recruiting Activities*	CONTACT PERIOD	EVALUATION PERIOD	QUIET PERIOD	DEAD PERIOD	RECRUITING SHUTDOWN
College coaches may call, write, text or email you and your family.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
College coaches may watch you compete.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
College coaches may visit your high school.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
College coaches may have face-to-face contact with you and your family.	Yes	Yes, but only on the college's campus.	Yes, but only on the college's campus.	No	No

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OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

OFFICIAL VISITS

- Official visits: Any visit to a college campus paid for by the NCAA school you are visiting. Before a Division I or II official visit, you must:

Register with the Eligibility Center

Be on the NCAA School's IRL

Request Upload of Your High School Transcript

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

- Unofficial visits: Any visit to a college campus paid for by you or your family members.

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OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

OFFICIAL VISITS

What can an NCAA school pay for during an official visit?

Division I	Division II	Division III
Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting (plus up to two family members).	Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting.	Your transportation to and from the NCAA school you're visiting.
Your lodging.	Your lodging.	Your lodging.
Up to three meals per day for you and up to four family members.	Your meals.	Up to three meals per day for you.
Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to $60 per recruited student-athlete and up to four family members accompanying you, including five tickets to a home sports event).	Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to $50 per recruited student-athlete and any family member accompanying you, including tickets to a home sports event).	Reasonable entertainment expenses (including up to $40 per recruited student-athlete and any family member accompanying you, including tickets to home sports events).

ELIGIBILITY CENTER

OFFICIAL vs UNOFFICIAL VISITS

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

What can an NCAA school pay for during an unofficial visit?

Division I	Division II	Division III
No complimentary meals.	One meal for you and your family members.	One meal for you at the on-campus dining facility or one meal for you off campus if the on-campus dining facility is closed and the NCAA school provides meals to all prospective students, including nonathletes.
Complimentary admission (including three tickets for a home athletics contest).	Complimentary admission (including tickets for a home athletics contest).	Complimentary admission (including tickets for you and those accompanying you).

TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH NCAA COACHES

- Academic resources.
- Additional team responsibilities.
- Athletic training and medical expenses.
- Coaching philosophy and style.
- Degree completion support.
- Injuries and rehabilitation.
- Mental health resources.
- Name, image and likeness.
- Revenue sharing.
- Playing time.
- Scholarship renewals.
- Team time demands.

Visit on.ncaa.com/choosing for more suggestions of questions for students to ask NCAA schools.

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RECRUITING BEST PRACTICES

- Talk with your support system about what level of competition they think you should aim for.
- Register for an Eligibility Center account before ninth grade.
- Check your email often for Eligibility Center tasks.
- Work as hard in the classroom as you do in your sport! Earn the best NCAA core-course GPA possible.
- Use this interactive map to research the admission requirements of NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- Research when your division- and sport-specific recruiting activity periods are throughout each year.
- If possible, play on elite travel teams and attend camps or showcases in your area to display your skills and build relationships.

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RECRUITING BEST PRACTICES

- Conduct yourself in a positive manner in class, practices and games, at home, in your community and online.
- Email college coaches during your sport's contact period to share your achievements and your interest.
  - Include your name, position and NCAA ID.
- If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school, transition your Profile Page account to the right certification account.
- Take unofficial and official visits to NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
  - If you're unable to visit campus, review school websites and take virtual campus tours to learn more.