NCAA INITIAL ELIGIBILITY
For International College-Bound Student-Athletes

Elizabeth Thompson
Associate Director of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships
AGENDA

» Understanding the U.S. System.
» NCAA Eligibility Center.
» Registration.
» Submitting Documents.
» Recruiting.
» Graduation.
» Certification Outcomes.
» i-20.
» Resources.
UNDERSTANDING THE U.S. SYSTEM
Secondary school ("high school") ends in year 12.

"College" and "university" used interchangeably in the U.S.

- Some are called "institutes" (e.g., Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Two common college/university options:

- Two-year "junior" or "community" colleges.
  - Associate degree.

- Four-year college and university.
  - All NCAA schools are four-year.
  - Bachelor’s degree/master’s degree.
**U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

» **NAIA, NJCAA, NCAA schools** may have intramural/club teams.
  
  o These teams do not offer athletic scholarships.

» **Club**: Compete against club teams from other schools.

» **Intramural**: Compete internally within a college/university.

- Division I
- Division II
- Division III
» The NCAA Eligibility Center is only associated with the NCAA.

» Registration with the EC is required for sports participation at any NCAA school.
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

» **Who are we?** A unit within the NCAA.

» **What do we provide?** Certification of college-bound student-athletes for collegiate competition.

» **What do we review?**
  - Academic requirements.
  - Amateurism requirements.
NCAA REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?
Creating an account is the first step to becoming an NCAA student-athlete

REGISTER

NOT SURE WHICH DIVISION YOUR SCHOOL IS IN?
Learn more or search NCAA schools.
NCAA REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Three Account Types

1. Free Profile Page Account
2. Amateurism-Only Certification Account
3. Academic and Amateurism Certification Account
FREE PROFILE PAGE ACCOUNT
Account Type #1

The right place to start for most students!
» Not sure in which division you plan to compete.

No registration fee.

Transition to the right Certification account at any time.
AMATEURISM-ONLY CERTIFICATION ACCOUNT

Account Type #2

Required for all international student-athletes planning to compete at a Division III school.

Registration fee:
» $70.

Student-athletes transferring from a two-year college/university to an NCAA Division I or II school who have not previously been certified as an amateur.
ACADEMIC AND AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION ACCOUNT

Account Type #3

Required to compete at a Division I or II school.

Registration fee:
» **International students**: $160.

Required to:
» Go on an **official visit**.
» Sign an **NLI** with a Division I or II school.
REMEMBER

» If you have either Eligibility Center Certification account, check to see if you meet fee waiver criteria.
SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS
SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS

As an international student enrolling at a Division I or II school, you must submit the following information:

» Transcripts for years nine and up in the native language.

» Proof of graduation in the native language, which may include certificates, diplomas and/or final leaving exams.

» Certified line-by-line English translations of these documents if they are issued in a language other than English.
SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS

» High school administrators should email records to ec-processing@ncaa.org.
  o Best practice is to email all records and translations in one submission.
    > Include all years/terms depending on terms the school uses (yearly, semester/semester, trimesters).

» Common academic tasks that could be assigned for missing information.
  o Grading Scale Clarification
  o Missing Terms
  o Missing Native Language/Translation
UNIVERSITY ADMISSION

» Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school before you can compete.
  o NCAA certification does NOT include acceptance to the NCAA school recruiting you.

» Ask college admissions about:
  o Cost of attendance and financial aid.
  o Standardized test scores.
    > May be required for college admissions or scholarships.
    > NOT required for NCAA certification.
  o TOEFL, IELTS, DUO Lingo and/or English proficiency exams.
  o For more questions to ask, visit on.ncaa.com/ChoosingCollege.
ARE YOU BEING RECRUITED?

» You’re being recruited if a college coach:

- Calls
- Texts
- Emails
- Messages via Social Media
- Visits Your High School
- Pays Expenses to Visit Campus
- Issues National Letter of Intent
- Writes Offer of Financial Aid

» Recruiting can begin as early as year 10.
  - In most cases, recruiting starts before year 11.
INSTITUTIONAL REQUEST LIST

» An **IRL** is a list of college-bound student-athletes an NCAA school is interested in recruiting.

  o You **must** be on an NCAA school’s IRL to receive an Eligibility Center certification.
    > Receive athletics aid.
    > Practice.
    > Compete.

» Email college coaches during your sport’s contact period to share your achievements and your interest.
  o Include your name, position and **NCAA ID**.

Your Name

**NCAA ID:** 1234567890
Grad: MM/YYYY | Enroll: SEASON YYYY
REMEMBER

» Communicate closely with coaches, parents/guardians, college compliance office and mentors as you transition to an NCAA school.

» Check your email regularly for account updates.
PROOF OF GRADUATION

» Acceptable forms of proof of graduation can be found on the approved list for your country/system.

» Prior to May 1, 2024, academic records may be emailed to ec-processing@ncaa.org.

» May 1, 2024, and after, forms must be emailed by a school official or ministry/issuing body.

   o Always include NCAA ID.
## EXAMPLE: ONTARIO (CANADA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BACKGROUND</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Calendar</td>
<td>September-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is year nine called?</td>
<td>Grade 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is year nine typically located?</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Language(s)</td>
<td>English, French</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GRADUATION TIMELINE

$8 + 4 = 12$

12 years: Eight years primary and four years upper secondary

---

**Acceptable Forms of Proof of High School Graduation**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Timeline of Completion</th>
<th>12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuing Body</td>
<td>Ontario Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Available Date of Issue (Typical)</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. *Diplôme d’Études Secondaires* (DES) [Diploma of Secondary Education]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Timeline of Completion</th>
<th>12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuing Body</td>
<td>Ontario Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Available Date of Issue (Typical)</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

Divisions I and II
Division I
CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

1. Early Academic Qualifier.
2. Qualifier.
3. Academic Redshirt.
DIVISION I: QUALIFIER

Meet core-course progression before the seventh semester. **Note:** Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from core-course progression.

Complete 16 core-course units in the required subject areas.

Earn a core-course GPA ≥ 2.3 in the required subject areas.

Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.
DIVISION I: NONQUALIFIER

Nonqualifiers are not eligible to receive athletics aid, practice or compete their first year at an NCAA Division I school.
Division II
CERTIFICATION OUTCOMES

1. Early Academic Qualifier.
2. Qualifier.
3. Partial Qualifier.
DIVISION II: QUALIFIER

- Complete 16 core-course units in the required subject areas.
- Earn a core-course GPA ≥ 2.2 in the required subject areas.
- Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

» Athletics Aid.
» Practice.
» Compete.
DIVISION II: PARTIAL Qualifier

College-bound student-athletes that do not meet Division II qualifier standards will be deemed a partial qualifier.

Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.
DIVISION III

» Each Division III school determines its own eligibility for:
  - Academic requirements.
  - Admissions.
  - Financial aid.

» International student-athletes who plan to compete at a Division III school must complete an Eligibility Center Amateurism-Only Certification account.

» Domestic student-athletes who plan to compete at a Division III school may register for a free Profile Page account, but it is not required.
FORM I-20
I-20 FORM

» **What is an i-20?** A U.S. Department of Homeland Security form that provides supporting information on a student’s F or M status.

» **Who needs an i-20?** International students who do not hold U.S. citizenship and need an F-1 visa to travel to and study in the U.S.

» **Who can issue an i-20?** The NCAA school you plan to attend can issue an I-20.

» Once accepted into a [Student and Exchange Visitor Program](https://www.visaform.com/), a designated school official will issue an i-20 Form and Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.
WHAT’S NEXT?

» Schedule your Embassy or consulate appointment. (bring your Form I-20).

» Be issued a F1 student visa.

» Arrive to campus.

» For more information on the Form I-20 or a F1 visa, please visit studyinthestates.dhs.gov.
RESOURCES

» Visit eligibilitycenter.org.
» Visit Country-Specific webpages.
» Download Resources:
  o Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility.
  o International Initial-Eligibility flyer.
  o Course Title Usage Guide.

Subscribe to the International Newsletter
QUESTIONS?
Click the Q&A Button to Ask Your Questions

Take a Short Survey on How We Did Today
GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Scan the QR Code Below

Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility
SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the NCAA Eligibility Center

Twitter @ncaaec
Instagram @playcollegesports
Facebook @ncaaec
YouTube @ncaaec
THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

Contact the Eligibility Center

» International students (including Quebec).
  o EC-international@ncaa.org.

» U.S. and Canadian students.
  o 877-262-1492.
    > Monday-Friday.
    > 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard time.

Free Eligibility Center Profile Page Account

@ncaaec  @playcollegesports  @ncaaec