



# ACADEMICS GUIDE

PROVIDED BY



VERS. I - SPRING 2021



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

**Q: What kind of grades do I need to play college hockey?**

A: In order for a prospective student-athlete to be academically eligible to play in NCAA Division I he must have graduated from high school, fulfilled a core curriculum of at least 16 courses in the appropriate subjects, and met a minimum index score that combines standardized tests scores (SAT, ACT) and GPA. A prospective student-athlete should regularly meet with a college counselor, provided by their high school, in order to ensure they meet these requirements. All certified high school college counselors should be familiar with the necessary steps and minimum requirements set forth by the NCAA. While the NCAA sets a minimum eligibility standard, individual institutions may set higher standards for admission. More information on the NCAA Eligibility Center can be found at 877-262-1492 or through the high school administrator service at 877-622-2321.

**Q: What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at an NCAA Division I college or university?**

A: You need to complete the following to be certified as a qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center:

- Graduate from high school:
- Complete a minimum of 16 (for Division I) core courses.
  - 10 of which must be completed by the 7<sup>th</sup> semester (Grade 12) of high school
    - If the student has been educated in Canada only, 10/7 progression requirement does not have to be met. If the student splits time between American and Canadian schools, 10/7 will need to be met.
  - Further information outlining the core courses is available further in this document
- Present the required grade-point average (GPA).
- Present a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT; and
- Request final amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center (beginning April 1 for fall enrollees or beginning October 1 for spring enrollees).

*Note: Due to the effects of the coronavirus, the NCAA has waived standardized testing requirements for student-athletes enrolling in 2022-23 due to COVID-19, an extension of the policy already in place for those enrolling this fall. See more under CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19.*



**Q: How do I know if the courses I am taking will count as core courses?**

A: You need to look at your high school's or province's list of NCAA courses. Follow these steps:

- Go to the NCAA Eligibility Center website at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org);
- Click on the "NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes" link to enter.
- Click on "Resources".
- Click on the appropriate link for "U.S. Students" or "International Students".
- Click on "List of NCAA Courses".
- Input your province's CEEB code (see below for provincial codes) or search by your high school's name and state or province.
  - Saskatchewan – 998002
  - Ontario – 998003
  - Alberta – 998004
  - British Columbia – 998005
  - Manitoba – 998006
  - Newfoundland and Labrador – 998007
  - Prince Edward Island – 998008
  - Nova Scotia – 998009
  - New Brunswick – 998010
  - Yukon Territory – 998011
  - Northwest Territory – 998012
  - Quebec—998001
    - The NCAA Eligibility Center certification process for students from Quebec varies the most. Prospective student athletes from Quebec should refer to <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/international-student-athletes> for more information.
- Review the list.

*\*Very important:* If a core course you took is not on the list, it will not be used in your eligibility determination. Courses that appear on your transcript must exactly match what is on the list.

International students may have specific requirements based on their nationality. For more information:

*The NCAA provides a country-by-country list of academic requirements at [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/International Information/International Guide.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/International%20Information/International%20Guide.pdf) in which each province of Canada is broken out.*



**Q: What do I do if a core course I took is not on the list?**

A: For Canadian students – the province core course list is kept up to date by the province's Ministry of Education. A student should discuss the issue with the high school guidance counselor immediately and the counselor may need to contact the Ministry of Education, as each MOE has a contact at the NCAA they can work with to update the list.

**Q: What is the lowest grade that will be used for a course to count as a core course?**

A: Follow your high school's policy regarding its lowest passing grade.

**Q: Will credit-by-exam courses meet core-course requirements?**

A: No. Courses completed through credit-by-exam will not be used.

**Q: Are vocational courses acceptable?**

A: No. Traditional vocational courses (e.g., typing, auto mechanics, driver's education and health) are not acceptable as core courses.

**Q: Do pass/fail grades count?**

A: These grades may satisfy your core-course requirements. The NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a pass/fail class so long as the course receives credit toward graduation.

**Q: May courses taken in the eighth grade that are high school core courses (e.g., Algebra I, Spanish 1, Freshman Composition) be used to meet the core-course requirement?**

A: A high school course taken in grade eight may be used if the course is on the high school transcript with a grade and credit and if the course is on the high school's list of NCAA courses.

**Q: May Independent-Study, Internet and Correspondence courses count as core courses?**

A: Yes, if the following four conditions are met:

- Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting. Students may not skip lessons or test out of modules. The course must be four-year college preparatory.
- All courses must include ongoing access between the instructor and student, as well as regular interaction for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance. This may include, for example, exchanging of e-mails between the student and teacher, feedback on assignments, and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual instruction. Any course taken must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear whether the course is meant to be taken for an entire semester or during a more condensed time frame, such as six weeks, etc.



- Nontraditional courses should be clearly identified as such on the high school transcript. It is important to remember that all courses need to be rigorous and four-year college preparatory in nature.
- Students should be encouraged to take courses that are quantitatively and qualitatively the same as courses offered through traditional means, and to take courses that will prepare them for the academic rigors they will face at a four-year college or university.

**Q: May college courses count as core courses?**

A: College courses may be used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements if the courses are accepted and awarded credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. For NCAA Division I only, such courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript. Courses taken at a college will NOT appear on the high school's list of NCAA courses. The high school's list of NCAA courses will include only those courses taught/offered by the high school.

**Q: How are courses taken over two years counted?**

A: A one-year course that is spread over a longer period of time is considered one course and will receive a maximum of one core-course credit. (Example: Algebra 1, spread over two years, would receive one unit of credit.)

**Q: May my study in a foreign country help me meet core-course requirements?**

A: If you attended a secondary school outside the United States for all or part of grades nine through 12, different evaluation procedures will be applied to your international education documents. You must submit original-language documents with certified translations for NCAA Eligibility Center evaluation.

The NCAA provides a country-by-country list of academic requirements at [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/International\\_Information/International\\_Guide.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/International_Information/International_Guide.pdf) in which each province of Canada is broken out.

**Q: How is my core course GPA calculated?**

A: Your core-course GPA is the average of your best grades achieved for all required core courses. If you have taken extra core courses, those courses will be used in your GPA, only if they improve your GPA. The Eligibility Center caps the core credits at 16.99 and will use the best combination of 16.99 core credits to improve your GPA.



**Q: Can weighted grades for honors or advanced-placement courses be factored into the calculation of the student's core GPA?**

A: A school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used, as long as the weighting is used for computing GPAs. Weighting cannot be used if the high school weights grades for the purpose of determining class rank. Additionally, in no instance may the student receive greater than 1.000 additional quality point for purposes of calculating the GPA for initial eligibility.

**Q: How is the NCAA core GPA different from a student's overall GPA?**

A: The NCAA core-course GPA is calculated using only NCAA-approved core courses in the required number of core units. High school GPAs generally include the grades from most or all courses attempted in grades nine through 12.

**Q: Will courses taken after my senior year meet core-course requirements?**

A: For Division I, maybe. Only courses completed in grades nine through 12 will qualify as core courses for Division I. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth grade class, you may use one core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) prior to full-time collegiate enrollment. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course.

For students with diagnosed disabilities:

- For Division I only, a student must graduate "on time" in order to use up to three (3) additional approved core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
- For Division II only, students may use any approved core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
- For Divisions I and II, students may use courses for students with education-impacting disabilities that are designated on the high school's list of NCAA courses.

**Q: If I enroll in university courses while playing junior hockey, would that impact my NCAA eligibility?**

A: Many future NCAA hockey players will take university courses prior to enrollment; this can help them stay academically sharp and those credits may transfer into their future NCAA school. It is important, however, not to enroll full-time in a post-secondary institution. NCAA athletes have five seasons to complete their four seasons of athletic eligibility, and that five-year "clock" starts upon full-time enrollment at any post-secondary school, with the definition of full-time being determined by that institution. (One exception to this is the 21-year-old rule, addressed in this document.)



**Q: I need to take the SAT/ACT test. Where can I find more information about them?**

A: The SAT is a standardized test used by colleges and the NCAA to help determine college admission and eligibility. Visit the College Board web site at [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org) for more information on the SAT, including test dates, registration and study guides. Many companies offer customized tutoring or instructional books to help students prepare to take the SATs.

Some schools also accept the ACT, another form of standardized test. For more information on the ACT please visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). You do not have to take both the SAT and ACT.

*Note: The NCAA has waived standardized testing requirements for student-athletes enrolling in 2022-23 due to COVID-19, an extension of the policy already in place for those enrolling in the Fall of 2021. Find more details on the NCAA Eligibility Center's response to COVID-19 at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)*

**Q: May a nonstandard SAT/ACT exam be used for initial eligibility?**

A: Yes. Students with diagnosed education-impacting disabilities may take a nonstandard ACT or SAT exam. The test score must be provided to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency, just as any other test score.

**Q: What is the difference between a Canadian educated prospective student athlete and prospective student athlete educated in the United States?**

A: One of the main differences between an exclusively Canadian educated PSA and a United States educated PSA is that Canadian PSAs do not need to meet the 10/7 progression requirement. However, if the student was educated in both Canada and the United States during their education history – they will need to meet the 10/7 progression requirement.

**Q: What is the 10/7 progression requirement?**

A: For prospective student athletes educated in the United States, ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (Grade 12) of high school and at least seven of these 10 core courses must be in English, math, or science.



## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

### **Q: What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?**

A: The NCAA Eligibility Center, often referred to as the "Clearinghouse", certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics. It is recommended that prospective student-athletes register at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) by grade 11 to help ensure that they are on the right path to qualify academically. However, prospective student athletes can register as early as grade 9, or after grade 11. Students who register by grade 11 and send in their academic records can receive an official preliminary certification to determine what their standing is academically.

### **Q: Is there a fee to register?**

A: Yes. The registration fee for a Certification Account is \$90 for Canadian students. For students who attended an international school after age 11, the international fee is \$150. (Canadian schools, Department of Defense schools and international schools with American diplomas are not considered international schools.)

### **Q: Is this fee refundable?**

A: All fees are nonrefundable after successful registration. No refunds will be given due to nonparticipation or disinterest at an NCAA Division I or II college or university. In the event a duplicate registration was completed and duplicate payment was processed, you may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee(s).

### **Q: How are students prioritized for processing at the NCAA Eligibility Center?**

A: Students who have their status requested by an NCAA college or university are prioritized by the NCAA Eligibility Center for processing. If a student's eligibility status is never requested by a college or university, the NCAA Eligibility Center may not process such a student's certification.

### **Q: What documentation is needed for processing Canadian prospective student athletes?**

A: The Ministry of Education or the prospective student athlete's high school may submit the official transcripts to the Eligibility Center via email to [ec-processing@ncaa.org](mailto:ec-processing@ncaa.org). The organization sending the documents will need to ensure the student's ID is in the subject line of the email. Some Canadian provinces do not include grade 9 marks on their main transcript, so the grade 9 document typically needs to be sent separately.





## REGISTERING WITH THE ELIGIBILITY CENTER

An important step for any prospective Division I or II student-athlete is registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

Here are 10 things you need to know about

**1. Creating a profile page is free.** Prospective student-athletes (PSAs) can create a profile page at any time, even prior to enrolling in high school. Creating a profile page gives you an NCAA ID number and makes it easy for the Eligibility Center to communicate directly with you.

**2. Division I prospects eventually will need to transition to a certification account.** Before a prospective student-athlete (PSA) can make an official visit to a Division I or II school, sign a National Letter of Intent, or play at that level, they will need to have a certification account at the NCAA Eligibility Center. PSAs with a profile page can easily transition that to a certification account. Note that Division III student-athletes do not need to register with the Eligibility Center.

**3. There is a fee to create a certification account.** Creating a certification account costs \$90 for U.S. or Canadian PSAs, or \$150 for international students.

**4. When you create an account can vary.** College Hockey Inc. recommends creating a certification account prior to grade 11, though one can be created earlier or later. PSAs will need a certification account to make an official visit, which can occur as early as Aug. 1 prior to grade 11. Setting up a profile page and familiarizing yourself with the Eligibility Center can be a benefit early in your high school career as you plan which courses to take.

**5. The Eligibility Center evaluates a PSA's amateurism and academics.** To be eligible to play Division I or II you must maintain your amateur status and achieve minimum academic requirements. To evaluate these, the Eligibility Center will ask about your hockey experiences, particularly any interactions with major junior or professional teams. You will also need to submit all high school transcripts and ACT/SAT scores.

*Note: The NCAA has waived standardized testing requirements for student-athletes enrolling in 2022-23 due to COVID-19, an extension of the policy already in place for those enrolling in the Fall of 2021. Find more details on the NCAA Eligibility Center's response to COVID-19 at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)*



**6. You have to take 16 “core courses” in high school.** The grade-point average considered by the NCAA only includes what are considered "core courses" – and all prospective students must have taken 16 of these core courses, including 10 prior to the seventh semester of high school. The NCAA Eligibility Center includes important details on those requirements, plus lists of approved core courses at specific high schools or in each Canadian province.

**7. Requirements can vary by country.** Academic requirements can vary by country; Canadian students can find more information at [CollegeHockeyInc.com](http://CollegeHockeyInc.com). Any transcripts need to be translated to English before being submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

**8. There are no other organizations you need to register with.** You must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to play NCAA Division I hockey, but there are no other outside organizations that you are required to register with. That includes College Hockey Inc. or recruiting services like NCSA, Captain U, etc.

**9. A school must request your final certification.** The NCAA Eligibility Center cannot process your final certification and deem you eligible to play Division I or II until a school requests your final certification. This typically happens in the months and sometimes weeks prior to your freshman season. Schools make this request by adding the PSA to their institutional request list (IRL).

**10. The NCAA has answers to many other questions in its FAQ.** Visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) to learn more about the Eligibility Center and the certification process.



## **RECRUITMENT**

**Q: I am a 16-year-old in grade 10 in high school and have written numerous emails to college coaches – why haven't any of them written back to me?**

A: Division I men's college hockey coaches are not allowed to have recruiting conversations with prospective student-athletes until January 1 of their sophomore year (grade 10) in high school. That means they cannot reply to emails, text messages, or return phone calls prior to that date.

This prohibition also includes in-person conversations and phone calls initiated by prospects. If a prospect does come in contact with a coach prior to January 1 of their sophomore year, NCAA rules require that the coach not engage in a recruiting conversation.

**Q: Is there a way for me to speak with a college coach prior to January 1 of my grade 10 year?**

A: No, all recruiting conversations with prospects and their families, coaches and advisors are prohibited prior to January 1 of the prospect's sophomore year.

**Q: Can a college coach talk to my coach or advisor prior to January 1 of my grade 10 year?**

A: A college coach may have an evaluative conversation with a third party such as a coach or advisor at any time but may not use these conversations to send recruiting messages (verbal offers, etc.) to prospective student-athletes prior to January 1 of their sophomore (grade 10) year. Prospects may not listen to evaluative conversations between NCAA coaches and third parties until January 1 of their sophomore (grade 10) year.

**Q: What is the difference between an official college visit and an unofficial visit?**

A: NCAA rule changes in 2018 and 2019 impact when prospective student-athletes may visit with college coaches on their campuses.

An official college visit is a 48-hour, expense-paid visit. An official visit cannot be taken until August 1 of the prospective student-athlete's grade 11 year in high school. A student-athlete is allowed (5) five total official visits but only (1) one per school.

An unofficial visit is paid for by the student-athlete, can last any length of time and there is no limit to the number of unofficial visits a student can take. Unofficial visits may not take place until January 1 of the prospective student-athlete's 10th-grade year in high school. During an unofficial visit the coaching staff may meet with a prospective student-athlete and provide him with a tour of the campus and facilities.

Prospective student-athletes may visit college campuses at any time, but prior to January 1 of their grade 10 year they may not have recruiting conversations with college coaches during their visit.



**Q: What's the 21-year-old rule?**

A: If you play a junior game after your 21st birthday you will lose one year of NCAA athletic eligibility, leaving you with three years remaining (this rule applies only to Division I competition).

Student-athletes can retain their four years of NCAA eligibility and play a game after turning 21 if they enroll full-time in a post-secondary institution. While this starts a student-athlete's five-year eligibility "clock," they could use their full four years of eligibility provided that they enroll at the NCAA Division I school the following fall. The institution in this case may not be an online school. It also cannot field a varsity hockey program (in the U.S. or Canada) or the student-athlete would be subject to NCAA transfer rules.

*Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA has made amendments to the 21 year old rule listed in the "Changes due to COVID-19" section of this document.*

**Q: Please outline the recruiting process for me?**

A: The average age of NCAA commitment is 18.9 years old for forwards and defenseman and over 19 years old for a goaltender. Players will likely play one or two years of junior hockey before they play NCAA Hockey. Players that participate in the CHL (OHL, WHL, and QMJHL) are deemed ineligible by the NCAA.

**Q: How do you reach someone at the NCAA Eligibility Center to help with additional questions?**

A: If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please contact the NCAA Customer Service Center at (877) 262-1492.



## **AMATEURISM AND NCAA ELIGIBILITY**

### **Q: What is amateurism, and how is it maintained?**

A: NCAA student-athletes are amateurs and cannot have played for a professional sports team prior to enrollment. In hockey, specifically, this means that anyone who signs a contract with or plays for a team in the Canadian Hockey League (OHL, QMJHL or WHL) forfeits their NCAA eligibility.

The NCAA Eligibility Center will certify each prospective student-athlete's amateur status prior to clearing them for competition at the Division I level.

#### **What You Need to Do:**

- Do not accept payment or gifts based upon your ability as a hockey player.
- Do not sign a contract or play a game (even an exhibition game) for a professional team, including those in the CHL.
- You may attend a camp with a professional team for up to 48 hours if they are covering expenses or longer if you cover all expenses.
- Junior, prep or high school teams may cover some or all of your costs to play for them, as long as they are actual and necessary expenses.

### **Q: I played for (or signed with) a CHL team. What can I do to regain NCAA eligibility?**

A: There is an appeals process for players who have played in the CHL and some have gone on to play NCAA hockey. The appeal must be filed by the NCAA school and only once the student-athlete has enrolled on campus. The minimum penalty is typically at least one year of athletic eligibility plus additional games depending upon the circumstances.

### **Q: Can I attend a testing session with an NHL team and retain my college eligibility?**

A: NCAA regulations allow student-athletes (or prospective student-athletes) to take part in one testing or tryout session per NHL team, at the team's expense, for up to 48 hours. An exception is if a player takes part in the NHL Draft Combine or the NHL Research and Development Camp - those events are considered tryouts for all 31 NHL teams. A player could participate in another tryout beyond those events but would need to pay his own way.



**Q: Can I attend an NHL team's summer development camp?**

A: NCAA prospects or current student athletes may attend NHL summer development camps, or prospect camps, but must pay their own way (transportation, lodging, food, etc.) and current players may not miss class to do so.

There is an opportunity, similar to the 48-hour rule, to have an NHL team pay a portion of a player's stay at development camp on a one-time-per-team basis. The 48-hour period begins when you arrive at the team's facility and ends exactly 48 hours later. While in attendance the team can supply you with expenses that include travel, hotel, food, equipment, and all costs associated with practice and off-ice training. A player would have to cover all costs after that 48-hour period, including return transportation home.



## **ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Q: What are athletic scholarships?**

A: An athletic scholarship is financial aid from a university or college based in any degree on the athletic ability of the student-athlete. Athletic scholarships are formalized by entering into agreements called "National Letters of Intent," which is a written agreement between the institution and the student-athlete.

### **Q: What is a "National Letter of Intent"?**

A: The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is the name of the document that formalizes an athletic scholarship. It is a binding agreement between a student-athlete and a university in which the university agrees to provide athletic aid in exchange for the student-athlete's agreement to attend the university.

Learn more about the NLI at [www.nationalletter.org](http://www.nationalletter.org)

### **Q: What is a verbal commitment?**

A: A verbal commitment is a non-binding agreement between a prospect and a coach to attend that coach's institution. No verbal commitments can be made before to August 1<sup>st</sup> prior to a student athlete's junior year.

### **Q: What is covered by an athletic scholarship?**

A: Funds for tuition and fees, books, room and board, and certain other expenses. The only required expense that a full athletic scholarship cannot cover is transportation to and from campus.

Not all hockey scholarships are full scholarships - some may cover half or some other portion of expenses.

### **Q: Are scholarships guaranteed for four years?**

A: Scholarship agreements may be made for anywhere from one to five years. Signing a National Letter of Intent, even for a scholarship promised for four years, commits a student-athlete to that school for one year. Even those scholarship agreements made for one season are almost always renewed annually; they are very rarely cancelled and never for on-ice performance.

### **Q: Can athletic scholarships be cancelled if I play poorly or the coach doesn't like me?**

A: Athletic scholarships may not be reduced, or cancelled year-to-year based on your ability or performance, because an injury prevents you from participating or for any other athletic reason.



If you are receiving an athletic scholarship, the scholarship may be reduced or cancelled only if you:

- render yourself ineligible for NCAA competition;
- misrepresented any information on your application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement;
- commit serious misconduct which warrants a substantial disciplinary penalty; or
- voluntarily quit the team for personal reasons.

**Q: Who decides if I get an athletic scholarship?**

A: Coaches. Although admissions offices can refuse the admission of any student, thereby effectively refusing an athletic scholarship, coaches and athletic departments typically have a good sense of what to expect from their admissions office. This allows coaches to scout and recruit players who they can reasonably expect to earn admission.

**Q: Does every student-athlete receive a 100% or "full" scholarship?**

A: Universities are permitted to grant 18 "full" scholarships and typically carry around 26 players, so not all are on full scholarships. In other words, most NCAA teams have some players who receive only a portion of their expenses in athletic scholarship (i.e. partial scholarship) and some players who receive all of their expenses in scholarship (i.e. full scholarship).





## **CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19**

COVID19 continues to have an Impact on NCAA rules and regulations. For the latest updates pertaining to men's hockey please visit <http://collegehockeyinc.com/articles/2020/08/covid-impact-on-ncaa-rules.php>

You may also visit <https://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-coronavirus> for NCAA updates.

*\*College Hockey Inc. is not affiliated with the NCAA*

# ONE OPPORTUNITY. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

If you want to play Division I sports, start by registering for a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org). If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page at [eligibilitycenter.org](https://eligibilitycenter.org).

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To play Division I sports, you must graduate from high school, complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses, earn a minimum GPA and earn an ACT or SAT score that matches your core-course GPA.

## CORE COURSES

Visit [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist) for a full list of your high school's approved core courses. U.S. students can find their school by name; Canadian students can find courses by province using the following CEEB codes: 998001-Quebec, 998002-Saskatchewan, 998003-Ontario, 998004-Alberta, 998005-British Columbia, 998006-Manitoba, 998007-Newfoundland & Labrador, 998008-PEI, 998009-Nova Scotia, 998010-New Brunswick.

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas in the first four years of high school:

## DIVISION I

Students who spend all of part of high school in the U.S. must complete 10 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.



## GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your grade-point average (GPA) based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

- DI requires a minimum 2.3 GPA.

## SLIDING SCALE

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. Find more information about sliding scales at [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/test-scores](https://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/test-scores).

## TEST SCORES

Take the ACT or SAT as many times as you want before you enroll full time in college, but remember to list the NCAA Eligibility Center (code **9999**) as a score recipient whenever you register to take a test. If you take a test more than once, send us all your scores and we will use the best scores from each test section to create your sum score. We accept official scores only from the ACT or SAT, and won't use scores shown on your high school transcript.



# HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

## GRADE 9

### Plan

- Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades you can.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes. Or, find your high school's list of NCAA core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).

## GRADE 10

### Register

- Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- If you fall behind on courses, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask your counselor for help with finding approved courses or programs you can take.

## GRADE 11

### Study

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
- Take the ACT or SAT, and make sure we get your scores by using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.

## GRADE 12

### Graduate

- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and make sure we get your scores by using code 9999.
- Request your final amateurism certification after April 1.
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation.

### Core Courses

This simple formula will help you meet Divisions I and II core-course requirements.

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

- + 4 English courses (one per year)
- + 4 math courses (one per year)
- + 4 science courses (one per year)
- + 4 social science courses (one per year)

**= 16 NCAA CORE COURSES**

### For more information:

[ncaa.org/playcollegesports](http://ncaa.org/playcollegesports)  
[eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

### Search Frequently Asked Questions

[ncaa.org/studentfaq](http://ncaa.org/studentfaq)

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# HOCKEY

FULFILL YOUR HOCKEY POTENTIAL | PREPARE FOR LIFE



**ZACH HYMAN**  
U. OF MICHIGAN



**“College hockey was incredible for me. It was special to spend four years there and develop not only as a player but as a person as well, get my degree, mature physically, and to know from 19 to 23 I have grown a lot.”**

## APR SCORE

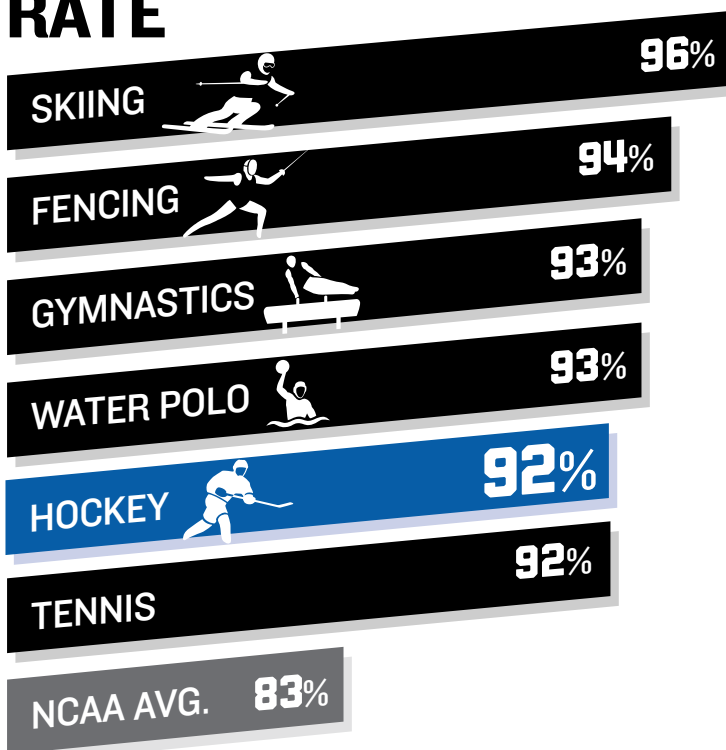
**986**

(ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE)



**#1**  
AMONG  
MEN'S  
SPORTS

## NCAA GRADUATION RATE



**COLTON PARAYKO**  
U. OF ALASKA

