NCAA Eligibility Center

WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?

NCAA Eligibility Center Guide 2017-18

NCAA Eligibility Center

AGENDA

- What is the NCAA?
- What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?
- High school timeline.
  - Registration.
- Initial-eligibility requirements.
  - Division I.
  - Division II.
- Sports participation.
- Resources.

WHAT IS THE NCAA?

- NCAA members and the national office are dedicated to the lifelong success of college athletes. They are committed to providing a pathway to opportunity by prioritizing academics, well-being and fairness for student-athletes.

NCAA FAST FACTS

- 1,123 colleges and universities.
- 98 voting athletics conferences.
- 39 affiliated organizations.
- Almost half a million student-athletes.
- 19,500 teams.
- 90 championships.
- 24 sports.
- Three divisions.

WHAT IS THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER?

- The NCAA Eligibility Center evaluates and certifies prospective student-athletes for collegiate competition at Divisions I and II schools.
- We focus on:
  - Academic preparedness.
  - Sports participation.
  - High school courses.
  - Customer service.
- Students who want to compete at NCAA Division I or Division II schools need to meet NCAA Eligibility Center:
  - Academic initial-eligibility requirements.
  - Amateurism requirements.

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HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

Follow these suggestions to prepare for Division I and Division II initial-eligibility requirements.

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GRADE 9: PLAN

- Work hard to earn the best grades possible.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your school's NCAA core courses to make sure you are taking NCAA-approved courses.
- Register for a free Profile Page at **eligibilitycenter.org** to receive reminders about NCAA academic and amateurism requirements.

GRADE 10: REGISTER

- Register for a Profile Page or Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org**.
- If you fall behind academically, ask your counselor for help finding approved courses you can take.

GRADE 11: STUDY

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved courses.
- Take the **ACT** or **SAT** and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using **code 9999**.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you took classes at more than one high school or program, ask each to submit an official transcript.
- Make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class.

GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- Complete your final NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center using code **9999**.
- Request your final amateurism certification in your Certification Account at **eligibilitycenter.org**:
  - April 1 (fall enrollees).
  - Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees).
- After you graduate on time, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Reminder: Only students on an NCAA Division I or Division II school's institutional request list will receive a certification.

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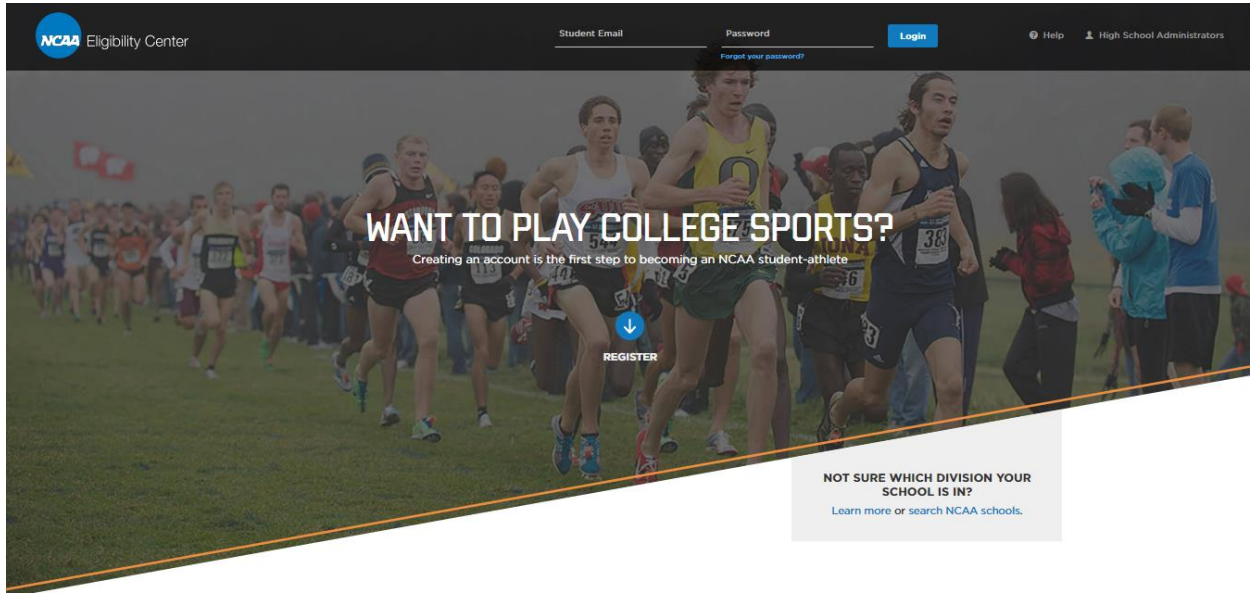
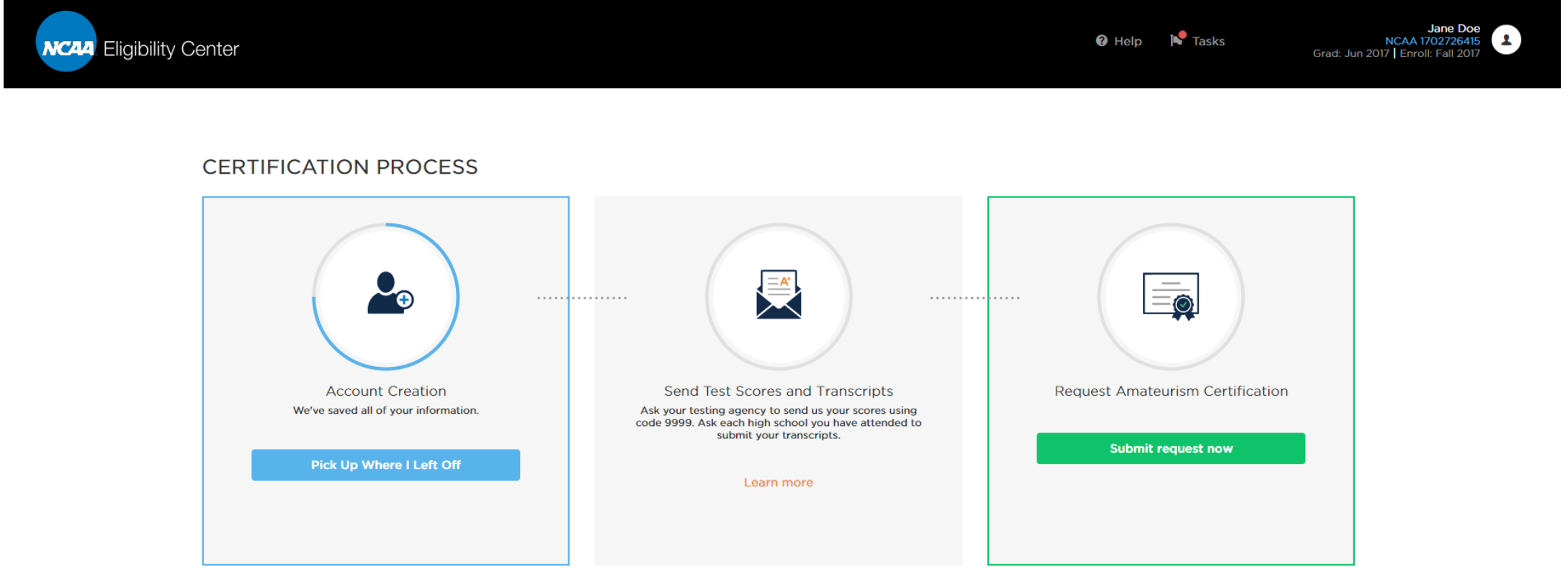
REGISTRATION

Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page at **eligibilitycenter.org** to begin your process to becoming an NCAA student-athlete.



TWO ACCOUNT TYPES

- Certification Account
  - Division I or Division II students.
  - Domestic fee $80.
  - International fee $135.
  - Account information, school and sports history.
  - Required for signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with a Division I or Division II NCAA school.
  - Required to go on an official visit to a Division I or Division II NCAA school.
- Profile Page
  - Undecided students.
  - Division III students.
  - No fee.
  - Account information and school history.
  - Can transition to a Certification Account at any time.
  - Will not receive an academic or amateurism certification.



- Review your Dashboard for open tasks.
- Update your graduation or enrollment dates if needed.
- Review your combined SAT and ACT sum test scores.
- View your transcripts on file.
- Edit your account, schools or sports information.

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INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

The NCAA's commitment to academics ensures students are better equipped to succeed in college and prepare for lifelong success. Students need to meet the following academic requirements to be eligible to compete in college sports.

WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

- NCAA core courses include courses that:
  - Qualify for high school graduation in English, mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher), natural or physical science, social science, foreign language or comparative religion or philosophy.
  - Are considered four-year college preparatory.
  - Are taught at or above the high school's regular academic level.
  - Are taught by a qualified instructor.
- Tip: You can find your school's list of NCAA-approved core courses by going to eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

WHAT ARE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES?

- Courses taught online or through:
  - Blended learning.
  - Distance learning.
  - Credit recovery.
  - Independent study.
  - Other similar means.
- **Tip:** Taking online or virtual nontraditional courses does not necessarily mean a student is home-schooled. Review our **Home School Toolkit** for questions about home schooling.

BEFORE YOU TAKE NONTRADITIONAL COURSES

- Consider these requirements. A nontraditional course:
  - Must meet NCAA core-course requirements.
  - Must include regular ongoing access between the instructor and student.
  - Must have a defined time period for completion (for example, eight weeks).

DIVISION I INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

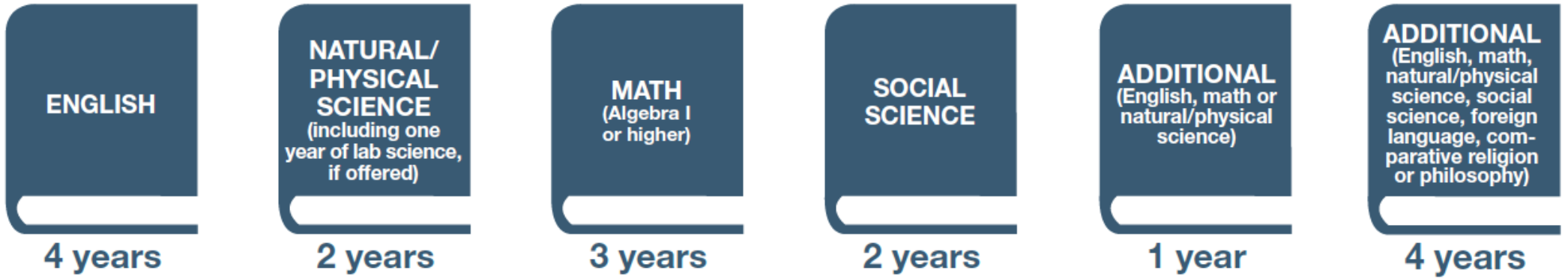
- To play Division I sports you need to meet the following academic requirements:
  - Graduate high school on time.
  - Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in the correct subjects.
  - Earn a minimum core-course GPA of 2.300.
  - Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.

DIVISION I CORE-COURSE TIME LIMITATION

- When you enter ninth grade, you have four years (eight semesters) to complete your core-course requirement.
- If you do not complete high school on time, your core courses taken after high school will not count toward NCAA requirements.
- On time: If your high school graduation takes place June 1, you must graduate June 1. If you do not graduate June 1, you have not completed your requirements on time.

DIVISION I CORE COURSES

Complete 10 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.



- Core-course requirements must be met in the time limitation.
- The following must be completed by the start of the student's seventh semester in high school:
  - 10 NCAA-approved core courses from your school's list in the appropriate subjects.
  - Seven of the 10 courses must be in English, math or science.

DIVISION I TEST SCORES

- Take the SAT or ACT as many times as you wish.
- Use code **9999** when registering to send scores directly to us.
- We will use your best scores to certify you:
  - SAT combined score.
  - ACT sum score.
- Your test score and GPA will be matched on our Division I sliding scale.

Please note: If you took the SAT in March 2016 or after, you need to apply the College Board's concordance table to your score. Learn more at ncaa.org/test-scores.

	MATH	CRITICAL READING	TOTAL
SAT (October 2016)	390	510	900
SAT (December 2016)	460	470	930
SCORES USED	**460**	**510**	**970**

DIVISION I QUALIFIER

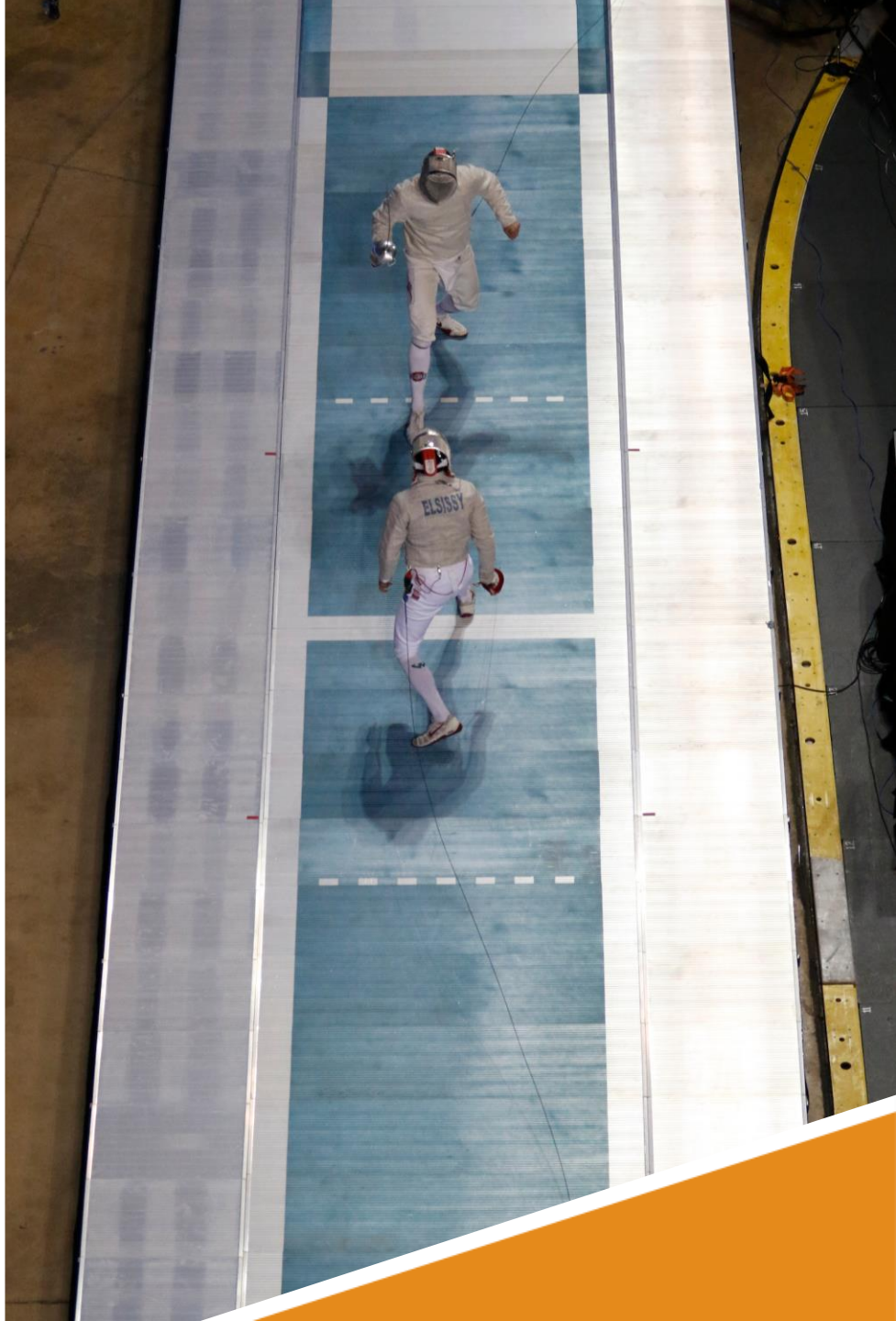
- You are eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics aid your first year of college enrollment.
- Qualifiers meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - 10/7 core-course progression.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the sliding scale.

DIVISION I REDSHIRT

- You may receive athletics aid and practice your first academic term but not compete.
- You must pass nine semester hours (eight quarter hours) your first academic term to continue practicing the rest of the year.
- Redshirts meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.000 to 2.299.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the sliding scale.
- You may retake core courses if you fail to meet the required 10 courses before your senior year.

DIVISION I NONQUALIFIER

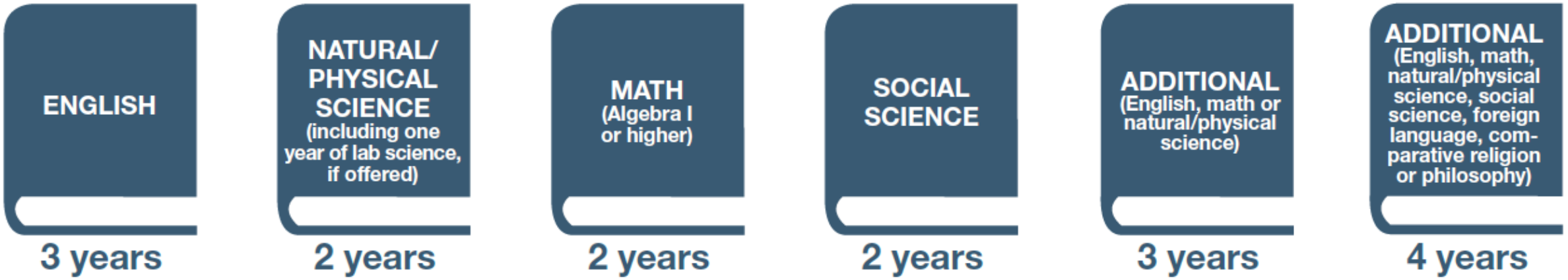
- You are not eligible to practice, compete or receive athletics aid your first year.



DIVISION II INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- To play Division II sports you need to meet the following academic requirements:
  - Graduate high school.
  - Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses.
  - Earn a minimum core-course GPA of 2.200.
  - Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the full-qualifier scale.

DIVISION II CORE COURSES



- Core-course time limitation
  - You can use all core courses completed starting your ninth-grade year until you enroll full time at a Division II college or university.

DIVISION II TEST SCORES

- Take the SAT or ACT as many times as you wish.
- Use code **9999** when registering to send scores directly to us.
- We will use your best scores to certify you:
  - SAT combined score.
  - ACT sum score.
- Your test score and GPA will be matched on our Division II sliding scale.

Please note: If you took the SAT in March 2016 or after, you need to apply the College Board's concordance table to your score. Learn more at ncaa.org/test-scores.

	MATH	CRITICAL READING	TOTAL
SAT (October 2016)	390	510	900
SAT (December 2016)	460	470	930
SCORES USED	**460**	**510**	**970**

DIVISION II QUALIFIER

- You are eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics aid your first year of college enrollment.
- Qualifiers meet the standards of:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.200.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the full-qualifier sliding scale.

DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER

- You are allowed to practice and receive athletics aid in your first academic year but cannot compete.
- Partial qualifiers meet:
  - 16 core courses in the correct subjects.
  - Minimum core-course GPA of 2.000.
  - Combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA on the partial-qualifier sliding scale.

DIVISION II NONQUALIFIER

- You are not eligible to practice, compete or receive athletics aid your first year.

DIVISION III INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Each Division III college or university determines its own eligibility for:
  - Admission.
  - Financial aid.
  - Practice and competition.
- The NCAA Eligibility Center does not perform certifications for Division III college-bound student-athletes.
- Division III student-athletes may register for a free Profile Page, but it is not required.

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SPORTS PARTICIPATION

The NCAA Eligibility Center also evaluates amateurism. Follow these tips to stay eligible to compete in college sports before full-time enrollment.

AMATEURISM

- In general, amateurism requirements do not allow:
  - Contracts with professional teams.
  - Salary for participating in athletics.
  - Prize money above actual and necessary expenses.
  - Play with professionals.
  - Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
  - Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
  - Agreement to be represented by an agent.
  - Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.
- Tip: If you have questions about actions that could impact your amateurism, contact the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure your decision will not impact your future eligibility.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

- When you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center for a Certification Account, select the sport(s) you would like to play in college.
  - Complete questions about sports participation.
  - Update your information frequently if you play for multiple teams or attend events outside the traditional high school setting.
- Request final amateurism certification before you enroll full time at a Division I or Division II school.
- Over **94 percent** of students don’t require additional amateurism questions from the NCAA Eligibility Center after they request final amateurism.

KEEP IN MIND

- Share your NCAA ID number with schools recruiting you.
- Don’t forget to apply to the school of your choosing and confirm you’ve been accepted.
- Learn about the NLI.
- Request final amateurism certification before you enroll full time in college.
- Ask your counselor to send your final transcript(s) with proof of graduation.

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RESOURCES

For more information about initial eligibility, amateurism requirements and other valuable insight, visit the following resources.

LEARN MORE

- Visit our websites:
  - ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
  - eligibilitycenter.org.
- Get updates on Twitter @NCAAEC and Instagram @playcollegesports.
- Visit nationalletter.org to learn about the NLI.
- Download our resources:
  - Initial-Eligibility Brochure.
  - Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
  - DI Initial-Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet.
  - DII Initial-Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet.

THANK YOU

- Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center:
  - 317-917-6222.
  - 877-262-1492 (toll free).
  - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.

NCAA Eligibility Center

ncaa.org | twitter.com/ncaaec | ncaa.org/playcollegesports
eligibilitycenter.org

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