NAVIGATING INITIAL ELIGIBILITY DURING COVID-19
For Houston ISD Coaches and Administrators

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AGENDA

COVID-19 FAQ.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Registration.

Core Course.

Alternative Standards.
  - Division I.
  - Division II.

Distance or E-Learning.

Sports Participation.

Resources.
NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs

For Students Initially Enrolling Full Time in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 Academic Year

Given the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the educational environment, the NCAA Eligibility Center has partnered with the NCAA membership to identify the following changes to the initial-eligibility certification process for students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA Division I or II school during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year. The Eligibility Center will continue to monitor the environment and make necessary adjustments to prioritize health, safety and fairness for all prospective student-athletes.

FAQ Topics—Quick Links

Academic Evaluations  Auto Waiver Criteria—2021-22 or 2022-23  Subsequent Classes
Prior Classes  Enrollment  Timing
Submission of Academic Documents

COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Criteria for 2021-22 or 2022-23 Enrollment

Q1: Given the unique circumstances due to COVID-19, will there be any flexibility in the initial-eligibility standard for students who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution during 2021-22 or 2022-23?

A1: Yes. Students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA Division I or II school during 2021-22 or 2022-23 will receive an automatic initial-eligibility waiver in the academic certification process that provides the highest level of relief for which they are eligible, per the criteria below:
WHAT IS THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER?
WHAT IS ELIGIBILITY CENTER?

▶ A unit within the NCAA responsible for evaluating and certifying college-bound student-athletes for collegiate competition at Division I and II schools.

▶ We focus on:
  ▶ Academic preparedness.
  ▶ Sports participation.
  ▶ High school courses.
  ▶ Customer service.

▶ If your students want to compete at a Division I or II school, they must meet NCAA Eligibility Center:
  ▶ Academic initial-eligibility requirements.
  ▶ Amateurism requirements.
**NCAA FAST FACTS**

- 1,100+ colleges and universities.
- 98 voting athletics conferences.
- 39 affiliated organizations.
- > 500,000 student-athletes.
- 19,500 teams.
- 90 championships.
- 24 sports.
- Three divisions.
REGISTRATION
TWO ACCOUNT TYPES

- Register for a Profile Page or a Certification account at eligibilitycenter.org.
PROFILE PAGE ACCOUNT

Students interested in a Division III school or are not sure in which division they want to compete.

There is no registration fee to create a Profile Page account.

Transition to a Certification account at any time your students wish to pursue a Division I or II path.
CERTIFICATION ACCOUNT

Students must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at a Division I or II school.

The registration fee for domestic students is $90. The fee for international students is $150.

Before students take official visits or sign an NLI, they must have a complete Certification account.
- Review their Dashboard for open tasks.
- Update their graduation or enrollment dates if needed.
- View their receipt of transcripts on file.
- Edit their account, schools or sports information.
Student-athletes must apply and be accepted to their NCAA DI or II school before they can compete on campus.

Student-athletes should ask their NCAA school for more information about cost of attendance and financial aid.
Students must be on an NCAA DI or II school’s institution request list to get a certification.
WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?
WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

- ENGLISH
- MATH (Algebra I or higher)
- NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

NCAA core courses are:
- On your school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.
- Taught at or above the high school’s regular academic level.
- Taught by a qualified instructor.
- Considered four-year college preparatory.
Find your school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses by going to eligibiltycenter.org/courselist.
COVID-19
ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS
DIVISION I: ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS

Four possible academic certification outcomes for student-athletes:

- Early academic qualifier.
- Qualifier.
- Academic redshirt.
- Nonqualifier.
**DIVISION I EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER**

**2021-22**

**2022-23**

**Note:** DI early academic qualifier status is based on the student’s pre-seventh semester academic record.

- Complete 14 core-course units in the required subject areas.
- Earn a core-course GPA ≥ 3.0 in the required subject areas.

**Athletics Aid**

**Practice**

**Compete**
DIVISION I 
EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER 
2021-22
2022-23

SUBJECT AREAS

- English: 3 Years
- Math: 2 Years
- Science: 2 Years
- Additional (English, math or natural/physical science): 2 Years
- Additional Courses (in any area): 5 Years

Athletics Aid
Practice
Compete
Meet core-course progression before starting the 7th 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 QUALIFIER
2021-22
2022-23

SUBJECT AREAS

ENGLISH
4 Years

MATH
(Algebra I or higher)
3 Years

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE
(Including one year of lab, if offered)
2 Years

ADDITIONAL
(English, math or natural/physical science)
1 Year

SOCIAL SCIENCE
2 Years

ADDITIONAL COURSES
(Any area listed foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
4 Years

Athletics Aid
Practice
Compete
DIVISION I
ACADEMIC REDSHIRT
2021-22
2022-23

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

Earn a core-course GPA ≥ 2.0 in the required subject areas.

Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

First Year Athletics Aid

First Term Practice
DIVISION I
ACADEMIC
REDSHIRT
2021-22
2022-23

First Year Athletics Aid

First Term Practice

SUBJECT AREAS

ENGLISH

4 Years

MATH
(Algebra I or higher)

3 Years

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE
(Including one year of lab, if offered)

2 Years

ADDITIONAL
(English, math or natural/physical science)

1 Year

SOCIAL SCIENCE

2 Years

ADDITIONAL COURSES
(Any area listed foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

4 Years
DI nonqualifiers are not eligible to receive athletics aid, practice or compete their first year.
Standardized test scores are excluded from NCAA initial-eligibility criteria for students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA school during the 2020-21, 2021-22 and/or 2022-23 academic years.

However, colleges and/or scholarship programs may still require test scores.
When students enter ninth grade, they have four years (eight semesters) to complete their core-course requirement.

They must graduate on time, with their class.
DIVISION I: CORE-COURSE TIME LIMITATION

Note: This approach will allow students impacted by school closures to complete additional core courses toward their initial eligibility.
EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

9th Grade
- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

4 Core Courses

10th Grade
- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

4 Core Courses

11th Grade
- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

4 Core Courses

12th Grade
- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or additional

4 Core Courses

4 x 4 = 16
DIVISION II: ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS

Three possible academic certification outcomes for student-athletes:

- Early academic qualifier.
- Qualifier.
- Partial qualifier.
DIVISION II EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER
2021-22 2022-23

Note: DII early academic qualifier status is based on the student’s pre-seventh semester academic record.

Complete 14 core-course units in the required subject areas.

Earn a core-course GPA ≥ 2.5 in the required subject areas.

Athletics Aid
Practice
Compete
DIVISION II EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER
2021-22 2022-23

SUBJECT AREAS

- **ENGLISH**: 3 Years
- **MATH**: 3 Years
- **NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE**: 2 Years
- **ADDITIONAL COURSES (In any area)**: 6 Years

Athletics Aid
Practice
Compete
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 QUALIFIER 2021-22 2022-23**

**SUBJECT AREAS**

- **English**
  - 3 Years

- **Math (Algebra I or higher)**
  - 2 Years

- **Natural/Physical Science (Including one year of lab, if offered)**
  - 2 Years

- **Additional (English, math or natural/physical science)**
  - 3 Years

- **Social Science**
  - 2 Years

- **Additional Courses (Any area listed foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)**
  - 4 Years

- **Athletics Aid**
- **Practice**
- **Compete**
Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

Note: Student-athletes that do not meet DII qualifier standards will be deemed a partial qualifier.
Standardized test scores are excluded from NCAA initial-eligibility criteria for students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA school during the 2020-21, 2021-22 and/or 2022-23 academic years. However, colleges and/or scholarship programs may still require test scores.
Students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA school during 2021-22 or 2022-23 must meet specific criteria to be eligible.
INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL OTHER CLASSES

DI Academic Requirements

DII Academic Requirements
DIVISION III

- Each Division III college or university determines its own eligibility for:
  - Admission.
  - Financial aid.
  - Practice and competition.

- The NCAA EC 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.
DISTANCE OR E-LEARNING
DISTANCE OR E-LEARNING

The Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance or e-learning programs used during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic calendars in response to closures due to COVID-19.
DISTANCE OR E-LEARNING

Note: This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who complete distance or e-learning courses during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.
Taking online or hybrid courses does not necessarily mean your students are home schooled.
Home school students can also meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria for 2022-23 enrollment. Review our [Home School Toolkit](#) for questions about home schooling.
SPORTS PARTICIPATION

When students register for a Certification account, they must:

- Select the sport(s) they would like to play in college.
- Update their information frequently if they play for multiple teams or attend events outside the traditional high school setting.
- Request final amateurism before they enroll full time at a DI or II school.

Note: Over 94% of students do not require additional questions from the EC after they request final amateurism.
NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS:
GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

▶ NCAA student-athletes now have the opportunity to benefit from their name, image and likeness.

▶ All three divisions have adopted a uniform, interim policy suspending NCAA NIL rules for all incoming and current student-athletes in all sports.

▶ For more NIL resources:
  ▶ Visit ncaa.org/nil.
  ▶ Contact your student’s NCAA school’s compliance office.
  ▶ Follow the EC on social media.
If your students have questions, encourage them to contact us before acting. Their actions may impact their future NCAA eligibility.
PROACTIVE STUDENT ACTIONS

If students want to play sports in college, they must:

- Share their NCAA ID with schools recruiting them.
- Apply to schools of their choosing to be accepted.
- Request final amateurism certification before they enroll full time in college.
  - Starting April 1 (fall).
  - Starting Oct. 1 (winter/spring).
- Ask their counselor to submit their final transcript with proof of graduation.

Know that considerations are given to students with documented education-impacting disabilities.
Review our COVID-19 FAQ.

Visit our websites:
- ncaa.org/playcollegesports.
- eligibilitycenter.org.

Visit nationalletter.org to learn about the NLI.

Download our resources:
- Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.
- Initial-Eligibility Flyer.
- DI Academic Requirements.
- DII Academic Requirements.
QUESTIONS?
View the EC COVID FAQ
“What if I still have questions?”

- **High school administrators:**
  - Call 877-622-2321.
  - M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern.

- **Students and parents:**
  - Call 877-262-1492.
  - M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern.

*Ask the EC*
THANK YOU

Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.

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  ▶ Call 877-622-2321.
  ▶ M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern.

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