

Steps in Preparation to Play Division I or Division II Sports in College

Athletes develop at different rates and really can't begin to be recruited until later in high school except for those legit big-time nationally recruited few. Unfortunately getting yourself prepared academically to be able to qualify by taking the right courses has to start much earlier. Also, keep in mind that very few student athletes are "recruited" for college athletics, especially at the D1 level. Being "recruited" means that you are in direct communication with a coach from the college by phone and email.

1. Choose your high school courses wisely

- a. This process has to start from winter/spring of your 8th grade year when selecting courses for 9th grade.
- b. Not all high school courses are "NCAA-approved". Take a look at the NCAA section of the Academic Handbook for the EHS list of NCAA-approved courses.
- c. Take a look at the NCAA clearinghouse website for specific course, GPA, and testing requirements.
- d. Many "NCAA-approved" courses are advanced level courses, which require certain grades in previous courses as well as teacher recommendations.
- e. Your GPA (for NCAA) is calculated using just the grades you earn in the NCAA-approved courses...A's = 4.0, B's = 3.0, C's = 2.0, D's = 1.0

2. Take the ACT

- a. Start taking it in sophomore or early junior year
- b. When registering for the ACT, you must select the NCAA or NAIA (or both depending on your level) to receive your ACT score. Use "9999" for NCAA and "9876" for NAIA.

3. Register with the appropriate clearinghouse

- a. Set up an account with either NCAA or NAIA (or both).
- b. Your college coach or his designee from the school (asst. coach, recruiting coordinator, etc.) will be able to tell you which one you need to do for them
- c. NCAA Clearinghouse is www.eligibilitycenter.org
- d. NAIA is www.playnaia.org
- e. After registering, bring your ID number and a transcript permission form (from the academic office cubbies) to your counselor. Your transcript will then be loaded to the appropriate organization.

4. Apply to your college/get accepted...fall of senior year

5. File your FAFSA (can start in October of senior year)

6. Do well in ALL classes to build your clearinghouse GPA

7. Schedule a meeting with your counselor early in high school to see how the courses you are scheduling fit into your NCAA/NAIA clearinghouse plan

8. This information applies only to D1 and D2 level...to play D3 college sports, you have to be accepted to the school as a student based on that college's academic requirements.