

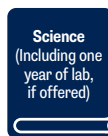
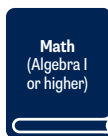
NCAA-Approved Core Courses

The NCAA core curriculum (**core course**) requirement ensures you're taking high school courses that prepare you for the academic expectations of college. **Note:** Not all high school classes are NCAA-approved core courses and may not count toward your 16 core-course credit requirement.

What is a Core Course?

An NCAA-approved core course must meet the following requirements:

Is a four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas:



Is taught by a qualified instructor.



Is taught at or above your high school's regular academic level.



You receive credit toward high school graduation and course appears on an official transcript with course title, grade and credit awarded.



Is in a noncore area, such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.



Prepares you for work or life, or for a two-year college or technical school, such as personal finance, consumer education or tech prep.



Is taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth, such as basic, essential, fundamental or foundational courses.



Is a credit-by-exam course.



REMEMBER
Scan the QR code to find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.



Courses that meet the above criteria must be submitted to and approved by the Eligibility Center. Approved classes are included on **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses. (For additional information on how your high school addresses core-course credits in your transcript, review the High School Information section of your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.) Make sure you're taking courses on your high school's approved list; ask your high school counselor if you need help. For more information regarding courses that can be taken in each core-course subject area, including additional subject areas, scan the QR code or visit on.ncaa.com/CCL.

Core-Course Credits

You can earn credit for a core course only once. If you take a course that repeats the content of another core course, you earn credit for only one of these courses, and the higher grade counts toward your **core-course GPA**. For more information on core-course credits, visit ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses.

Dual-Enrollment Coursework

Dual-enrollment coursework may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the course appears on your high school transcript with grade and credit and meets all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**.

Courses Taken Before High School

High school classes taken prior to ninth grade may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the course appears on your high school transcript with grade and credit and meets all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**. For example, if you take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I before high school, the class may count toward your 16 core-course credits requirement.

Courses Taken After High School

A college course taken after high school graduation may be used toward your initial eligibility and awarded 0.5 units from your college transcript (unless awarded one full unit on your high school transcript). It must appear on your high school transcript with grade and credit meet all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course**.

For **Division I**, only core courses completed in your first eight semesters will be used in your academic certification. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth-grade class, you may use one core-course unit completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) and before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. You may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated as long as the course is taken prior to full-time enrollment at any college or university.

- » An additional core-course unit taken after on-time high school graduation cannot replace a course used to meet the **core-course progression (10/7) requirement**, but an additional core course after on-time graduation may replace one of the remaining six core-course units necessary to meet core-course requirements.

For **Division II**, you may use an unlimited number of core courses completed after graduation (summer or academic year) and before enrolling **full time** at any college or university. You may complete the NCAA-approved core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated.

Transcripts

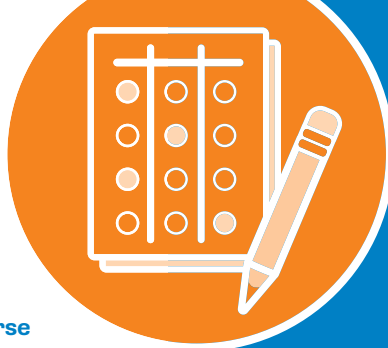
Ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official four-semester, six-semester and final transcript with proof of graduation (once you have completed high school) to your Eligibility Center account. If you attend more than one high school or take courses from more than one program, the Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from each high school or program you attend. High schools have the capability to upload transcripts directly to a student's account for free from the High School Portal.

Except for school districts with common transcripts, the Eligibility Center does not accept grades from one high school or program transcribed on another high school's transcript. Be sure to keep your Eligibility Center account updated with each high school and/or program you attend. A school cannot upload your transcript if it is not included in the Education section of your Eligibility Center account. Visit on.ncaa.com/SubmitTranscript to learn more about how your high school submits your transcript.

- » *International students:* For information on proper submission procedures for transcripts and academic records, [see page 21](#) or visit ncaa.org/international.

Note: Some approved programs that have a list of NCAA-approved courses are not credit-awarding institutions and, therefore, do not produce official transcripts. If you attend an approved program that does not award credit, a grade report from the program should be submitted.

Grade-Point Average



The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your **core-course grade-point average** based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on your high school transcript could be different than the NCAA core-course GPA used in your certification. Your core-course GPA is based solely on the grades you received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses, visit eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

Your core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades, such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned “quality points,” as shown in the scale below. The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA, but your high school must notify the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes.

In “Pass/Fail” grading situations, the Eligibility Center will assign your high school’s lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a “Pass” grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade.

Test Scores

In January 2023, NCAA **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Calculating Your Quality Points

In order to determine your quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:

An A grade (4 points)
for a trimester course (0.34 unit):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.34 \text{ unit} = 1.36 \text{ total quality points}$

An A grade (4 points)
for a semester course (0.50 unit):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 0.50 \text{ unit} = 2.00 \text{ total quality points}$

An A grade (4 points)
for a full-year course (1.00 unit):
 $4 \text{ points} \times 1.00 \text{ unit} = 4.00 \text{ quality points}$

Use the **Division I and II Worksheets** to help determine your core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

A = 4 points

B = 3 points

C = 2 points

D = 1 point

UNITS OF CREDIT

1 quarter unit = 0.25 unit

1 trimester unit = 0.34 unit

1 semester unit = 0.50 unit

1 year = 1 unit

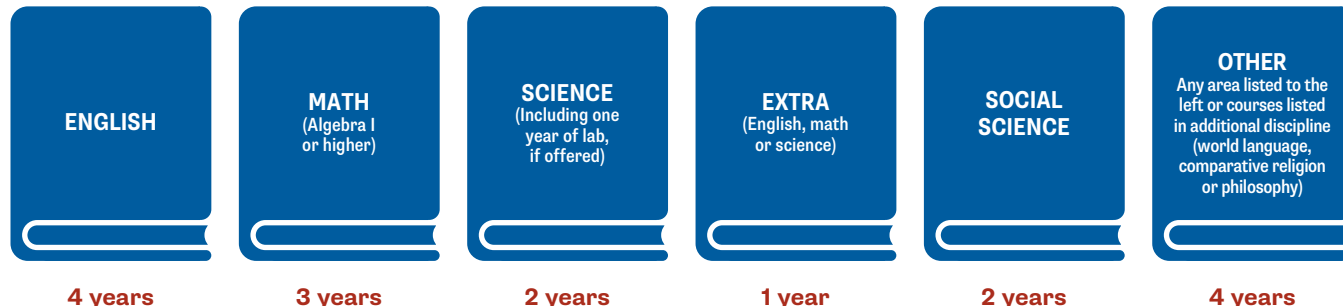


Division I Academic Standards

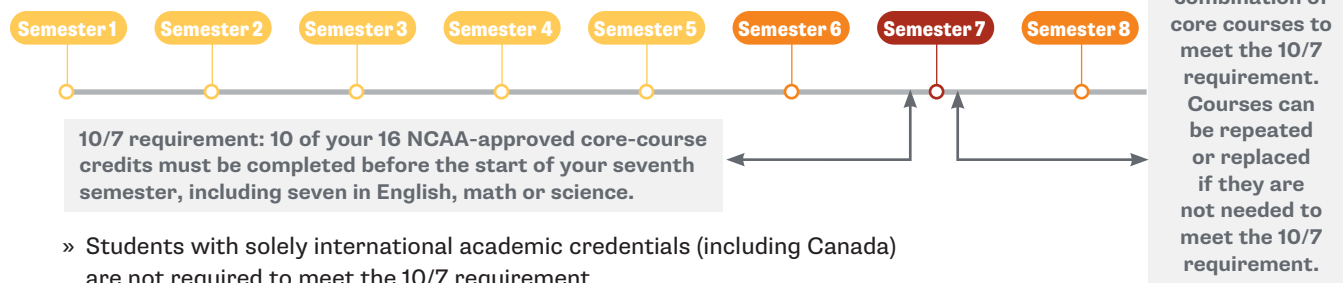
Division I schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet all the following requirements:



1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



2. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of the seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.



» Students with solely international academic credentials (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

- Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
- Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
- Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

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

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

9th
GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

4 CORE COURSES

10th
GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

4 CORE COURSES

11th
GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

4 CORE COURSES

12th
GRADE

- (1) English
- (1) Math
- (1) Science
- (1) Social Science and/or other

4 CORE COURSES



What If I Don't Graduate on Time?

In Division I, if you do not graduate on time (in four years/eight semesters), the Eligibility Center will still use your grades and coursework for the first four years/eight semesters for your certification. You will still need to provide proof of graduation (once you graduate) but may not use any coursework taken after your high school graduation toward your certification.

What If I Don't Meet Division I Standards?

If you have not met all the Division I academic standards, you may not compete in your first year of full-time enrollment at a Division I school. However, if you qualify as an **academic redshirt**, you may practice during your first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year.

Division I Worksheet

Use the **Division I Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.



ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division I school. If you're being recruited by a Division I school, below are the most common decisions you may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

You may practice during your first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

NONQUALIFIER

You will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Academic Standards

Division II schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet all the following requirements:



MAKE IT YOURS

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.

3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

What If I Don't Meet Division II Standards?

If you have not met all the Division II academic standards, you may not compete in your first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school. However, you will be deemed a partial qualifier. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Worksheet

Use the **Division II Worksheet** to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.



ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division II school. If you're being recruited by a Division II school, below are the most common decisions you may receive once a certification has been completed.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER

You may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during your first year of full-time enrollment.

