



Navigating the pathway to achieve your college athletic dreams in the United States (U.S.) can be both exciting and stressful. Student-athletes must participate in a lengthy, highly regulated and competitive recruitment process to be considered for a sports scholarship. EducationUSA Australia is here to assist you in understanding the process.

While playing for a college team on scholarship can pay for the cost of your undergraduate degree, you do not attend university solely to play sport. Student-athlete applicants should recognize that the order of those two words is crucial—you are first and foremost a student. Being an athlete is important; however, this is secondary to your successful completion of an undergraduate degree.

Many student-athletes in Australia aspire to attend an NCAA Division I college. Thus, the information provided in the college sports section will focus on supporting students and families to achieve this outcome. However, the information can be transferable to support anyone who aspires to play U.S. college competitive sport. This guide outlines some clearly defined steps to help families successfully navigate the process.

Steps

1. Identify your preferred athletic association: NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA
2. Register with the appropriate associations governing body e.g. Eligibility Center
3. Plan your studies so that you meet the academic entry requirements, which is best from Year 9 and onwards i.e. NCAA 16 core courses
4. Map out your standardized testing calendar if required - then register as soon as possible
5. Identify suitable universities and athletic programs
6. Develop your sport profile
7. Capture competitive athletic footage to be sent to coaches. Best to link from a website so that you do not fill a coaches inbox
8. Arrange for your school to send annual transcripts to the required eligibility center i.e. NCAA from Year 9 onwards
9. Contact coaches - best to start in Year 11
10. Record responses, follow-up, and identify suitable programs
11. Send standardized test scores to the NCAA (code 9999) or the NAIA (code 9876)
12. Promote yourself by creating your online profile that can include using free online recruitment sites
13. Stay on track using a timeline like the [NCAA Division I timeline](#) or create your own

NOTE: This information was accurate at time of print (January 1, 2019) and is subject to change.