



Frequently Asked Questions For International Student-Athletes

Purpose

This document contains important information about initial-eligibility standards for international student-athletes. For more information about international academic standards, including policies for over thirty countries, please visit NCAA.org/international.

Why do I need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?

If you want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and have your academic and amateurism evaluations completed. If you are currently enrolled (or have previously been enrolled) as a full-time student at a university in a non-U.S. foreign country, you will be considered a transfer student-athlete during the process to enroll at an NCAA college or university. Please visit NCAA.org/transfer for more information regarding your eligibility.

How do I register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Take your first step to becoming an NCAA student-athlete at eligibilitycenter.org. Choose from our two account types to get started:

1. **Certification Account:** You need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. You also need to be registered with a Certification Account before you can make official visits or sign a National Letter of Intent in Division I or II. A Certification Account is \$135 for international student-athletes.
2. **Profile Page:** If you plan to compete at a Division III school or are currently unsure in which division you want to compete, create a free Profile Page. If at any time you wish to pursue a Division I or II path, you will be able to transition to a Certification Account. The NCAA Eligibility Center will not certify students with a Profile Page.

For Certification Accounts, please allow between 30 to 45 minutes to register completely. If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and exit once your account or profile is created. Reference the Help section located in the top task bar at any time to answer your questions as you work through registration.

What are the initial-eligibility requirements for international student-athletes?

There are different initial-eligibility requirements for NCAA Divisions I and II colleges and universities. For either division, an international college-bound student-athlete must meet minimum academic standards to be eligible for practice, competition and athletics financial aid his or her first year. For more information, visit NCAA.org/international.

Since each international college-bound student-athlete's academic circumstances are unique, the NCAA division and the respective country determines the standards. A minimum score on either the ACT or the SAT plus an acceptable grade-point average is required. In addition, a minimum number of approved core courses must be earned which will be equivalent to a country's academic credential presented. And finally, proof of graduation must be included on the academic credential or submitted separately.



What academic documents are required for an international student-athlete?

Please note that there are several academic documents required to receive an academic certification decision following registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center must receive all of the required academic documents before an academic certification evaluation may begin. Please do not send any academic documents until after you have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

International college-bound student-athletes must submit the following academic documents:

- Your academic records for years nine and up, in your native language and translated to English
- Proof of graduation, including certificates, diplomas or final leaving exams
- SAT or ACT scores
- Failure to include any of these items may delay review of your records. In certain situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center may ask for additional academic documentation to clarify that your academic information is complete, valid and accurate. For more information, contact the NCAA Eligibility Center at NCAA.org/contactinternational.

Academic records include documents such as transcripts or yearly grade reports and mark sheets or official leaving exam results.

If English is not the primary language of instruction at the school you attended, you must submit complete, literal word-for-word, line-by-line certified English translations for all your documents in the same format as the original, native language documents. The translator may not be related to you.

The translator must provide a letter including the following information:

- Appropriate stamps or seals explaining his or her qualifications as a translator
- The translator's full name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address or other means by which the authenticity of the translation can be verified
- A professor of the language at the NCAA school recruiting you may provide a line-by-line English translation, with a signed cover letter stating the professor's role at the school, on school letterhead. The documents must be sent in a sealed university envelope either by the professor or the admissions office. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not accept documents sent by athletics department staff or coaches, and does not accept documents made or sent by any college not in NCAA Division I or II.

Because the NCAA Eligibility Center does not return documents, if your secondary school can give you only one set of official academic documents and cannot provide a translation service, you should:

- Ask your school to provide you with the certified copies of your documents
- Have the certified copies of your documents translated by a certified translator
- Return the certified copies and the original translated documents to your school
- Ask your school to send the certified copies and translated documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

If your secondary school can give you multiple certified copies of your academic documents but does not provide a translation service, you should:

- Ask your school to send originals or certified copies of your academic documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Ask your school to provide you with certified copies of your documents
- Have the certified copies of your documents translated by a certified translator
- Ask the translator to send the certified copies and original translated documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center



What academic documents are required for an international student-athlete? (cont.)

If original documents cannot be submitted, you may submit certified, attested copies of the original documents. Photocopies of documents sent by a United States high school or a third-party are not accepted. You must submit official school-stamped copies created and stamped by the school which originally issued you the documents.

If the college recruiting you sends your secondary school documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center, the documents must be certified copies sent by mail from the college's admissions office. The packet should include a cover letter on university letterhead from an authorized admissions officer containing:

- The date when the admissions department received the academic documents
- The chain of custody of the documents, including names and titles of all individuals involved in producing the documents and sending them to the admissions department
- A statement by an authorized admissions officer that the documents are authentic and official copies of original documents received through the mail by the admissions department
- Signature of the college's director of admissions

What is proof of graduation?

You must submit proof of graduation showing you completed upper secondary or pre-university schooling. Proof of graduation may be called a final diploma, a leaving exam, a maturity certificate, a record of learning, a higher certificate or something else but it must include the official name or type of diploma and the date issued.

If your proof of graduation includes a leaving certificate, maturity exam, record of learning, higher certificates or exam certificates, you must submit original academic documents or copies certified by your secondary school. Exam results must be exam-board-issued results. A list provided by your school or a computer-printout from an exam officer is not acceptable.

How do I submit test scores to the NCAA Eligibility Center?

When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code 9999 so your scores are sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will not be used in your academic certification. Paper test score results and results from TOEFL exams will not be accepted.

You must take the SAT or ACT before enrolling full-time in college. If you take the SAT or ACT after graduating high school but before enrolling full-time in college, the college recruiting you must submit a matriculation form confirming you took the test before enrolling full-time in college.

What are the acceptable delivery requirements to send additional supporting academic documentation to the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Secondary documentation (correspondence) from information sources to explain case issues may be received by mail or electronic method (fax, email) directly from the source. General correspondence with lower/upper secondary schools, high schools, exam councils, ministries of education, etc., may be accepted via fax from the high school, exam council or ministry of education (not from other source like parent or coach).

Letters to explain curriculums, timelines, course grades, delayed graduation, any academic discrepancies, etc., fall into this "general correspondence" category. Even though they could be received via the typical unofficial delivery method of fax/email, they are considered official and thus acceptable because the information is merely providing supplemental explanation to help validate the primary official academic documentation received.

If a school administrator sends a letter, it should come on the school's letterhead/fax cover letter, from the school's fax machine, not from the administrator's personal home fax machine.



What are the situations where you will not accept academic documents sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center?

We will not accept documents sent in the following situations:

- Any documents received electronically or via fax (aside from exceptions for general correspondence that are from the original source mentioned above);
- Any documents received, regardless of delivery method, that are not from the original source. Specific examples include:
- Originals sent by mail from a party that is not the original source (e.g., the wrong source that makes the academic document unofficial would be when a parent or college-bound student-athlete sends documents on behalf of a high school; when a credential evaluation service sends documents on behalf of a high school; or a certified translator sends academic documents on behalf of a high school (the official/original academic documents, in addition to the certified translation academic documents). All of these
- examples have a third party sending the documents instead of the original, official, owner or source (the high school). Any documents received by mail from an NCAA college or university's athletics department.

How do I contact the NCAA Eligibility Center's international academic certification staff?

The NCAA Eligibility Center can be contacted directly by telephone, mail or through the International Contact Form at NCAA.org/international. The NCAA Eligibility Center office is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. U.S. Eastern time. Mail documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center at:

Mailing Address:

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207
USA

Overnight and Express Mailing Address:

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202
USA