Frequently Asked Questions for International Student-Athletes

This document contains important information about initial-eligibility standards for international student-athletes. For more information about international academic standards please visit NCAA.org/international.

1. 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 both academic and amateurism evaluations completed. If you are currently enrolled (or have previously been enrolled) as a full-time student at a university outside of the United States and its territories, 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 transfer eligibility.

2. 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:

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 $150 for international student-athletes.

Profile Page: If you plan to compete at a Division III school or are 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. The Eligibility Center will send students with these accounts reminders and information regarding initial-eligibility.

For Certification Accounts, please allow between 30 to 45 minutes to register completely. If you need to exit and come back later, 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.

3. 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 athletically related financial aid in 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 learn more about academic requirements.

4. 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 required academic documents before an academic certification evaluation may begin. Please do not send any academic documents until after you have created a certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Click here for more information on how to submit your documents.
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; and
- SAT or ACT scores (taken prior to fulltime collegiate/university enrollment).

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.

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, email 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.

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 submit your academic documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Ask your school to provide you with copies of your academic documents.
- Have your academic documents translated by a certified translator.

Ask the translator to send the original translated documents to the NCAA Eligibility Center or take the certified translations to your school and have your school submit the translations to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

5. 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 these as well. 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.

For a list of acceptable forms of proof of high school graduation from your country, please see The NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility.

6. 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.
7. How do I contact the NCAA Eligibility Center’s international academic certification staff?

The NCAA Eligibility Center can be contacted 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
Attn: International Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136 Indianapolis, IN 46207 USA

**Overnight and Express Mailing Address:**
NCAA Eligibility Center
Attn: International Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

**International Resources**
- Country-Specific Webpages.
- International Initial-Eligibility Brochure.
- How to Submit Documentation.
- Eligibility Center International Contact Form.