NCAA Initial-Eligibility Process

This chart presents a general overview to help you, students and their families better understand the components of the initial-eligibility process.

An NCAA school recruits students by placing them on its institutional request list, which begins a request for certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

If the Eligibility Center has not reviewed the student’s high school, courses or programs, the school provides information.

Eligibility Center reviews the information.

DECISION
Eligibility Center approves or doesn’t approve the high school, courses or programs.*

APPROVED
NCAA can use high school’s approved courses or programs.

NOT APPROVED
NCAA cannot use courses or programs that are not approved.

Review of student’s academic credentials.

Review of student’s amateurism credentials.

DECISION
Eligibility Center certifies a student’s academic eligibility with one of the following statuses:

DI AND DII QUALIFIER
Student may practice, compete and receive athletics aid in first year.

DI ACADEMIC REDSHIRT
Student may practice (in the first academic term) and receive athletics aid in first year.

DI PARTIAL QUALIFIER
Student may practice and receive athletics aid in first year.

DI NONQUALIFIER
Student may not practice, compete or receive athletics aid in first year.

CERTIFIED AS AMATEUR
Student may compete in NCAA sports.

AMATEURISM NOT CERTIFIED
Student may not be eligible to compete in NCAA sports.

College Student-Athlete

*Some accounts may be placed on extended evaluation which may require additional academic information for review.