If you want to play NCAA Division I or II sports, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

And that means you need to be more than a good enough athlete. You need to be a good enough student, too.

NCAA Division I requires 16 core courses. But beginning August 1, 2016, 10 of those courses will need to be completed prior to your seventh semester. For most of you, that’s the start of your senior year.

Also, beginning August 1, 2016, Division I student-athletes will be required to graduate with a minimum 2.3 GPA in those core courses.

If you don’t meet the academic requirements when you graduate, it’s still possible to receive athletics aid. And you may still be able to practice. But you’ll be stuck riding the bench. And who wants that? For the full list of initial eligibility requirements, visit 2point3.org and make sure you’ll have the grades to play.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- At the beginning of your sophomore year, register at eligibilitycenter.org.
- At the end of your junior year, ask your high school counselor to send your transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Take the ACT or SAT and use the code “9999” to have your official scores sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Check with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class and have the required amount of core courses.
- Beginning April 1 of your senior year, request final amateurism certification.
- Ask your high school counselor to submit your final transcript with proof of graduation.

For more information, visit 2point3.org.