

**NEW**  
NCAA Division I  
Initial-Eligibility  
Academic Requirements



Eligibility Center

# New NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements

There are new requirements for college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after **August 1, 2015**.



# NEW NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements

For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2015, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. Full qualifier = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. Academic redshirt = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).
3. Nonqualifier = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

# Summary of Changes

- Minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 required;
- Change in GPA/test score index (sliding scale); and
- Ten core courses required before beginning of senior year.

The following slides explain these changes in further detail.

# NCAA Division I Full Qualifier: Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

Students will need to meet the following requirements to receive **athletics aid**, **practice** and **compete** their first year:

- 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English;
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
- Minimum required GPA:
  - Minimum GPA of **2.300** in those 16 core courses.
- Graduate from high school.



# NCAA Division I Full Qualifier:

## Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

- Competition sliding scale. (*The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.*)
  - Minimum sum ACT or SAT (critical reading and math only) score that matches the 16 core-course GPA.
    - Example: 2.500 core-course GPA requires 1000 SAT or 85 sum ACT.
    - Example: 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT requires core-course GPA of 2.950.



# NCAA Division I Full Qualifier:

## Requirements for Athletics Aid, Practice and Competition

- Core-course progression.
  - Must complete **10** core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year).
  - Of the **10** core courses completed, **seven** must be in the area of **English, math, or science**.
  - These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of GPA calculation.
    - A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.

# Sliding Scale for Competition (Abbreviated)

GPA for Competition	SAT (critical reading/math only)	ACT Sum		GPA for Competition	SAT (critical reading/math only)	ACT Sum
4.000	400	37		2.900	840	70
3.900	440	41		2.800	880	73
3.800	480	43		2.700	920	77
3.700	520	46		2.600	960	81
3.600	560	48		2.500	1000	85
3.500	600	50		2.400	1040	88
3.400	640	53		2.300	1080	93
3.300	680	56				
3.200	720	59				
3.100	760	62				
3.000	800	66				

The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.



# Academic Redshirt:

## Requirements for Scholarship and Practice.

- 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - 4 years English,
  - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher,
  - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered by any school attended);
  - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
  - 2 years social science; and
  - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
- Minimum required GPA.
  - Minimum GPA of **2.000** in 16 core courses.
- Academic redshirt sliding scale.
  - Minimum sum ACT or SAT score (critical reading/math only) that matches the 16 core-course GPA.
    - Example: GPA of 2.50 requires SAT of 820 or ACT sum of 68.



# Sliding Scale for Academic Redshirt (Abbreviated)

## Athletics Aid and Practice Only

GPA for Aid and Practice	SAT (critical reading/math only)	ACT Sum		GPA for Aid and Practice	SAT (critical reading/math only)	ACT Sum
3.550 or above	400	37		2.500	820	68
3.500	420	39		2.400	860	71
3.400	460	42		2.300	900	75
3.300	500	44		2.200	940	79
3.200	540	47		2.100	980	83
3.100	580	49		2.000	1020	86
3.000	620	52				
2.900	660	54				
2.800	700	57				
2.700	740	61				
2.600	780	64				

The full sliding scale can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) under Resources.



# Academic Redshirt:

## Requirements for **Scholarship** and **Practice**

If a college-bound student-athlete meets these requirements, he/she can receive an **athletics scholarship** during his/her first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.

If he/she meets these requirements, he/she can **practice** during his/her first term (e.g., semester, quarter) at a Division I college or university.

- After the first semester or quarter is complete, in order to continue to **practice** for the rest of the year, the student must be academically successful at the collegiate level.



# What If A Student Does Not Meet Either Set of Requirements?

If a college-bound student-athlete does not meet either set of requirements, he/she is a **nonqualifier**.

## A **nonqualifier**:

- Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year at an NCAA Division I college or university.
- Cannot practice or compete during the first year at a Division I college or university.



# Resources



Help

For more information or questions:

- NCAA Eligibility Center website at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).
- NCAA Eligibility Center Customer Service:
  - 877/622-2321 (high school administrators only); or
  - 877/262-1492 (public).