

# GET IN THE GAME!

Student Athletes & the  
College Admission Process

The logo for the National Association of College Athletic Administrators (NAACAC). It features the letters 'NAACAC' in a white, sans-serif font. The 'A's are stylized with a curved line through them, and the 'C's are also stylized with a curved line through them. The logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, set against a blue background that curves upwards from the bottom left.

# **STATISTICS**

**<http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/probability-competing-beyond-high-school>**

## **TAKE RIGOROUS COURSES, STUDY HARD**

- Take college-prep courses
- Keep your grades up
- Remember student athletes need to meet academic eligibility requirements -- for colleges and for athletic organizations

## **BE PROACTIVE – GET NOTICED**

- Contact coaches at colleges of interest
- Create highlight video and resume
- Attend sports camps

## **TAKE AND RETAKE TESTS TO MEET TARGET SCORES**

- Take the ACT or SAT
- International students may need to take TOEFL or IELTS tests
- Send scores to college admission offices and to NCAA or NAIA

## **CONSIDER A RANGE OF COLLEGES**

- Work with your counselor
- Set high goals, but also apply where you are likely to get in
- Have a backup plan

## **FILE THE FAFSA, APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Full scholarships and “full rides” are rare
- Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible
- CSS profile might also be required
- Work with your counselor to identify scholarships

## FIND THE RIGHT “FIT”

- Research academic and athletic programs, majors, etc.
- Visit the campus, talk to students, coaches, faculty, attend a game in your sport
- Consider expectations for playing time
- Use the “broken leg” test



## **APPLY TO COLLEGES**

- Follow instructions and meet all application requirements
- Meet all deadlines
- Know that the final decision comes from the admissions office and not athletics

## **KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SIGNING**

- Review all official paperwork with a trusted adult
- Read Letters of Intent carefully
- Check with colleges to determine their rules

## FINAL DETAILS

- Work with your counselor to ensure transcripts and proof of graduation are submitted
- Keep eligibility center account up to date

## *College Search Timeline*

### **FRESHMAN YEAR**

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with eligibility information.
- ✓ Plan a four-year class schedule that meets core course requirements.
- ✓ Explore college websites and talk with student-athletes.
- ✓ Develop a resume and highlight video.
- ✓ Consider attending a summer sports camp at a college of interest.

## ***College Search Timeline***

### **SOPHOMORE YEAR**

- ✓ Continue college exploration. Start a list of prospective schools
- ✓ Stay focused on academics and keep your grades up.
- ✓ Register with the NCAA or NAIA eligibility center, if applicable.
- ✓ Update your resume and highlight reel.
- ✓ Consider making initial contact with college coaches.
- ✓ Consider attending a summer sports camp at a college of interest.

# ***College Search Timeline***

## **JUNIOR YEAR**

- ✓ Narrow your college list. Visit schools you are interested in attending.
- ✓ Take the ACT or SAT. Send the scores to college athletic associations and college admissions offices
- ✓ Check with school counselor to ensure your senior year courses align with requirements.
- ✓ Demonstrate your interest by contacting coaches, completing questionnaire
- ✓ Update your resume and highlight video.
- ✓ Consider attending sports camps, ID camps, showcases

# ***College Search Timeline***

## **SENIOR YEAR**

- ✓ Submit a quality application to colleges,
- ✓ If applying Early Action or Early Decision, work with your counselor to meet deadlines.
- ✓ Retake the ACT or SAT if necessary.
- ✓ File the FAFSA as soon as possible, and file the CSS Profile, if applicable.
- ✓ Research scholarship opportunities.
- ✓ Learn about letters of intent, ask questions before signing official paperwork.

## *College Search Timeline*

### **SENIOR YEAR continued**

- ✓ Contact coaches at the colleges in which you are interested, and give them an opportunity to see you compete.
- ✓ Work with your school counselor to make sure that necessary documentation—final transcripts and proof of graduation—are forwarded to the college admissions offices as well as appropriate college athletic association.





**National Collegiate Athletic  
Association (NCAA)**

NCAA Eligibility Center

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)



**National Association of  
Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)  
NAIA Eligibility Center**

[www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center](http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center)



**National Junior College Athletic  
Association**

[www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

The logo for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NAACAC) features the acronym "NAACAC" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized blue swoosh or arc is positioned behind the letters, starting under the 'N' and curving under the 'A' and 'C'.

National Association for  
College Admission Counseling

[www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)