

# POTENTIAL COLLEGE ATHLETES

If you plan to participate in athletics at the college level, there is a strict set of academic guidelines you must follow to ensure you are eligible. You will have to submit your academic information to a governing body in order to ensure you meet these academic guidelines. The governing body you need to seek clearance from will depend on the college you plan to attend and the sport you intend to participate in. Please communicate your intent to participate in collegiate sports with your school counselor as soon as possible to ensure you are scheduled for the appropriate courses.

## NCAA:

The NCAA is an athletic association that governs three divisions of collegiate sports; Division 1, division 2, and division 3. In order for students to be eligible to participate in NCAA regulated collegiate sports, they must meet all academic requirements set forth by the NCAA. While specific requirements vary across divisions, students are required to take a certain amount of core courses, have a minimum qualifying score on the ACT or SAT, and meet the minimum GPA requirement in core courses. Because the minimum GPA requirement is based on the core courses specified by the NCAA, your overall school GPA is not the same as the core GPA calculated by the NCAA. The NCAA recommends that you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at the beginning of your junior year. Please visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website at <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/eligibility-center> for more information on the specific requirements within each division and to register with the eligibility center.

## NAIA:

The NAIA is an athletic association that also governs over collegiate sports, however, there are less college members within the NAIA. There are two divisions within the NAIA; Division 1 and division 2. To be eligible, students must meet two of three requirements: Have a high school GPA of 2.0 or higher, graduate in the top 50% of your high school senior class, and have a minimum ACT score of 18 or SAT score of 860. Students should register with the NAIA Eligibility Center during their senior year if they plan to participate in NAIA governed athletics at the college level. Visit [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org) for more information and to register with the eligibility center.

**\*\*\* Students should speak with their coaches to determine what division they should pursue playing within at the college level. Also, students should meet with their counselor as soon as possible to ensure they are taking the appropriate core courses necessary for NCAA eligibility. \*\*\***