

Requirements for College Sports

By Philip Sine, Director of Guidance at Chenango Valley High School

You're a good athlete. You dream of going to college on an athletic scholarship. However, athletic ability alone will not allow you to participate in Division I or Division II athletics. You must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The NCAA has set specific academic standards that students must meet in high school. If you plan to enroll at a Division I college, in order to be certified by the Clearinghouse, you must:

Graduate from high school

Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses. This core curriculum includes at least 4 years of English, two in math, one year of algebra and one year of geometry (or one year of a higher level math course for which geometry is a prerequisite), two in social science, and two in natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory class, if offered by your high school). You must also complete one additional course in English, math or natural or physical science; and two additional academic courses which may be taken from the already mentioned categories or foreign language, computer science, philosophy or nondoctrinal religion.

Earn a grade point average, based on a 4.0 scale, and a combined SAT Verbal and Math section or a sum score on the ACT based on the Initial Eligibility Index below:

Division I Qualifier Index

Core GPA	ACT - sum of scores	SAT - on or after 4/1/95
2.0 & above	68	820
2.475	69	830
2.450	70	840-850
2.425	70	860
2.400	71	860
2.375	72	870
2.350	73	880

2.325	74	890
2.300	75	900
2.275	76	910
2.250	77	920
2.225	78	930
2.200	79	940
2.175	80	950
2.150	80	960
2.125	81	960
2.100	82	970
2.075	83	980
2.050	84	990
2.025	85	1000
2.000	86	1010

Partial Qualifier Index

Core GPA	ACT sum of scores	SAT on or after 4/1/95
2.750 & above	59	720
2.725	59	730
2.700	60	730
2.675	61	740-750
2.650	62	760
2.625	63	770
2.600	64	780
2.575	65	790
2.550	66	800
2.525	67	810

If you plan to enroll at a Division II college, in order to be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse, you must:

Graduate from high school

Earn a grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in a successfully completed core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses. This core curriculum includes three years in English, two in math, two in social science, two in natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory class, if offered by your high school) and two additional courses in English, math or natural or physical science; and two additional academic courses which may be taken from the already mentioned categories or foreign language, non doctrinal religion/philosophy, or computer science.

Earn a combined score on the SAT Verbal and Math sections of 820 or a sum of 68 on the ACT.

In addition to the above-mentioned information there are other issues which you must address as part of the certification process and the college selection process. Much confusion can be avoided by meeting with your high school counselor and/or contacting the NCAA in Overland Park, Kansas.