



10 TIPS FOR COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES

1. Take NCAA approved courses

- Take NCAA approved courses beginning freshman year; 16 core classes needed.
- Refer to the AD's NCAA website for approved courses; math must all be Algebra I or higher; note that Survey of Algebra and Informal Geometry are NOT approved.

2. Maintain a high GPA all four years.

- Minimum 2.0 for high school eligibility but 2.3 core grade point average for enrollment on or after 8/1/2016.
- The higher your GPA, the more schools you may be admitted to; more coaches interested in you; more scholarship; a greater likelihood of contact.

3. Take the SAT/ACT early and with maximum preparation.

- Take tests junior year to assist in realistic school research.
- Do something to prepare for the test (i.e. PSAT); don't just show up and hope to do well.
- Statistics show the more often you take the SAT/ACT the higher your score rises each time.
- Don't be satisfied with a score; a raised score may increase your scholarship award.

4. Research college teams for college, not for sport.

- You are going to college to create opportunities for your future, choose wisely.
- Athletes who choose a school simply for a team are more likely to drop out as they discover the school is not a good fit for them.
- Understand the differences between collegiate divisions and benefits/drawbacks of each.
- SAT/ACT the higher your score rises each time.
- Don't be satisfied with a score; a raised score may increase your scholarship award.

5. Search and apply for scholarships and financial aid outside of athletics

- Most scholarship offers are not solely based on athletics but a package.
- Consider WUE schools.
- Complete the FAFSA form in January of senior year.

6. Begin the college recruitment process before senior year.

- Many coaches already have their teams set well before senior year starts.
- Unprepared seniors are overwhelmed with the many steps in admissions and recruiting.

7. Actively market yourself to coaches at schools of interest.

- Don't rely on coaches finding you: sell yourself to coaches at (realistic) schools that fit you.
- Be seen, attend camps, create and send a player profile, create and post a video.

8. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, www.eligibilitycenter.org

9. Visit campuses and meet with coaches and players.

- Make sure the school is where you want to be, coaches are people you want to work with,

and teammates are people you want to be around.

10. Finish strong academically and train harder than you ever have.

- Don't lose your opportunity by not doing well senior year, not preparing yourself to do well in college courses, and staying eligible while in college.
- A spot on a team is not guaranteed even with a scholarship; don't slack thinking all is set.