

Your Fall Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

Start of Senior Year – August/September

- **Check in with your high school guidance counselor.**
[Confirm your NCAA eligibility](#)—once you start your senior year (seventh semester of high school), ten of your core courses are “locked in”—you can’t retake or replace any of these courses to improve your GPA.
- **If necessary, [retake the ACT or SAT](#).**
 While the NCAA is no longer requiring student-athletes to take these tests to be eligible to compete in the 2022-2023 academic year, it’s still a good idea to take these exams, whether you’re trying to [maximize your scholarship opportunities](#) or improve your admissions chances at highly selective schools.
- **Make sure [your NCSA profile](#) is up-to-date.**
 As you reach the home stretch of your recruiting, your profile should be 100% complete—make sure you uploaded your most recent transcript and update your highlight footage and verified measurables/stats from summer recruiting events, camps or combines.

September

- **Keep Track of Important Dates**
 1. Stay up to date with the D1 and D2 Recruiting Calendars.
 2. Learn more about [how the NCAA's response to COVID-19](#) affect seniors.
- **[Go on a campus visit or take a virtual campus tour](#).**
[Unofficial](#) or [official visits](#) provide a great opportunity to get some one-on-one time with a college coach, meet your potential team and tour the campus/athletic facilities, while virtual visits offer a safe, cost-effective option to get a good feel of the school.

October 1

- **[Complete your FAFSA](#) starting October 1.**
[The FAFSA determines your eligibility](#) for federal grants, loans and work-study funds [administered by the U.S. Department of Education](#). Try to complete it ASAP—aid is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Our partner [Frank Financial Aid](#) can help you file your FAFSA in 3 easy steps.

October

- **Refine and finalize your target schools.**
 Be realistic with your safety, target and dream schools—if you haven’t received an offer or much attention from college coaches, [expand your search](#) to include schools at all division levels.
- **Insider Tip:**
 Don’t stress! You can still find competitive programs outside of the D1 level. Maximize your options by [considering D2, D3 and NAIA schools](#)—some of these coaches recruit well into senior year.
- **Start applying to schools.**
 Keeping up with [admissions standards and deadlines can be tough](#)—make sure you know which schools have set applications deadlines, offer rolling admissions and whether they have their own application process or [use the Common App](#).
- **Keep track of college application costs.**
 While some colleges allow students to apply for free, [the average college application fee](#) was \$44 in 2020. If you’re applying to multiple schools, these costs can add up. The College Board allows you to [search for college application fee waivers](#)—whether you’re an in-state resident, first-year student or meet certain income criteria.

November 9

- **[Initial Signing Date](#)**
 For most sports—excluding football and basketball—this is the first (not the only!) day you can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. [Learn more about National Signing Day](#).

Your Winter Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

December

- Continue applying to schools.**
Keeping up with [admissions standards and deadlines can be tough](#)—by now, you should know which of the schools on your target list offer rolling admissions vs. set admissions deadlines and whether they [use the Common App](#).
- Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center.**
Are you applying to NAIA programs? Every student-athlete has to [create an account with PlayNAIA.org](#) in order to play sports at an NAIA college or university.
- Compare college offers.**
From knowing the difference between [verbal offers and commitments](#) to [preferred and recruited walk-on offers](#), review these terms now so you have a better understanding of the offers you may receive.

December 21

- D1 football early signing period**
Football recruits can sign with D1 schools between December 21-23, 2022 ahead of the regular signing period beginning February 1, 2023.

January

- Complete your FAFSA ASAP.**
If you haven't submitted your FAFSA, now is the time. [Financial aid](#) is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. This form determines your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study funds.
- Become a master negotiator.**
What happens if you receive [multiple scholarship offers](#)? Not all offers are the same, so it's a good idea to [learn how to negotiate](#) to maximize your total financial aid packages.

February 1

- D1 and D2 football regular signing period begins**
This is just the first (not the only!) day in the regular period football student-athletes can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. This period ends on April 1 (D1) and August 1 (D2).

February

- Complete your amateurism questionnaire.**
 - Whether you're signing with an NCAA D1 or D2 college or still narrowing down your options, make sure you've [completed your amateurism questionnaire](#) within your NCAA Certification Account.

Your Spring Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

March



Come up with a backup plan.

Got wait-listed at your dream school? Didn't get any athletic scholarship offers? Whether you decide to develop athletically and academically at a [junior college](#), [explore other types of financial aid](#) or join the [46% of D1 athletes who are walk-ons](#), always keep your options open.

April



Explore all your options.

[College coaches recruit well into senior year](#)—yes, even in the spring—especially at NCAA D3, NAIA and junior colleges. Opportunities may be limited, [but they still exist](#). Still eyeing a spot on an NCAA D1 or D2 roster? Decommittments and coaching changes have been known to happen, but your best bet would be to ask a college coach if walk-on spots are available or if they host open tryouts during the school year.

April 1



Request your final Amateurism Certification.

Enrolling and competing at a D1 or D2 college this fall? April 1 is the first—not the only—day you can log in to your NCAA Certification Account and [request your final amateurism certification](#).

April 13



D1 Basketball Regular Signing Period Begins.

This is the first day D1 basketball recruits can sign the National Letter of Intent if they're enrolling in college during the 2022–2023 academic year. The Final Signing Date for D1 basketball is May 18.

May



Let NCSA know where you're going to school.

[Completing your College Decision Survey](#) lets other college coaches know that you are officially off the market and allows us to help the next class of college student athletes!



Humble brag—we'll allow it.

Let your friends and family know where you're going to school by posting on your social media channels. Tag [#NCSACommit](#) for your chance to be featured on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram pages](#)!



[Celebrate your college commitment!](#)

Take a step back and reflect on what you've accomplished on your recruiting journey. Pick up some swag from your new school and wear it with pride! You achieved your dream of becoming the next college student athlete, and we can't wait to see where you go next.

End of Senior Year



Check in with your high school guidance counselor.

Have them send your final transcript to [the NCAA Eligibility Center](#) at the end of the school year.



D1 and D2 Signing Period ends on August 1.

For all sports other than D1 football (April 1) and D1 basketball (May 18), August 1 is the final day you can sign the National Letter of Intent if you are enrolling in college during the 2022–23 academic year.

Your Summer Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

June

Manage your recruiting.

Make the most of your free time this summer by [managing your recruiting](#). It only takes a few hours a week, and you'll thank yourself later for not waiting until school starts again in the fall.

Sign up for a recruiting event.

There are plenty of recruiting events to choose from throughout the summer. [Find college camps, tournaments, showcases and combines near you](#).

Insider Tip:

The best way to maximize your recruiting opportunities? Even if you are unable to attend camps this summer, you can still [build a relationship with the coach](#). Always respond back to their camp invites, even if you're not interested in learning more about their current program.

July

Stay on top of the [application process](#).

There's going to be a lot of deadlines and due dates to keep track of these next few months. Don't forget to write down important dates and check in regularly to ensure that you never miss an opportunity because you forgot about a deadline.

Brainstorm [your college essay](#).

If you start thinking of ideas now, you'll be better prepared to write (and rewrite!) one of the most important parts of your college applications. A good essay will [demonstrate your best qualities and your character](#) to college coaches and admissions officers.

August

Make a budget.

Applying to college isn't just stressful—it's [expensive, too](#). Make sure you're applying to your top target, safety and dream schools and [see if you qualify for fee waivers](#) or reduced fees to cut down costs.

Act quickly.

Whether you're just getting started with the recruiting process or you haven't received as much interest from college coaches as you would like, don't stress—it's [never too late to get recruited](#). Check out all your options—[roster spots are still open](#) at every college division level.

Rest up.

Don't forget to let yourself relax and recharge before school starts up again. Taking a quick break now will help you juggle your final year of being a high-school student-athlete!