How We Support College Athletes

Financial Assistance
- NCAA schools award nearly $3.5 billion in athletics scholarships every year to more than 180,000 student-athletes, and many of those scholarships are guaranteed regardless of athletic performance or injury.
- Many NCAA Division I schools offer cost of attendance so student-athletes can receive funds to help with additional college costs not covered by a scholarship.
- The NCAA finances a Student Assistance Fund of more than $87 million to help Division I athletes with essential needs, from flying home for a family emergency to buying a winter coat.

Student-Athlete Voice
- Student-athletes lead in every division through advisory committees at the campus, conference and national levels.
- Student-athletes in all divisions serve and vote on NCAA committees.
- Leadership programs help student-athletes find their voices and enact change.

Wellness and Insurance
- The NCAA Sport Science Institute promotes health and safety through research and training on concussions, overuse injuries, drug testing, mental health, sexual assault and more.
- The NCAA funds an insurance policy covering all college athletes who experience catastrophic injuries while playing or practicing their sport — providing up to $20 million in lifetime insurance benefits.
- To support the nutritional needs of student-athletes, Divisions I and II schools can provide unlimited meals. Some schools have nutritionists and other health professionals to work with players.
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Opportunities and Experiences

- Each year, the NCAA funds 90 championships in 24 sports, including paying for almost 14 million miles of travel to get athletes to the competitions.

- More than 90% of former student-athletes surveyed 10 years after finishing their eligibility reported they were satisfied with their overall college experience.

Academic Services

- NCAA schools help student-athletes succeed in the classroom by providing state-of-the-art technology, tutoring and access to academic advisors.

- Resulting from academic reforms, more than 17,500 former college athletes in Division I have returned to campus to complete their degrees since 2004. The NCAA also offers a degree-completion program, and schools can fund additional scholarships to help former athletes graduate.

- Student-athletes are graduating at rates higher than the student body, and in Division I, more than 8 in 10 student-athletes are earning bachelor’s degrees, their highest rate ever.

Personal and Professional Development

- The NCAA offers education and training programs, such as the Student-Athlete Leadership Forum and Career in Sports Forum, which are designed to enhance the well-being and personal development of college athletes.

- The NCAA After the Game Career Center connects former student-athletes with career-seeking advice and job postings for various industries and levels of experience.

Learn about other NCAA 101 topics at ncaa.org/about.