Our Three Divisions

The NCAA’s three divisions were created in 1973 to align like-minded campuses in the areas of philosophy, competition and opportunity.

### What are the eligibility requirements in each division?

College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I or Division II school must meet standards set by NCAA members. For Division III, athletes must meet the admissions standards set by the school. Eligibility standards can be found at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

### How is each division governed?

NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own divisions. Groups of presidents and chancellors lead each division in the form of committees with regularly scheduled meetings.

### Did you know?

- DI student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.
- DII is the only division with schools in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Canada.
- DIII’s largest school has 25,725 undergraduates. The smallest? 285.

Learn more at [ncaa.org/about](http://ncaa.org/about).

### Divisions Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
<th>Median Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Students Who Are Athletes</th>
<th>Average Number of Teams Per School</th>
<th>Percentage of NCAA Student-Athletes</th>
<th>Athletics Scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>8,960</td>
<td>1 in 23</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Multiyear, cost-of-attendance scholarships available; 57% of athletes receive athletics aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>2,428</td>
<td>1 in 10</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Partial athletics scholarship model; 60% of athletes receive athletics aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>1 in 6</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>No athletics scholarships; 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers are from 2019-20. All other figures are from 2018-19.*