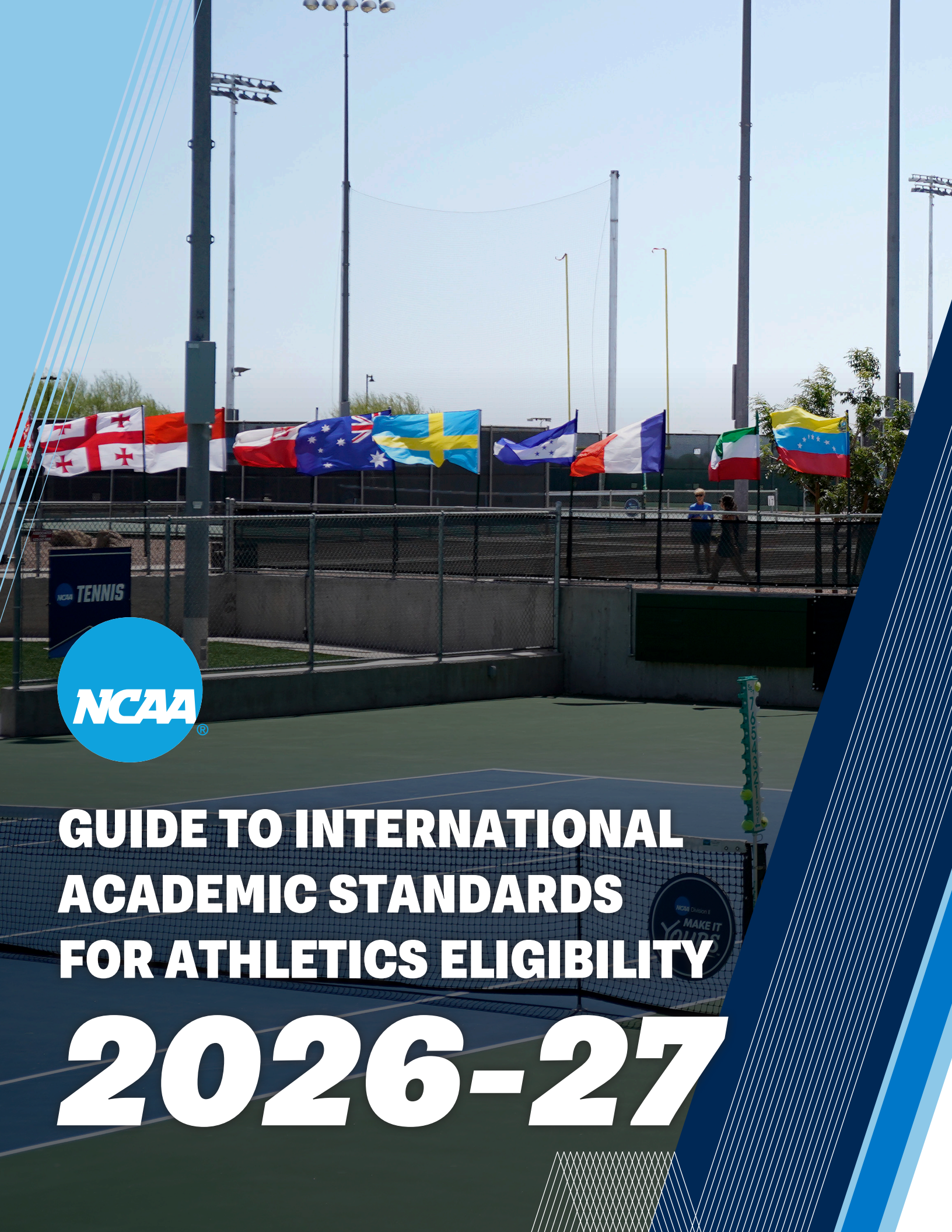


The background of the cover is a photograph of an outdoor tennis court. A chain-link fence runs across the middle ground, with several international flags flying from poles behind it. The flags include Georgia, Romania, Australia, Sweden, Honduras, France, Italy, and Ukraine. In the foreground, a green tennis court is visible, with a blue circular NCAA logo on the left. A blue geometric graphic with white lines is on the right side. A sign on the fence reads 'NCAA TENNIS'. Another sign on the fence says 'NCAA Division I MAKE IT YOURS'.

NCAA®

**GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FOR ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY**

2026-27

What Is the NCAA?



The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. Over 1,000 **colleges and universities** are members of the NCAA. These schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support more than 500,000 college athletes who make up over 20,000 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA's diverse members include schools ranging in size from hundreds of students to tens of thousands. The NCAA's current three-division structure was adopted in 1973 to create a fair playing field for teams from similar schools and provide college athletes more opportunities to participate in national championships.

Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally compete at the highest level of NCAA competition, have the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition, the best access to NCAA Championships® and a focus on service to the community. With nearly 40% of the NCAA's total membership, Division III offers participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

To learn more about the pathway that's right for you, visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.

500,000 student-athletes pursue higher education goals and develop leadership, confidence, discipline and teamwork through college sports.

NCAA Sports

The NCAA conducts 94 national championships in 26 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 49 championships for women, 43 for men and two coed national championships.

The NCAA also supports **emerging sports** to expand athletics opportunities and help these sports achieve NCAA championship status. Even if you plan to participate in an emerging sport, you must still **register** with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

From March Madness® to rowing, rifle and skiing, the NCAA is dedicated to delivering championships that provide a first-class experience for student-athletes, coaches, fans and broadcast audiences worldwide.

Beyond the game, the NCAA emphasizes community impact – hosting youth clinics and fan events that turn each championship into a celebration for everyone involved.

FALL SPORTS		WINTER SPORTS		SPRING SPORTS		EMERGING SPORTS
MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	WOMEN:
Cross Country Football Soccer Tennis (Singles/ Doubles) Water Polo	Cross Country Field Hockey Soccer Tennis (Singles/ Doubles) Volleyball	Basketball Fencing Gymnastics Ice Hockey Indoor Track and Field Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Wrestling	Basketball Bowling Fencing Gymnastics Ice Hockey Indoor Track and Field Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Wrestling	Baseball Golf Lacrosse Outdoor Track and Field Tennis (Team) Volleyball	Acrobatics and Tumbling Beach Volleyball Golf Lacrosse Outdoor Track and Field Rowing Softball Stunt Tennis (Team) Water Polo	Equestrian (Divisions I and II only) Flag Football Rugby Triathlon

Inside

Introduction

- 3 Authority
- 3 Reconsideration

Academic Certification Process

- 3 Registration
- 3 Official Document Requirements
- 4 English Translation Requirements
- 4 Where To Send Student Records
- 4 Standardized Test Scores

Helpful Information

- 5 Educational Tracks
- 6 General Education Development (GED) Diploma

Country-Specific Information

Examination Board Addresses



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

Information

Visit

eligibilitycenter.org
ncaa.org/playcollegesports

Contact

International Students (including Quebec):
on.ncaa.org/intlcontact

College-Bound Student-Athletes Only

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):
877-262-1492, Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

Document Submission

Schools may email your records to
ec-processing@ncaa.org with your name
and NCAA ID in the subject line.
*Please see page 4 for specific requirements

Resources

- » **Course Title Usage Guide.**
- » **Determination of Credit.**

Overnight Delivery

NCAA Eligibility Center
Certification Processing
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Have a question about NCAA eligibility?

- » Read this guide.
- » Visit **Becoming an International Student-Athlete** webpage.
- » Review **Frequently Asked Questions** webpage.
- » **Age-Based Eligibility Questions**
- » **Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center.**

This guide is updated on an annual basis. More recent updates to NCAA rules or policies may be found on ncaa.org.



PLAN. PREPARE. PLAY.
CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER.

NCAA, Make It Yours, March Madness and NCAA Championships are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
All other trademarks are property of their respective holders.

Introduction

Authority

As set forth in the NCAA Division I and II Bylaws, the NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for certifying the academic and athletics eligibility of all incoming prospective student-athletes. Specifically, Division I Bylaws 14.1.2.3 and 14.3.4.4 and Division II Bylaws 14.1.1.3 and 14.2.8.3.3 establish the authority for the Eligibility Center to administer the academic requirements for prospective student-athletes who have an international education component in their academic certification.

In addition, Division I Bylaw 21.10.3 empowers the International Student Records Committee to assist in reviewing initial-eligibility standards for international students. The committee comprises international academic experts from the NCAA membership representing both Division I and II schools.

The ISRC provides knowledge and expertise regarding international educational systems to establish supplemental initial-eligibility policies and procedures, as stated in this Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility, which complement the NCAA Division I and II bylaws. Only the Eligibility Center international academic certification staff has authority to determine crediting and academic timelines. As part of this process, staff may review professional resources (e.g., from the European Network of Information Centres), published information from the appropriate issuing body or government (e.g., ministry of education), and/or other information on a case-by-case basis. If information is deemed to be inconclusive or unavailable, staff will not make a determination.

Reconsideration

An NCAA member school may request reconsideration of a previous decision (by staff or a committee) based on new and relevant information. The staff has discretion to determine whether the member school's submission meets the threshold. If so, staff will reopen the review and render a reconsideration decision; however, if not, staff will deny the reconsideration request.

Academic Certification Process

Registration

International students planning to enroll at any NCAA school **must register** with the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine if they meet division-specific academic and/or athletics standards. Please direct all interested prospective student-athletes to eligibilitycenter.org for registration.

Official Document Requirements

Academic documents are required to assess the NCAA initial eligibility of a prospective student-athlete. If a prospective student-athlete is attending school in a country where English is not considered a native language, all official documents must be submitted in the native language. A certified line-by-line English translation of all official documents is required for any academic record published in a language other than English.

The following documents are required to assess the NCAA initial eligibility of each prospective student-athlete:

- » Transcripts for the ninth year of schooling and up.
- » Acceptable proof of graduation, as defined in the country-specific entries of this resource.

The following documents may be requested to assess the NCAA initial eligibility of each prospective student-athlete:

- » Transcript for year eight.
- » Graduation certificate/diploma.
- » Grading scale(s) with minimum passing grade from each school attended for the ninth year of schooling and up.
- » Course completion dates on any documents requested.
- » Other relevant records and information required for the certification process.

For a list of country-specific documents that may be requested in addition to those indicated above, please see the country-specific information on the [NCAA International Student Eligibility Requirements](#) page.

English Translation Requirements

Complete, word-for-word certified English translations for all documents in the same format as the original documents are required. The information below further explains these requirements:

- » We recommend English translations be performed by a college or university instructor of the language or a professionally certified English translator.
- » English translations must be provided by a person not related to or associated with the student or the athletics department at the NCAA member school the college-bound student-athlete plans to attend.
- » English translators must provide a letter, including any appropriate stamps or seals, explaining their qualifications as a translator.
- » The English translator must provide full name, mailing address, telephone number, email address or any other means by which the authenticity of the translation can be verified.
- » English translations must accompany the original documents written in the native language.
- » English translations not in accordance with these specifications will not be accepted.
- » **Note:** Translators are not considered qualified senders of native language records. Any native language record(s) submitted by a translator will be considered an unofficial record.
- » **Note:** Third party *evaluations* of your academic records, which may be requested as part of your NCAA school's admissions application, will not be accepted.

Where To Send Student Records

The following options are available for submitting academic records for international students. **Before submitting any documents/transcripts**, please ensure the student's name and NCAA ID are indicated clearly on each submitted item.

Note: The NCAA cannot return submitted documents.

Email ec-processing@ncaa.org. Available only to international high schools, ministry offices, issuing bodies and translation services (for translations only). Please ensure the student's name and NCAA ID are included in the email's subject line.

Note: Certified documents must be emailed from a school or official email address. Emails submitted from general email providers, such as Gmail, Yahoo, etc., may not be accepted.

- » Any emailed documents must be submitted as PDF attachments (not password protected) to avoid processing delays or unaccepted documents.
- » Please allow two business days for processing from date of email receipt.

Direct upload to the student's NCAA Eligibility Center account (available only to NCAA member schools).

- » Best practice; information is immediately attached to student's account upon upload.

Mail: Please allow up to five days for processing from date of mail receipt.

NCAA Eligibility Center
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7110

Standardized Test Scores

Not Required for NCAA Initial Eligibility

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Division-specific information on initial-eligibility requirements is [available here](#).

Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admissions or scholarship requirements.

Pre-April 2016

- » For all content updates prior to April 2016, please refer the [2015-16 version of the Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).

Helpful Information

The country entries found in this resource are intended to provide country-specific information only. Each entry includes the information typical for that country; however, all educational paths can differ within each country and are subject to change. The information below should be considered supplemental to the policies and procedures used to complete an academic certification.

Please [contact the NCAA Eligibility Center](#) with any questions regarding specific prospective student-athletes and their individual educational paths.

- » For all rules pertaining to NCAA Division I and II academic initial-eligibility requirements (including time limitations for core-course completion; what type of courses are eligible for use in an academic certification; and the overall academic requirements for both Divisions I and II), please see the NCAA [Division I Manual](#) and [Division II Manual](#).
- » A student who initially enrolls in year/grade nine on one academic calendar and moves to a school on a different academic calendar, the student's core-curriculum time limitation will remain on the academic calendar the student began year nine. For example, a student begins year nine in Australia (which runs on a February-December academic calendar) but completes schooling in the U.S. (which is on a September-June academic calendar). The student's core-curriculum time limitation would remain on the Australian academic calendar.
- » All students (including international students) are eligible for the Early Academic Qualifier Exception (see Division I Bylaw 14.3.1.1.2 and Division II Bylaw 14.2.8.2.1.1).
- » Due to the nature of education systems around the world, it is possible for a prospective student-athlete to study in an educational system that is not reflected in the country entry in this guide.
 - For example, a school in Venezuela may be a French school offering a French Diploma. The country entry of France should be referenced when reviewing documents from this school, rather than the country entry for Venezuela. The most common occurrence of this would be earning a General Certificate of Education, General Certificate of Secondary Education or International General Certificate of Secondary Education in almost any country. Generally, the information in the United Kingdom (England and Wales) country entry would apply to these documents.
- » Students who have attended school in the following United States territories will be treated as domestic students for NCAA initial-eligibility purposes: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- » Students who attend a high school that is eligible for an Eligibility Center account, per the [NCAA High School Review Committee policies](#), will be subject to domestic course and document review procedures for courses completed at that high school.
- » Unpublicized changes in state or national grading scales may occur after publication of the most recent edition of the NCAA's Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility. In addition, you may receive academic credentials not included in this international guide. Member schools are advised to send any differing academic credentials or grading scales to the Eligibility Center.
- » When a particular document or grading scale is no longer in use by an international educational system, the document or grading scale will be removed from the Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility five years after the discontinuation of the document or grading scale.
- » When specific core-course credits are not indicated on a transcript, the Eligibility Center may award credit based on the Carnegie unit system (weeks of attendance multiplied by hours of study per week) and provide one (1.0) credit per year in each of the following courses: English, native language and mathematics. A half-credit per year may be awarded in the following courses: science, social science and additional core courses.

Educational Tracks

Students who select or are enrolled in a professional/technical/vocational track of studies may not be required (per the requirements of the selected track) to study specific subject(s) such as social studies, sciences or mathematics. They also may have a limited number of courses that meet the NCAA's definition of four-year college preparatory courses. This fact does not excuse the student-athlete from meeting NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.

General Education Development (GED) Diploma

Per NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.3.4.2.1 (Equivalency Test/Diploma) and NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2.8.3.1 (Equivalency Test/Diploma), a General Education Development diploma (or an international equivalent) may satisfy proof of graduation requirements if earned on or after the expected date of high school graduation (as determined by the student's initial start of year nine (or the international equivalent)).

What qualifies as a GED?

- » The credential is specifically noted as a GED in the current [country-specific information](#).
- » Additional common parameters that may indicate an international credential is equivalent to a GED includes:
 - If an international source (ministry of education, exam board, etc.) self-identifies the credential as equivalent to a U.S.-style GED.
 - If there is truly no expected timeline for completion and the student may test to earn the credential at any point in time earlier than the standard graduation timeline(s) within the home system.
 - When determining the “on or after” expected date of graduation for a GED (or the international equivalent), first determine the student's initial enrollment in year nine (based on the available educational timeline) associated with the country/educational system for which the GED was earned.

Example: Student enrolls in year nine (year 3) in South Korea in March 2023, then earns a GED equivalent from South Korea (as listed as a GED equivalent in the “Acceptable Forms of Proof of High School Graduation” section in the International Guide or country-specific webpage).

As South Korea's educational timeline is 12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial enrollment in year nine), this GED is **only** acceptable for proof of graduation if earned on or after Feb. 1, 2027.

> Year 9 = 2023-2024.

> Year 10 = 2024-2025.

> Year 11 = 2025-2026.

> Year 12 = 2026-2027.

How is a GED used toward a student's NCAA initial eligibility?

A GED (or an international equivalent, as defined above) will only satisfy proof of graduation requirements. Any accompanying exams, transcripts, testing documents, etc., cannot be used in the initial-eligibility academic certification to satisfy academic requirements of NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.3.4.2.1 and NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2.8.3.1.

Please note: GEDs (or an international equivalent) can only serve as proof of high school graduation and, therefore, cannot be assessed in the previous category system as published in the [2015-2016 NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).

Country-Specific Information

Click [here](#) to find academic information specific to your country.

*Individual country PDF's are updated on a rolling basis upon receipt of new information. Please see individual country PDFs footer for last modified date.

For information about the previous category system, please refer to the [2015-16 version of the Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).

Examination Board Addresses

Assessment and Qualifications Alliance

- » Email: eos@aqa.org.uk
- » Telephone: 0800 197 7162
- » Website: aqa.org.uk

Cambridge International Examinations

- » Email: info@cambridgeinternational.org
- » Telephone: +44 1223 553554
- » Website: cambridgeinternational.org

Caribbean Examinations Council

- » Email: cxcezo@cx.org
- » Telephone: 246-227-1700
- » Website: cx.org

Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

- » Email: info@ccea.org.uk
- » Telephone: +44 (0)2890 261200
- » Website: ccea.org.uk

Edexcel (Subsidiary of Pearson)

- » Contact: qualifications.pearson.com/en/support.html
- » Telephone: +44 (0) 120 4770 696
- » Website: qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html

Examinations Council of Zambia

- » Email: info@exams-council.org.zm
- » Telephone: +260 211 252544
- » Website: exams-council.org.zm/

Malawi National Examinations Board

- » Email: maneb@sdp.org.mw
- » Telephone: +265 (0) 1 525 277
- » Website: maneb.edu.mw/contact-us.html

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

- » Email: support@ocr.org.uk
- » Telephone: +44 (0)1223 553998
- » Website: ocr.org.uk

Welsh Joint Education Committee

- » Email: info@wjec.co.uk
- » Telephone: 029 2026 5000
- » Website: wjec.co.uk

West African Examinations Council

- » Email: waechqrs@africaonline.com.gh
- » Telephone: +233 302-237784
- » Website: waechheadquartersgh.org/whq/



**IT ALL STARTS
HERE!
MORE THAN 500,000
STUDENT-ATHLETES
26 SPORTS | OVER 1,000 SCHOOLS**



ELIGIBILITY CENTER

ncaa.org/playcollegesports