

Our 3 Divisions

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

	DIVISION I	DIVISION II	DIVISION III
ACTIVE SCHOOLS ¹	361 (34%)	297 (28%)	416 (39%)
MEDIAN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	8,900	2,100	1,600
NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE TO UNDERGRADUATE RATIO	1 in 24 	1 in 9 	1 in 5 
AVERAGE NUMBER OF NCAA TEAMS PER SCHOOL	19	17	20
NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION ²	199K (36%)	140K (25%)	210K (38%)
ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS ³	70% of athletes receive athletics aid. Multi-year, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships available.	77% of athletes receive athletics aid. Partial athletics scholarship model.	No athletics scholarships. 80% of athletes receive nonathletics aid.
DID YOU KNOW?	 Division I schools award over \$3.4 billion in athletics scholarships annually.	 Division II student-athletes graduate at higher rates than their student body peers.	 Division III's largest school has 28,000 undergraduates. The smallest? 300 .



How is Each Division Governed?

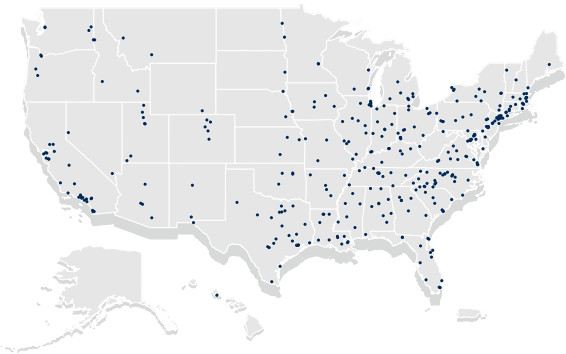
NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own divisions. Committees lead each division and conduct their business during regularly scheduled meetings. For more information, visit on.ncaa.com/governance.

What Are the Eligibility Requirements in Each Division?

Division I and II schools require a student's initial academic and athletics eligibility to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. While Division III schools set their own academic standards on campus, the Eligibility Center certifies the amateur status of Division III **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers). All other Division III student-athletes are certified on campus.

Division I 2026-27 Facts and Figures

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW



361
Active Members

32
Voting Conferences

122 Private
239 Public

Source: 2026-27 NCAA Membership Data.

SUBDIVISION BREAKDOWN⁴

	Football Bowl Subdivision	Football Championship Subdivision	Basketball Subdivision
ACTIVE SCHOOLS ¹	136 (37%)	126 (35%)	99 (28%)
UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	2,953K (62%)	903K (19%)	905K (19%)
NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION ²	84K (42%)	73K (36%)	43K (21%)

Source: 2026-27 NCAA Membership Data; 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF NCAA TEAMS PER SCHOOL

19

Source: 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

STUDENT-ATHLETE TO UNDERGRADUATE RATIO

1 in 24



REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	MEDIAN REVENUES	MEDIAN EXPENSES
FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION	\$108M	\$104M
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION	\$26M	\$26M
BASKETBALL SUBDIVISION	\$25M	\$25M

Sources: 2025-26 NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) Data.



Division I schools award over **\$3.4 billion** in **athletics scholarships** to over **118,000** student-athletes annually.

STUDENT-ATHLETE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Academic Counseling



Career Counseling / Readiness



Leadership Development



Medical Support (for athletically-related injuries)



Mental Health

LIFE AFTER SPORTS

Gallup (2020) found that alumni who are former student-athletes are more likely than alumni who were not former student-athletes to:

- ✓ Report higher levels of thriving and well-being;
- ✓ Graduate in four years or less;
- ✓ Have held leadership positions during college;
- ✓ Earn advanced degrees;
- ✓ Believe they gained job-related skills in college;
- ✓ Be deeply interested in their work;
- ✓ Hold managerial positions in the workforce; and
- ✓ Donate financially to their college.

GOALS (2025) Findings

- Over 85% of DI student-athletes credit their college athletics experience for having a positive effect on the following desirable career competencies: work ethic, personal responsibility, teamwork, goal setting, attention to detail, leadership skills and time management.
- In DI, 88% of student-athletes feel positive about their ability to reach their career goals. Forty-five percent of athletes in men's sports and 53% of athletes in women's sports take part in internships.



STUDENT-ATHLETE VOICE

DI student-athletes lead and shape policy through Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee representation at the campus, conference and national levels, including service on NCAA committees.



Campus



Conference



National

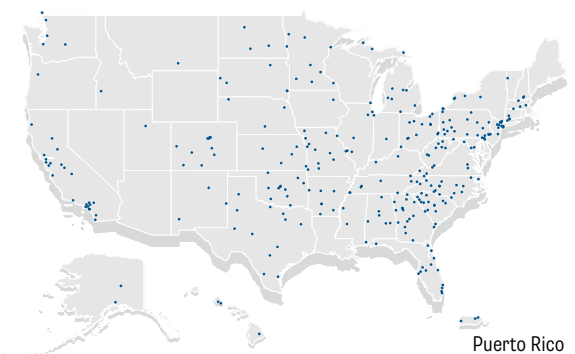


DIVISION I

Division II 2026-27 Facts and Figures

LIFE IN THE BALANCE

Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced and inclusive approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II gives student-athletes the unique opportunity to compete in the classroom, on the field, in their career, for their causes and on their terms.



297
Active Members

23
Conferences

4
Schools in the Membership Process

49% Private

51% Public

Three-year membership process
1 school in year two
1 school in year one

Two-year expedited membership process
1 school in year two
1 school in year one

Source: 2026-27 NCAA Membership Data.

CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPATION

12 Men's championships
8,000 student-athletes total

13 Women's championships
7,600 student-athletes total

15,600
student-athletes total

1 in 9
NCAA student-athletes participate in Division II championships each year.

Source: 2025-26 Division II championships.

GRADUATION RATES

(2015-18 cohorts)

53% student body federal rate

58% student-athlete federal rate

77% Academic success rate

Source: NCAA Graduation Rates Report (released in 2025).

MEDIAN TOTAL EXPENSES⁵

Overall median expenses: \$8.6 million

1st quartile of schools
(with football) (without football)
\$14.7M **\$12.1M**

2nd quartile of schools
(with football) (without football)
\$10.5M **\$8.9M**

3rd quartile of schools
(with football) (without football)
\$8.2M **\$6.8M**

4th quartile of schools
(with football) (without football)
\$5.8M **\$4.6M**

Source: 2025-26 NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) Data.

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	# SCHOOLS	MEDIAN NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION
With Football	fewer than 2,500	94	534
	2,500-4,999	38	505
	5,000-7,499	22	566
	7,500-14,999	4	618
	15,000 or more	1	1,062
Without Football	fewer than 2,500	77	374
	2,500-4,999	26	416
	5,000-7,499	15	314
	7,500-14,999	14	337
	15,000 or more	6	364

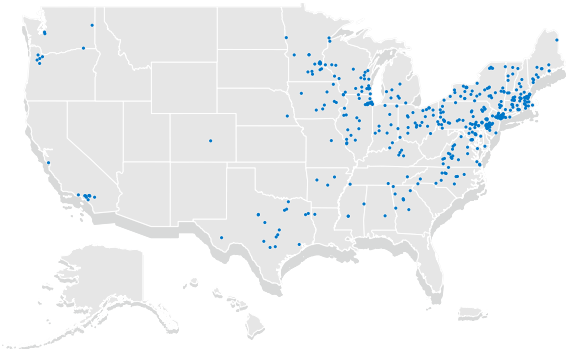
Source: 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

- Overall Division II student-athlete graduation rates (Academic Success Rate and federal graduation rate) and many subgroup rates are at or near their highest-ever levels.
- Using the federal graduation rate to examine student-athlete vs. student body graduation from their initial school in Division II, higher rates are seen for student-athletes within every demographic subgroup studied.
- 82% of former Division II student-athletes agreed or strongly agreed they were challenged academically in college, compared with 76% of nonathletes who felt that way.
- Over 70% of Division II student-athletes indicated that academics played a key role in their college decision, outweighing other factors like the cost of college, people on the team and proximity to home.

Division III 2026-27 Facts and Figures

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW



416 Active Members **42** Division III Voting Conferences

422 Total
4 Provisional
2 Reclassifying to DIII

80% (331) private **20%** (85) public

Source: 2026-27 NCAA Membership Data.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- ✔ Provide quality Division III Championships.
- ✔ Provide Division III conference office support.
- ✔ Effectively advance opportunities and access.
- ✔ Ensure student-athlete support.
- ✔ Maintain the value of Division III athletics.
- ✔ Provide professional development for Division III constituents.
- ✔ Enhance formal accountability of the governance structure and national office support.
- ✔ Support Association-wide initiatives.

Source: 2025-26 NCAA Division III Strategic Plan

DIII-SPONSORED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Championship Sports (14)

Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

Women's Championship Sports (14)

Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball

National Collegiate Championships (10)

Men – Gymnastics, Water Polo
Women – Beach Volleyball, Bowling, Gymnastics, Stunt, Water Polo, Wrestling
Men and Women – Fencing, Rifle, Skiing

AVERAGE NUMBER OF NCAA TEAMS PER SCHOOL

20
Source: 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

STUDENT-ATHLETE TO UNDERGRADUATE RATIO

1 in 5

NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

	DIVISION III	NCAA (ALL DIVISIONS)
MEN'S SPORTS	124K (59%)	316K (57%)
WOMEN'S SPORTS	86K (41%)	239K (43%)
TOTAL	210K	555K

Source: 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION²

	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	# SCHOOLS	MEDIAN NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION
With Football	fewer than 2,500	176	584
	2,500-4,999	34	691
	5,000-7,499	18	706
	7,500-14,999	8	723
	15,000 or more	2	687
Without Football	fewer than 2,500	121	310
	2,500-4,999	38	426
	5,000-7,499	8	502
	7,500-14,999	9	286
	15,000 or more	2	550

Source: 2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data.

DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Former Division III student-athlete alumni report thriving at greater rates on measures of purpose, social, community, and physical well-being than their nonathlete peers.
- Former Division III student-athlete alumni earned a postgraduate degree (41%) at a higher rate than their nonathlete peers (37%).
- 87% of former Division III student-athlete alumni agreed or strongly agreed that they were challenged academically in college, as compared to 83% of nonathletes.
- 63% of former Division III student-athlete alumni held a leadership position in a club or organization, as compared to 38% of nonathletes.
- 85% of Division III student-athletes agree or strongly agree that being an athlete has helped them fit in socially at their college, and 80% report a sense of belonging there.
- Most Division III student-athletes agree or strongly agree that their coaches and teammates create an inclusive environment for all team members (79%).
- Over 85% of Division III student-athletes report that their college athletics experience had a positive or very positive effect on personal competencies such as work ethic, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting, and leadership skills.

Source: Gallup Study (2020), NCAA GOALS Study (2025)

About the Data

The information in this publication comes from NCAA membership, sport sponsorship and participation, financial, graduation rate, and student-athlete experience data. Figures may reflect different reporting years based on the timing of data collection and publication.

DATA SOURCES

TOPIC	PRIMARY SOURCE
Membership, schools and conferences	2026-27 NCAA Membership Data
Teams, sport sponsorship, and student-athlete participation	2025-26 NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Data
Revenues and expenses	2024-25 NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) Data
Graduation rates	NCAA Graduation Rates Report (2025 release)
Student-athlete experiences and outcomes	Gallup Study (2020); NCAA GOALS Study (2025)

HOW TO USE THESE NOTES

Superscript numbers correspond to the numbered notes below. For example, the superscript ¹ following Active Schools on the “Our Three Divisions” page corresponds to End Note 1.

END NOTES

1	ACTIVE SCHOOLS AND MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGES School counts for each division include active institutions only. Divisional percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
2	STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION Student-athletes who compete in more than one sport are counted once for each sport. Participation figures are based on each institution’s primary NCAA division and may differ from totals published in NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Participation Reports, which classify participation by sport division. Participation counts include active member institutions only. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
3	ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS Athletics-aid percentages are based on unique student-athletes receiving athletics aid and are adjusted to avoid double counting student-athletes who participate in multiple sports.
4	DIVISION I SUBDIVISION BREAKDOWN Institutions transitioning from FCS to FBS are in the reclassification process and will be included in FCS totals until the reclassification process comes to an end.
5	DIVISION II EXPENSE GROUPS Division II schools are grouped by football sponsorship status and athletics expenses. Schools are divided into expense quartiles within both the football-sponsoring and non-football-sponsoring categories.

Technical Collection Notes. Membership figures reflect 2026-27 NCAA membership status reported annually by NCAA member schools through the NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Demographic (SSD) Form. Sport sponsorship and participation figures are based on data reported through the SSD Form for the 2025-26 academic year. Financial figures are based on 2024-25 NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) submissions, completed by January 2026.