

Selecting a college

For many players the chance to play college soccer in the United States is a dream that they would like to pursue. How do they get there? What do they have to do? Who do they need to contact? The questions are endless and the amount of information is sometimes overwhelming for players and their families. The following is a guideline for those players and their families seeking an opportunity to attend university and play college soccer.

Choices:

- National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I – larger schools, scholarships, Clearing House
- Division II – smaller schools, scholarships, Clearing House
- Division III – competitive sports, no scholarships, Grants
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics – competitive sports, scholarships, No Clearing House
- Junior College – competitive sports, scholarships

Facts:

- There are 8,182 high school programs with an average of 51,066 players graduating each year
- There are 721 college programs with an average of 6 player openings per year. This equates to 4,416 total player openings. On average, 8% of the players find a scholarship.
- Soccer is an equivalency sport. Teams on the men's side have 9.9 scholarships and 12 on the women's side. This can be divided any way the coach sees fit among the 25 to 30 players on a particular team.

Building a Resume:

- Name, Address, Phone, E-mail
- High school, secondary school advisor's name and number
- GPA, Class Rank, Honors courses taken
- High school, secondary school soccer achievements
- Club soccer achievements
- Representative honors (regional team, national team, etc.)
- Position

Things to consider:

Location:

- Close to home or far away
- Particular climate
- Rural or city
- Campus setting

Environment:

- Religious background
- Conservative or liberal
- Private or public

Size:

- Large or small classes
- Size of the school
- Personal attention
- Quality of teaching (graduate assistant)
- Small fish in a big pond or big fish in a small pond

Academic Life

- What is your desired field of study?
- If interested in graduate program what is their placement rate?
- What are their entrance requirements?

Calendar of Events while in High School

Freshman Year

- Start off with the best grades you can
- Your goal is to graduate in the top 10% of your class
- Join a good club team that will travel to high level tournaments in the USA
- Represent your state, region, and Nation if possible (Olympic Development Program)

Sophomore Year

- Send resume & cover letter along with tournaments you will be attending
- Take your PSAT/SAT/ACT test
- Check with academic counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate
- Attend an overnight soccer camp (possibly at a college program you are interested in)
- Continue to represent your state, region, and Nation if possible (Olympic Development Program)
- Continue to travel to high level tournaments in the USA

Junior Year

- Continue to represent your state, region, and Nation if possible (Olympic Development Program)
- Continue playing club and have a player bio ready for tournaments that you attend
- Repeat your SAT/ACT and improve your scores
- Select a college camp based on one of your top 5 choices
- Don't let grades slip – top 10% of your class
- Register with the NCAA Clearing House: Website is www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- Request that your transcripts are sent out to schools

Senior Year

- Begin campus visits (September 1)
- Protect your GPA
- Retake SAT/ACT
- Submit Financial Assistance Form (FAF)
- Continue playing at the highest possible level
- Continue to play in club tournaments

What are the NCAA Clearing House Requirements?

- 16 Core Courses
- Have at least a 2.0 core GPA
- Meet SAT/ACT score formula
- NCAA requirements are different than the university requirements
- Work with your high school/secondary school counselor

What are the 16 core courses?

- 4 year English
- 3 year Math
- 2 years of Natural/Physical Sciences (include 1 yr lab science)
- 1 year of additional English, Math, Science
- 2 years of Social Sciences
- 4 years of additional courses from above or religion, foreign language, computer science

Questions to Ask

- What is the graduation rate of that sport?
- Are tutors available?
- Where does the coach see me fitting in?
- What is the academic advising situation like?
- Do you need a video of me playing?
- What positions are you looking to fill?
- Search for schools at NCAA.org (college bound student athlete)

Take the initiative:

- Make contact with the coach at each of the schools you are considering by phone or e-mail
- Visit the school, meet the coach, watch a practice or game and tour facilities
- Visit with the academic advisor within your potential major
- Visit with your academic consultant with the athletic department. How does the school offer academic assistance?
- Make a video of yourself

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail”

Attending college can be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of your life. It can be made even more enjoyable by making the right choice. Plan ahead, do your research and choose carefully.