

What Prospective College Golfers Need to Know about Scholarships and the NCAA

How many collegiate golf scholarships are out there?

Not all colleges eligible to offer scholarships do so. Ivy League schools do not offer athletic scholarships but offer extremely competitive academic scholarships. Golf is an equivalency sport, which means not all scholarships are fully funded scholarships. Golf coaches may divide the value of their allotted scholarships to provide for more scholarships (less total money) or fewer scholarships (more total money).

To be eligible for NCAA competition, students enrolling after August 1, 2016 must have earned a 2.3 or higher grade point average in high school.

Allowable Number of Golf Scholarships		
Association	Men	Women
NCAA Division I	4.5 scholarships	6.0 scholarships
NCAA Division II	3.6 scholarships	5.4 scholarships
NCAA Division III	No athletic scholarships	No athletic scholarships
NAIA	5 scholarships	5 scholarships
NJCAA Division I	8 full scholarships	8 full scholarships*
NJCAA Division II	8 partial scholarships	8 partial scholarships*

Key NCAA Terms:

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is the governing body that oversees 23 different sports and athletic championships at 1,200 colleges and universities within the United States. A high school athlete interested in playing a collegiate sport is required to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center for clearance based on his/her academic profile and amateur status.

The NCAA requires student-athletes to complete a certain number of core classes during their high school academic years. The high school has a listed of NCAA approved core courses accepted by the NCAA for a student-athlete to be cleared to play NCAA DI or DII athletics.

Listed below are key words to know during your college placement process.

Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA): A student-athlete becomes a prospective student-athlete when he/she enters the 9th grade.

Core Courses: An academic course that receives high school graduation credit in one or a combination of these areas: English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, non-doctrinal/comparative religion or philosophy. To confirm you are taking Core Courses, talk to your High School Guidance Counselor.

NCAA Eligibility Center: The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA DI or DII institutions. It does this by reviewing the student-athlete's academic record, SAT or ACT scores and amateurism status to ensure conformity with NCAA Rules.

Unofficial Visit: An unofficial visit is a visit made at the PSA's own expense. There is no limit to the number of unofficial visits a PSA can make.

Official Visit: A visit paid for and arranged by the university. Prospects are allowed five official visits to different schools once they begin their senior year of high school.

Questionnaire: These are forms sent to a PSA by the college golf program in an effort to learn more about the student-athlete. These should be completed and returned within 1-week of receiving.

Contact: Contact occurs any time a coach has any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college's campus and says more than hello. A contact also occurs if a coach has any contact with you or your parents at your high school or any location where you are competing or practicing.

Contact Period: During this time, a college coach may have in-person contact with you and/or your parents on or off the college's campus. The coach may also watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.

Dead Period: A college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents on or off campus at any time during a dead period. The coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Verbal Commitment: This phrase is used to describe a college-bound student-athlete's commitment to a school before he or she signs a National Letter of Intent. A college-bound student-athlete can announce a verbal commitment at any time. While verbal commitments have become very popular for both college-bound student-athletes and coaches, this commitment is NOT binding on either the college-bound student-athlete or the college or university. Only the signing of the National Letter of Intent accompanied by a financial aid agreement is binding on both parties.

National Letter of Intent: The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a document a student-athlete signs during their senior year, if accepting athletic aid from an athletic department. This "contract" is agreed upon for (1) academic year. There are two signing periods for an NLI, one in November and the next starts in April.

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