



STUDENT ATHLETES

There are three major organizations that govern academic requirements and eligibility for students to participate in intercollegiate athletics: National Collegiate Athletic Association (**NCAA**), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (**NAIA**) and the National Junior College Athletic Association (**NJCAA**). A high school diploma is required to participate in NJCAA. The academic requirements for NCAA and NAIA are presented in detail.

NCAA

Students who hope to participate in college athletics at a NCAA Division I or Division II college or university must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (Division III colleges and universities set their own admissions standards and there are no initial eligibility requirements).

To register:

- Students should register at the end of their junior year. Students must register with NCAA before making an official visit to a college/university participating in Division I/II athletics.
- An application must be completed on-line: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Submit registration fee of \$75. *Students who qualify for an ACT/SAT waiver may have the registration fee waived. Registration must be completed online by student first.*
- ACT or SAT scores must be reported **directly** from ACT or SAT to the Eligibility Center. The code to use when registering for the ACT or SAT is 9999.
- Request an official transcript from Guidance that includes academic record up to junior year to be mailed.

Academic Requirements

Division I

1. Graduate from high school on time (by May)
2. Complete a minimum of 16 core courses approved by the NCAA (listed on the next page)
3. Present the required GPA as specified on the scale as outlined the next page.
4. Qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT as outlined on the next page.
5. Complete the amateurism questionnaire and request final amateurism certification.

Division II

1. Graduate from high school on time (by May)
2. Complete a minimum of 16 core courses
3. A minimum 2.000 core course GPA (2.2 GPA for students in the Class of 2018 to be able to compete)
4. A minimum 68 sum ACT score (calculating each sub score of the ACT) or 820 SAT score (Reading and Mathematics only)
5. Complete the amateurism questionnaire and request final amateurism certification.

NCAA Core Approved Courses for Opelika High School

These courses have been approved by NCAA to meet the 16 core curriculum for athletic eligibility.

English 9	Geometry	AP Calculus	Anatomy and	Spanish III
English 10	Algebraic	Biology	Physiology	Spanish IV
English 11	Connections,	Chemistry	Anatomy and	French I
English 12	(1/2 Credit)	Physical Science	Physiology, H	French II
World History	Algebra II/Trig	Human Biology	AP Physics	French III
US History 10	Algebra II	Earth and Space	AP Biology	French IV
US History 11	Algebra with Finance	Science	AP Chemistry	Latin I
Econ/Gov	Precalculus	Environmental Science	AP Physics	Latin II
Psychology	Calculus	Forensics	Zoology	Latin III
Sociology	Analytical Math	Genetics	Spanish I	Latin IV
Algebra I	AP Statistics		Spanish II	

Please note: Meeting Opelika High School graduation requirements does not necessarily mean that a student will qualify academically for NCAA. Since Algebraic Connections only counts as a ½ credit for NCAA Core, **students taking Algebraic Connections, MUST take a Foreign Language, Psychology or Sociology in order to meet NCAA core curriculum requirements.**

For initial eligibility for Division I, students must meet course requirements, GPA and testing requirements based on the scale below.

- GPA is calculated using only those approved core classes (listed above). It is not your overall GPA and does not calculate classes, such as PE.
- ACT listed is the sum—determined by adding the score of each subject test (Mathematics, Reading, Science and English).
- NCAA uses a sliding scale, which means the lower your GPA is, the higher your ACT (or SAT) score must be; the lower your ACT (or SAT) score is, the higher your GPA must be.

NCAA Division I Scale for Academic Qualifying

Full Qualifier—may receive a scholarship, practice and compete. In order to be a full qualifier, a student-athlete must:

- Graduate from high school
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.3
- Complete 16 of the approved core courses. *(Ten of those courses must be completed before the student's Senior year).*
- Meet the ACT/SAT score and GPA requirement based on the sliding scale.

Academic Redshirt—may receive a scholarship, but cannot play in competition only practice. To qualify, students must:

- Graduate from high school
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Complete 16 of the approved core courses *(Ten of which must be completed before the student's Senior year).*
- Meet the ACT/SAT score and GPA requirement based on the sliding scale.

The overall difference is the minimum GPA to compete is 2.30. To practice and receive athletic aid, the minimum GPA is 2.0.

NCAA Division I Scale

GPA Practice	GPA Compete	ACT (SUM)	SAT	GPA Practice	GPA Compete	ACT (SUM)	SAT	GPA Practice	GPA Compete	ACT (SUM)	SAT
3.550	4.00	37	400	2.975	3.425	52	630	2.4	2.85	71	860
3.525	3.975	38	410	2.95	3.4	53	640	2.375	2.825	72	870
3.5	3.950	39	420	2.925	3.375	53	650	2.350	2.8	73	880
3.475	3.925	40	430	2.9	3.35	54	660	2.325	2.775	74	890
3.450	3.9	41	440	2.875	3.325	55	670	2.3	2.75	75	900
3.425	3.875	41	450	2.850	3.3	56	680	2.275	2.725	76	910
3.4	3.850	42	460	2.825	3.275	56	690	2.250	2.7	77	920
3.375	3.825	42	470	2.8	3.25	57	700	2.225	2.675	78	930
3.350	3.8	43	480	2.775	3.225	58	710	2.2	2.65	79	940
3.325	3.775	44	490	2.75	3.2	59	720	2.175	2.625	80	950
3.3	3.75	44	500	2.725	3.175	60	730	2.15	2.6	81	960
3.275	3.725	45	510	2.7	3.15	61	740	2.125	2.575	82	970
3.25	3.7	46	520	2.675	3.125	61	750	2.1	2.55	83	980
3.225	3.675	46	530	2.65	3.1	62	760	2.075	2.525	84	990
3.2	3.65	47	540	2.625	3.075	63	770	2.05	2.5	85	1000
3.175	3.625	47	550	2.6	3.05	64	780	2.025	2.475	86	1010
3.15	3.6	48	560	2.575	3.025	65	790	2.0	2.45	86	1020
3.125	3.575	49	570	2.55	3.0	66	800		2.425	87	1030
3.1	3.55	49	580	2.525	2.975	67	810		2.4	88	1040
3.075	3.525	50	590	2.5	2.95	68	820		2.375	89	1050
3.05	3.5	50	600	2.475	2.925	69	830		2.35	90	1060
3.025	3.475	51	610	2.450	2.9	70	840		2.325	91	1070
3.0	3.45	52	620	2.425	2.875	70	850		2.3	93	1080

NCAA Division 1 Worksheet

English—4 years required	Credit	Grade	Grade Points	Quality Points
• English 9				
• English 10				
• English 11				
• English 12				
Mathematics—3 years required				
•				
•				
•				
Science—2 years required				
•				
•				
Additional Year in English, Math or Science				
•				
Social Science—2 years required				
•				
•				
ADDITIONAL Academic Courses—4 years required				
•				
•				
•				
•				
TOTAL: QUALITY POINTS/Credits = CORE GPA		Divide Credits into Quality Number of Credits		➔

NAIA

Recently, an eligibility registration process was implemented for students who plan to compete athletically at a NAIA college or university.

To register:

- Apply on-line at www.playnaia.org
- Submit \$75 payment. If a student received a fee waiver for the ACT/SAT or qualifies for free/reduced lunch, the registration may be waived.
- Have scores ACT (or SAT) submitted. Use the Eligibility Code of 9876 when registering for the ACT (or SAT).

To be eligible, students must meet two of the following three requirements:

- Have a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Graduate in the top 50% of the graduating class.

A list of *some* NAIA Schools

Auburn University Montgomery, Montgomery, AL
Belhaven University, Jackson, MS
Brewton-Parker, Mt. Vernon, GA
Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN
Dillard University, New Orleans, LA
Edward Waters, Jacksonville, FL
Faulkner University, Montgomery, AL
Fisk University, Nashville, TN
Freed-Hardman, Henderson, TN
Johnson & Wales, North Miami, FL
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA
Paul Quinn, Dallas, TX

SCAD, Atlanta and Savannah, GA
Shorter College, Rome, GA
Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, GA
Southern University, New Orleans, LA
Spring Hill, Mobile, AL
Talladega College, Talladega
Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS
Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH
Wiley College, Marshall, TX
University of Mobile, Mobile, AL
Xavier University, New Orleans, L