

CLEARING UP THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

1. What is the NCAA Clearinghouse?

The Clearinghouse is a central repository for the information on high school curriculums that the NCAA maintains to conduct evaluations on incoming freshman. The operation conducts evaluations of high school graduates' records in light of current NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.

2. Why should I apply?

A prospective student athlete needs to apply and receive a "final" certification by the Clearinghouse in order to participate in college athletics at the Division I or II levels. A student athlete does not need to apply if he or she will attend a junior college, NAIA, or NCAA Division III institution.

3. When should I apply?

If a student athlete will be attending a Division I or II institution they may apply anytime after they have made that decision. The Clearinghouse will normally make a "preliminary" decision (one which reflects course work taken prior to high school graduation) only during the senior year. The Clearinghouse will issue a "final" certification only upon receipt of a transcript proving high school graduation. A student athlete may delay the decision to register for the Clearinghouse and still be permitted to practice for their college team. However they may not compete in any intercollegiate competition until "final" certification has been received. It is suggested that a student athlete wait to apply for the Clearinghouse until either they are sure they will attend a Division I or II school or being actively recruited by one. (Actively recruit meaning personally contacted by a coach)

4. Where do I get the necessary forms?

The registration materials have been mailed to all U.S. High schools free of charge. Most often the forms are maintained in the school Guidance Office. A student may also write directly to the Clearinghouse to have the materials mailed to their home. You can also go online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.org. and click on *Prospective Student Athletes*

5. Will I be notified of my initial eligibility status?

Yes, as soon as the Clearinghouse has received and processed the documents, it will make the appropriate certification decision and report that to you. If the report indicates that you do not currently meet the NCAA eligibility requirements it will tell you why.

6. Will this help me be recruited?

The clearinghouse is not a recruiting agent. The Clearinghouse establishes a prospect's initial eligibility and forwards this information to only those colleges requesting the information.

7. Can I be recruited if I have not registered?

Yes, the decision the Clearinghouse reaches does not directly impact a college's ability to proceed with the recruiting process. The clearinghouse decision affects a student athlete's ability to practice, compete and received athletically based financial aid while a freshman at an NCAA Division I or II school.

8. Where can I find the guidelines as to what I need to be certified?

The current standards are contained in the registration materials normally available through the high school. You may also wish to consult the athletic department of the college or university you wish to attend. Many times the athletic department will have a compliance coordinator who will be a very good resource.

9. Where can I call for more information?

After consulting all of the printed material contained in the registration package, if you still have questions the Clearinghouse has a service unit open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) at (319) 337-1492. Another very good source of information is the "Guide to the College Bound Student Athlete" printed by the NCAA available in your high school or through the NCAA office at (913) 339-1906. Other information concerning NCAA regulations can be obtained by calling (800) 638-3731.