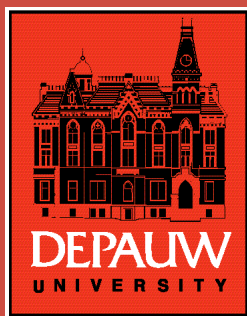


ADMISSION COUNSELING SERVICE

A Game Plan for the College Bound Student-Athlete



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Do you plan to participate in an intercollegiate sport?

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About the author and facilitator: David C. Hill is an assistant director of athletics and coordinator of athletic recruiting at DePauw University. As a former defensive back at Pennsylvania State University and an experienced football coach, Hill is in demand as a speaker nationwide, and he has made presentations on a wide variety of topics affecting student athletes.

The Admission Counseling Service of DePauw University is pleased to offer Game Plan, a college and career planning workshop for pre-collegiate students and athletes. Accompanying workshops on selective college essay writing and course preparation are also offered coast to coast. To schedule a presentation for your high school or organization, contact the DePauw Office of Admission at 800.447.2495 or the DePauw Athletic Department at 800.446.5295.

Introduction

"Truth isn't always beauty, but the hunger for it is."

- Nadine Gordimer

It's been said that a dream is nothing more than a goal without a deadline. Thousands of talented young men and women compete with vigor and passion for their respective high school athletic programs, envisioning the dream of being offered a college scholarship in their sports. All too often those dreams are muddled in the harshest of realities called recruiting. The truth is that there are a finite number of collegiate athletic scholarships available for a disproportionate number of high school athletes. Colleges and universities are limited in the number of full and partial scholarships that they can offer to potential recruits.

The most elite and highly visible high school athletes in the country are blessed with the opportunity to accept athletic scholarships from among the very best colleges and universities in the country. If you are moderately gifted athletically, prone to major injuries, or worst yet, unprepared academically for college, you may awaken to find your dreams of an athletic scholarship diminished.

The recruiting process is difficult for athletes, parents and coaches to assess because it can be full of uncertainties. The process is both selective and subjective. There is no real science to it. The one sure thing about the athletic recruiting process is that only 1 to 3 percent of high school athletes receive scholarships to play in college. Recruiting is a war that can only be controlled by winning the individual battles. You can gain leverage over the process by going on the offensive and choosing the college that is best for both academics and athletics. If your goals are to attend the college of your choice, participate in a competitive intercollegiate athletic program and graduate on time, you must set your goals to a deadline so that your dreams will become reality.

This material is intended to help the student-athlete, parent(s), coach(es) and college adviser(s) navigate through the athletic recruiting process and understand the issues as they relate to NCAA Divisions I, II and III levels. NAIA Divisions I and II will be discussed as well. It may be used as a guide as you prepare for a career as a student-athlete. The guide focuses on academic preparation versus academic eligibility, NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse standards, scholarship and non-scholarship intercollegiate athletic programs, and concludes with tips on how to market your athletic, academic and social talents to the college of your choice.

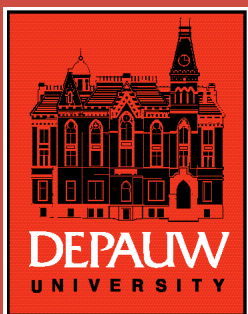
Academic Preparation vs. Academic Eligibility

"Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings."

- C. Archie Danielson

There is a thin line between academic eligibility and academic preparation for college. It is not uncommon to learn that many of today's student-athletes are eligible to participate in their respective interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic programs, yet are unprepared to compete in the classroom. There are too many examples of student-athletes receiving diplomas and graduating from high school without the ability or confidence necessary to graduate from college in a competitive major.

Success in any college classroom is known to be linked to the challenge of a rigorous high school curriculum. Therefore, it is important to begin selecting college preparatory courses starting with the first year of high school through graduation. Not all high schools offer students a choice of a college preparatory curriculum.



If not, simply take the most rigorous courses the school has to offer.

Compare the following minimum standards required for graduation at most public high schools in the United States²:

- 4 years English
- 3 years Mathematics
- 2 years Social science
- 2 years Science (include one year of a lab science)
- 2 years Foreign language
- 4 years Additional course work (electives)

Now compare this to the following minimum requirements for admission into the nation's most competitive and selective colleges:

- 4 years English
- 4 years Math
- 3-4 years Social science
- 3-4 years Science (two years of lab science preferred)
- 2-4 years Foreign language
- 4 years Additional college-prep course work (AP, honors, etc.)

It is clear that the nation's most competitive colleges (both private and public) require entering students to meet a higher set of standards. The higher standards are not necessarily designed to exclude people from attending college. Standards, however, ensure that those who enter college have a reasonable opportunity to advance through their courses and graduate successfully.

All too often, high school athletes take exception to the rule and choose to take the minimum amount of courses required to remain eligible for athletic participation. The NCAA now has a rule requiring all eligible high school seniors to attain minimums in course loads, grade point average and standardized test scores before earning a Division I or II scholarship.

To an athlete, the concept of "minimal achievement" on the field, or on the court is intolerable. Why is it acceptable in the classroom?

A student-athlete's goal is to be prepared for the classroom as well as the playing field. The reward for academic success in the high school classroom is success and graduation on time from college. The ultimate reward for success in college is a degree that is meaningful, while competing at the highest level possible athletically.

The grim realities of those who are not prepared academically are severe. Academic probation, potential loss of scholarship, refused admission to selective colleges, or worse yet, failing to graduate, are often the result of poor academic planning and preparation.

Coaching points ...

- Always take additional, college-prep course work exceeding minimal standards for graduation.
- Challenge yourself to complete a fourth year of math, a third year of science and/or a fourth year of a foreign language.
- Minimal efforts equal minimal results.

NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse Requirements

Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers

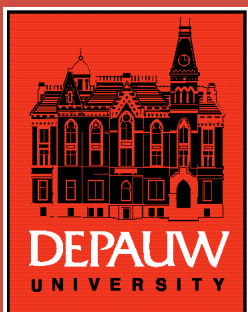
Student-athletes who want to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics should begin the certification process early in their senior year of high school. Students should obtain a copy of *Making Sure You are Eligible to Participate in College Sports* and a Student Release Form (SRF) free of charge from a high school guidance counselor. An \$18 fee should be sent along with the form when completed and mailed to the clearinghouse. Students who were eligible for fee waiver on the SAT or ACT can also waive the SRF fee³.

Coaching Points ...

To be certified as a qualifier⁴ students must:

Graduate from high school

The NCAA Clearinghouse will issue a preliminary certification based on information before graduation, so that the student is informed about any potential problems with certification. Final certification will be issued only after receipt of the student's final high school transcript and proof of graduation.



Satisfy core curriculum coursework

Students must complete a core curriculum in a minimum of 13 academic courses taken during grades 9-12. Courses must fit the NCAA definition of a core course. A list of approved NCAA courses for certification can be found on any high school's list of confirmed courses (formerly the 48-H form).

Core courses minimums:

- 4 years English
 - 2 years math (includes algebra and geometry)
 - 2 years of natural/physical science (include one year lab science)
 - 2 years of social science
 - 2 years of additional core courses from English, math, natural/physical science, foreign language, computer science, philosophy or non-doctrinal (e.g., comparative) religion
- Achieve qualifying combined SAT score or sum of sub-scores from ACT

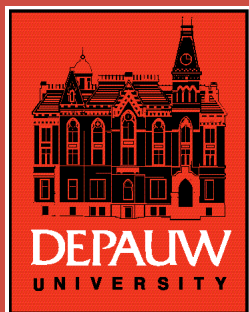
Division I qualifying GPA and test scores vary according to a sliding scale index. (see qualifier index below)

Core GPA	ACT (new: sum of scores)	SAT (recentered scores)
2.500 & above	68	820
2.475	69	830
2.450	70	840-850
2.425	70	860
2.400	71	860
2.375	72	870
2.350	73	880
2.325	74	890
2.300	75	900
2.275	76	910
2.250	77	920
2.225	78	930
2.200	79	940
2.175	80	950
2.150	80	960
2.125	81	960
2.100	82	970
2.075	83	980
2.050	84	990
2.025	85	1000
2.000	86	1010

To be certified as a partial qualifier⁵ students must:

- Graduate from high school.
- Satisfy core curriculum coursework.
- Achieve qualifying combined SAT score or sum of ACT subscores. (see partial qualifier index below)

Core GPA	ACT (new: sum of scores)	SAT (recentered scores)
2.750 & above	59	720
2.725	59	730
2.700	60	730
2.675	61	740-750
2.650	62	760
2.625	63	770
2.600	64	780
2.575	65	790
2.550	66	800
2.525	67	810



Recruiting and the Athletic Scholarship: The Odds of Signing a National Letter of Intent

"Dollars have never been known to produce character, and character will never be produced by money."
- W.K. Kellogg (I'll Invest My Money in People)

NCAA Division I and II Recruiting

Are you one of the more elite, highly recruited high school athletes in the country? If so, you will likely have several scholarship offers to ponder from colleges and universities all over the country.

If your talent is a little less than elite, then perhaps college recruiters will acknowledge your talent with personal letters, an occasional phone call, or extend an invitation for you to attend a home athletic contest. Unfortunately, this scenario does not always translate into a sure scholarship offer from a Division I or II school.

The odds of receiving an NCAA Division I or II scholarship are somewhat overwhelming. In the sport of football, consider that 98 percent of all scholarship offers are complete by Christmas. Yet there remain hundreds of high school seniors who maintain the slim hope of a scholarship offer through the signing date in early February.

To better understand the complexity of athletic scholarships, look closely at the following numbers:

NCAA Division I Football

- 85 Scholarships allowed by NCAA per school
- 110 Certified NCAA Division I schools
- 9,350 Total scholarship players nationally
- 7,150 Approximate number of returning players each year
- 2,220 Scholarships available each year for approximately one million high school seniors NCAA Division I Basketball
- 13 Scholarships allowed by NCAA per school
- 298 Certified NCAA Division I schools
- 3,874 Total scholarship players, nationally
- 1,788 Approximate number of returning players each year
- 2,086 Approximate number of new scholarships for 500,000 seniors

The Division I and II recruiting process has intensified for all sports over the years as budget constraints and Title IX have impacted the scholarship scene. Some athletic programs such as women's basketball, soccer and softball have prospered under Title IX. Today, more colleges and universities have started new soccer programs, offering more new scholarship opportunities for female athletes. Other programs, such as football and wrestling, have been adversely affected through the loss of scholarships or discontinuing the program altogether.

Division I and II recruited athletes now experience more intense scrutiny as coaches make final decisions on scholarship offers. When a scholarship offer is extended to an athlete, it occurs only after a thorough review of the athlete's ability (academic and athletic) and personal character is determined.

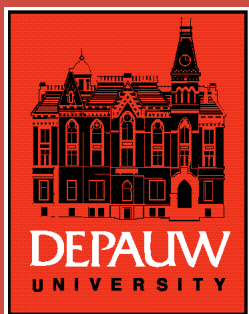
Scrutiny is, however, a two-way street. In other words, you must recruit the college as hard as the college is recruiting you. What is the best way to do this? Be prepared.

Throughout the recruiting process, there will be times when your scholarship status is unclear. To help clarify exactly where you stand with a coach, ask hard questions of the person(s) recruiting you. For example:

- How many players are you recruiting at my position?
- If I decide to visit, are you asking me to commit right away?
- How long do I have to accept or decline your scholarship offer?
- Are you offering the same scholarship to other players?
- Are you offering me an official campus visit?
- Where am I on your priority list?
- If you offer one scholarship to me and others, will it go to the first player who commits?
- What percentage of all students graduate in four years? What percentage of all athletes graduate in four to five years? What percentage of athletes from your team graduate in four to five years?
- What are the placement rates of your athletes into graduate school? Professional schools (i.e., medical school, law school, etc.)? and/or professional jobs?

Coaching points ...

- Have your academic credentials in order (grades, test scores, class rank, etc.).
- Keep your parent(s) and/or guardian involved and informed.
- Be responsible for your actions and develop a strong, moral character.
- Ask tough questions in the recruiting process.



- Of the athletes who do not turn pro, what are their outcomes after graduation? What post-graduate successes have they experienced?⁶

You are entitled to ask the questions you deem necessary to help you and your parents understand the recruiting process better. It does not ensure that you will always get straight-forward answers. It is imperative that you and your parents understand how to communicate with college recruiters. College recruiters are masterful at evaluating your athletic ability; you must be equally as masterful at evaluating their professional ability and integrity.

NCAA Division II Athletic Recruiting

If the odds of earning a Division I scholarship are slight, imagine the difficulty of earning a full Division II scholarship. Just as there are qualifiers and partial qualifiers for Division I and II, there are full scholarships and partial scholarships. Unfortunately, a majority of scholarships in Division II are partial scholarships.

There are student-athletes who earn full scholarships in Division II, but in no way do they compare with the number of full scholarships in Division I.

Division II Baseball:

- 11.7 Total scholarships allowed by NCAA per year
- \$7,000 Total cost of tuition, room and board, books
- \$81,000 Total dollars in scholarship pool
- 25 Total team roster
- 15 Total of senior players and transfers to replace

The head baseball coach in the above scenario has to manage a pool of \$81,000 and distribute scholarship money accordingly. Some of his incoming players might receive full scholarships. The coach obviously can not afford to give full scholarships to all 15 incoming players. Some of his incoming players might be transferring in from junior college programs and will need two to three years of scholarship assistance. The coach will have to decide whether that player will receive a full or partial scholarship.

Often, the coach will base his decisions on the ability of the player to secure federal and/or state financial aid. If the difference between the cost of the school and the financial aid offer is moderate, a coach might decide to make up the difference with athletic scholarship money. Look at the following example:

Baseball University

Tuition	\$5,000.00	Financial Aid	\$5,000.00
Room & Board	2,000.00	Baseball Scholarship	\$2,500.00
Fees	500.00		
Total cost	\$7,500.00	Total Award	\$7,500.00

Of course, a coach has the sole authority to make decisions on the amount of athletic scholarship money to award strictly on the basis of athletic ability.

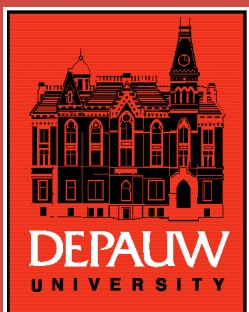
NCAA Division III Athletic Recruiting

There is a myth in Division III athletics that athletes do not receive scholarships. In fact, many athletes in Division III do receive numerous undergraduate and post-graduate scholarships, though they do not receive them as a result of their athletic talent. Their scholarships are primarily based upon financial need, leadership and/or academic merit.

And while rivalries and intense competition thrive in Division III, the athletes at this level compromise nothing. If they suffer unfortunate career-ending injuries or simply lose their passion for the sport, they do not lose their scholarship(s) and/or financial aid. Division III is perhaps the last domain for true, amateur athletic competition where the student-athlete competes for the genuine love of the sport.

In general, Division III athletes experience a high degree of academic, social and post-graduate success. On occasion, some do turn professional as athletes. Today's professional scouting is highly sophisticated and pervasive. Scouts will find talent at every level. Many of today's Division III student-athletes, however, will likely pursue outstanding professional opportunities in their respective careers as teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc.

Recruiting in Division III can be as, if not more, intense than Division I or II. Numerous visits from college coaches at the recruit's high school, phone calls from coaches, letters from the colleges and recruiting visits to college campuses are exhaustive, time consuming and expensive. This is fast becoming the norm in Division III recruiting, yet there will never be an offer of an athletic scholarship. A majority of families have no choice but to wait on the financial aid package before deciding on which school to attend. Unfortunately, choices are often made on the size of the financial aid package without regard to the quality of a school. Schools fortunate enough to complete a competitive financial aid package ahead of the competition usually have the upper hand in the recruiting wars.



NAIA Division I and II Athletic Recruiting

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is not affiliated whatsoever with, the National Collegiate Athletic Association. NAIA member schools are divided into Divisions I and II. The total number of NAIA member schools pale in comparison to the NCAA. There are approximately 200 in Division I and 200 in Division II. Although NAIA schools offer athletic scholarships in Divisions I and II like their counterparts in the NCAA, there are very few schools offering full scholarships to athletes. Most NAIA scholarships are a combination of partial athletic scholarships and financial aid.

The NAIA does not require its student-athletes to be certified academically, and schools within the association come in all shapes and sizes. Yet, each school may offer a unique experience to your career as a student-athlete. Consider the following about an NAIA school:

Coaching points ...

- Inquire about the school's academic requirements.
- Be sure the school's academic standards match yours.
- Check graduation rates of students and athletes.
- Location, location, location ... visit the campus!

Thinking of Turning Pro?

The odds of turning professional as an athlete from any level of the NCAA or NAIA are not encouraging. If you have your heart set on going to college with the intention of turning professional, consider the following statistics:

- Out of approximately one million high school varsity football players in the country, approximately 150 will make an NFL roster: 6000 to 1 odds.
- Out of 500,000 high school basketball players, approximately 50 will make NBA rosters: 10,000 to 1 odds.
- For every 1,223 high school senior football players, 44 will become "major college" players. Just one will make an NFL roster.
- Fewer than 30 percent of all NBA players⁸ graduate from college. Less than one percent graduate after turning professional early.

Final Thoughts

Perhaps now, it is clear that it is important to have distinct goals and a game plan for the future. A college degree should figure prominently in your educational plans regardless of whether you are a scholarship athlete, future pro prospect or just an amateur. Choosing the right college is the most difficult part of the recruiting process. It is a process that has evolved into a science rather than an art these days.

Even if you are fortunate enough to receive an athletic scholarship, there is no guarantee that the school offering the scholarship will be a good fit for you. In the long term, it is imperative that you choose a college that will benefit you in all phases of your undergraduate and post-graduate plans.

Academic reputation, quality of student life, diversity, outcomes of graduates, post-graduate placement rates and academic support are just a few of the issues to consider while choosing a college. If the school can reasonably provide what you need and want from it, then there exists a great match between you.

Here are some tips on handling the Division III recruiting process:

Coaching points ...

- The NCAA's Clearinghouse does not apply to non-scholarship schools.
- Be sure to have academic credentials that match those of the school recruiting you.
- Follow up on all admission and financial aid deadlines and time lines.
- Visit the campus admission office ... meet with an admission counselor, financial aid counselor and coach.

Coaching points ...

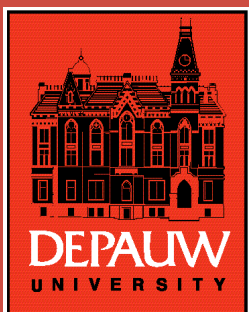
- College is not just a four-year decision. It is a life decision.
- Choose wisely!

How to Market Your Academic and Athletic Talents to the College of Your Choice

"God gives every bird his worm, but he does not throw it into the nest."

- Swedish proverb

Bobby Knight, Pat Summit and Joe Paterno each have distinctive and varying coaching styles and philosophies. They do, however, share one thing in common. It is their responsibility to know the top high school athletes in the nation in their respective sports.



You may have been identified as one of the nation's elite, blue chip athletes by coaches, national high school prep athlete publications or the national media. If so, you will likely entertain scholarship offers from the nation's elite colleges and universities. If by chance you are not one of the nation's top high school athletes, are you going to panic? Absolutely not!

There are more than 3,000 colleges and universities around the country offering a variety of intercollegiate athletic programs at all levels of expertise. They are characterized by size (small, large), location (east, west, inland, coastal, etc.), majors, etc. The mission at today's most competitive colleges and universities is to enroll the most academically qualified and diverse student population possible. A student's ethnic origin, socio-economic background, gender, geographic origin, personal character, athletic ability and academic preference are among the most important criteria colleges prefer in a student. If you possess these types of qualities, you have the ability to market your academic and athletic talents to the school of your choice.

Well beyond the realm of raw or polished athletic talent, all collegiate athletic departments are under intense scrutiny to recruit the complete student-athlete. You want to have the qualities and characteristics of a person with broad-based skills. Essentially, you want to continue to develop the ability to write effectively, speak effectively and think critically. Your athletic talents will only carry you so far. However, your social and academic performance will define who you are for the rest of your life. This is how to best market yourself to coaches and administrators from colleges and universities around the country.

Now, You have your act together. You are academically sound, athletically gifted and socially acceptable. However, its now March of your senior year, and you have never received as much as a phone call or letter from the national champions of college football. What happens next? Well, you may need to consider alternative options, such as exploring schools at another level (i.e., NCAA Division I-AA, II or III; or NAIA Divisions I and II). This advice applies to any athlete (male or female) in any sport. What can you do now to attract the attention of college coaches?

I recommend the following strategies:

Coaching points:

- Start your college search earlier. Do not wait for a phone call or letter from a coach. At the end of the junior year, plan to visit several of your top colleges.
- Write your own personal letter to the coach(es) of the sport(s) in which you are interested.
- Follow up your letter with a phone call to the coach.
- Initiate a campus visit. Call ahead to set an appointment with the coach and/or admission office.
- Send a thank you note to the coaching staff after visiting a school. There are several coaches who spent time and resources to host you. You want let them know how much you appreciate what they did for you. It also reminds them of who you are!
- Send video of your playing ability when appropriate to do so.
- Return phone calls from coaches or anyone else representing the university.
- Participate in summer sports skill camps in your area whenever possible. Several college coaches from all levels attend the camps and will scout you.
- Attend a sports camp at the college(s) where you have a strong desire to attend and play.

Notice in the suggestions above, the only mention and evaluation of true athletic talent is emphasized last. Your intellect, initiative, character and ability to succeed in college should be prioritized before a coach decides to invest any amount of time and money recruiting you.

The challenge for you and your parents is to communicate thoroughly with the colleges and universities throughout the recruiting process. Find out exactly what is being offered by the school and just how binding the offer is. Understand exactly what your needs are and what it is that you want out of a college.

When you have found the school that meets your needs and expectations, be sure to give it full consideration. No matter whether the school is NCAA Division I, II or III — scholarship or non-scholarship — there is no substitute for the complete college experience. As a student-athlete, you are bonded to your school like few other students will ever be. Demand excellence and make the most of your collegiate experience by being prepared!

Remember: *"a goal is a dream achievable only with a well designed game plan"* - David Hill

Planning Your College Choice? We'd Like to Help

DePauw's Office of Admission conducts Admission Counseling Service workshops for high schools and for college-bound students and their parents. To schedule one for your school or for individual advice about your college selection process or your high school academic program of study, a member of DePauw's admission staff is available at 800.447.2495.

