



Guide for College Bound Hockey Players

2013-2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1

– Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS)	4
I. Introduction	5
A. Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) ..	5
B. Scholarships/Financial Assistance	7
II. Academic Eligibility	9
A. High School Requirements	9
B. Continued CIS Eligibility	10
III. Athletic Eligibility	10
A. Athletic Eligibility	10
B. Amateurism	10
C. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL) ..	11
D. Transferring to the CIS	12
IV. Recruiting	13
A. Recruiting Guidelines	13

PART II

– Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC)	15
I. Introduction	15
A. Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC)	16
B. Financial Assistance	16
II. Academic Eligibility	17
A. High School Requirements	17
B. Continued ACAC Eligibility	18
III. Athletic Eligibility	19
A. Athletic Eligibility	19
B. Amateurism	20
C. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL) ..	20
D. Transferring to the ACAC	20
IV. Recruiting	22
A. Recruiting Guidelines	22

PART III

– National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)	24
I. Introduction	25
A. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)	25
B. Division I, II and III	26
C. NCAA Eligibility Center	28
D. Athletic Scholarships	31
E. Financial Aid	35
II. Academic Eligibility	37
A. Academic Eligibility	37
B. High School	38
C. SAT I: Reasoning Test	42
D. ACT	45
III. Athletic Eligibility	48
A. Amateurism	48
B. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL) ..	49
C. 21-Year Old Rule	51
D. Use of Agents	52
IV. Recruiting	53
A. Promoting	53
B. Recruiting Guidelines	56

APPENDIX A

– Questions to Ask Universities and Coaches	58
A. Athletic Questions	59
B. Academic Questions	59
C. Financial Aid Questions	60
D. Athletic Scholarship Questions	60
E. Campus Life Questions	61

- Part I -

**Canadian Interuniversity Sport
(CIS)**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS)

What is the CIS?

The CIS is the governing body for Canadian university athletics, including Canadian university hockey. The CIS was known as the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) until June 2001, when the membership voted to change the name and logo of the organization to Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). For more information go to the CIS website at

www.cis-sic.ca

How many universities offer hockey programs?

There are 3 regional associations in CIS hockey comprised of more than 30 university hockey programs:

1. Canada West
 - University of Alberta
 - University of B.C.
 - University of Calgary
 - University of Lethbridge
 - University of Manitoba
 - University of Regina
 - University of Saskatchewan
2. Atlantic Region
 - University of New Brunswick
 - St. Francis Xavier
 - Saint Mary's University
 - Dalhousie University

- Acadia University
 - University of P.E.I.
 - Université de Moncton
 - St. Thomas University
3. Ontario University Association
- Nipissing
 - Royal Military College
 - University of Western Ontario
 - University of Waterloo
 - University of Toronto
 - Ryerson University
 - Queen's University
 - University of Ottawa
 - Université du Québec à Trois-rivières
 - Wilfred Laurier University
 - McGill University
 - Lakehead University
 - Concordia University
 - University of Guelph
 - York University
 - Brock University
 - University of Windsor
 - Carleton University
 - University of Ontario Institute of Technology
 - McMaster University
 - Laurentian

B. Scholarships/Financial Assistance

Can CIS universities offer financial awards or scholarships for athletic competition?

Yes. CIS universities can offer financial assistance/scholarships for university athletic participation within certain restrictions and guidelines as set out by the CIS.

What is the definition of financial awards?

The CIS refers to its scholarships and financial assistance as “Athletic Financial Awards” (AFA). An AFA is any award that is conditional on the student participating as a member of an athletic team. These awards include but are not limited to scholarships, bursaries, prizes, leadership awards, merit awards, housing, and all other related non-employment financial benefit received by an athlete from their institution.

Who is eligible for an AFA?

Both students entering their first year of university and students who have all ready competed for the university are eligible for financial assistance.

What are the eligibility requirements for an AFA?

Students who are considered “entering students” must: have a minimum entering grade average of 80%, or the equivalent G.P.A., on those courses used to determine his university admission in order to be eligible for a university athletic financial award. A student is considered an “entering student”, for the entirety of the academic year when he registers for the

first time at any CIS school in either the fall or winter semesters. Students who are considered “non-entering students” must have attained a minimum 65%, or the equivalent G.P.A., on all registered course work within the last academic year, A student is considered a “Non-Entering Student” in the academic years subsequent to the first academic year that he / she registers for the first time at any member school in either the fall or winter semesters. Note: a non-entering student includes a transfer student that is transferring from another post-secondary institution.

Is there a maximum amount of money that can be given out by a university in the form of AFA's?

Yes, each CIS hockey team is allowed 14 AFA units. One (1) AFA unit accounts for 100% of one athlete's tuition and compulsory fees. For example, if your tuition and compulsory fees total \$5,000, and the university awards you an AFA totaling \$5,000, then they have used one (1) AFA unit on you. If you receive \$2,500 then only 0.5 AFA units have been used on you.

Therefore, 14 AFA's units allows for 14 players to receive 100% of their tuition and compulsory fees. Conversely, 7 players could receive 100% of their tuition and compulsory fees while 14 players receive 50% of their tuition and compulsory fees. Each individual CIS hockey team decides how it will divide its 14 AFA's among its student-athletes.

Also, it must be noted that schools are not required to give

away all 14 AFA's each year. Some universities may award all 14 AFA's while others may award none – the decision rests with each individual university.

Student-athletes who have achieved Academic All-Canadian status in the preceding academic year of study will be exempt from counting as part of the awards team complement limits.

II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. High School Requirements

What high school average is required to be academically eligible for CIS?

A student entering a CIS university must obtain a minimum 60% average (or equivalent) on those courses used to determine university admission. It must be noted that this only makes the student eligible to compete in CIS athletics and does not guarantee entrance into a specific university or program.

What happens if I don't have a 60% average but get accepted into a CIS institution?

In those instances where you have not achieved the 60% requirement, but nonetheless have been accepted into a CIS university, you must complete 3 full courses (9 credit hours) or equivalent in a single semester before you will become eligible to participate in CIS competition.

B. Continued CIS Eligibility

What is required in order to continue to be eligible to compete in the CIS?

In order to be eligible to continue competing in CIS athletics you must be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) courses (minimum 9 credit hours or equivalent) in the term in which you are competing in CIS.

III. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Athletic Eligibility

How many years of athletic eligibility do I have to compete in CIS athletics?

Every student-athlete has five (5) years to compete in CIS athletics.

Does ACAC and NCAA competition count towards my five (5) years of CIS athletic eligibility?

Yes. For each year of competition in either the ACAC or NCAA you are charged with a year of CIS eligibility. Also, athletes who have used all of their ACAC or NCAA athletic eligibility are ineligible to compete in the CIS. In addition, an athlete who has completed their eligibility to participate in another post-secondary jurisdiction (e.g., NCAA, CCAA), in accordance with that governing body's rules, is ineligible for CIS competition.

B. Amateurism

Do I lose CIS athletic eligibility if I compete for a

professional team, play in a professional league or get paid to play hockey?

For each year that you played professional hockey you will lose one of your 5 years of CIS eligibility.

Do exhibition games or training camps count as professional competition?

No. You are not considered to have participated professionally regardless of the number of exhibition games played in or time spent at professional league training camps. Participation in a league defined as professional by CIS is only recognized at the moment an athlete's name appears on the roster of a regular season or playoff professional game.

How soon after competing professional can I take part in CIS athletics?

One year must pass between your last professional competition and your first game in the CIS.

Do I lose CIS athletic eligibility if I tryout for a professional team?

No. As long as you do not compete in a game in a professional league you will not lose any eligibility for participation in a tryout.

C. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL)

Can I play games in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the CIS?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, the CIS does not consider major junior hockey leagues to be professional hockey leagues and therefore competition in these leagues will not jeopardize CIS athletic eligibility.

Can I tryout for teams in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the CIS?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, participation in major junior hockey tryouts will not jeopardize any CIS eligibility.

D. Transferring to the CIS

If I transfer from the CCAA/ACAC, how soon after I transfer can I play?

A student-athlete, who transfers to a CIS institution team from a post-secondary degree or non-degree granting institution team that participates in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association leagues (e.g., ACAC) shall be eligible to participate immediately in CIS competition, unless:

- a) you have participated in any post-secondary institution game or games in that semester or term, or
- b) you have not achieved a minimum 60% average or equivalent on those courses utilized to determine your university admission, or
- c) you were not considered a student in good standing in your final year as a student-athlete in the CCAA, or
- d) you have not maintained your academic eligibility to continue participating in the CCAA, or
- e) you have completed your CCAA eligibility.

If I transfer from the NCAA, how soon after I transfer can I play?

If you transfer from the NCAA you cannot participate for a period of one year provided that you meet the academic requirements applying to transfer students and have not used all your NCAA athletic eligibility.

Can I transfer and compete in the CIS if I have used all my eligibility in the ACAC or NCAA?

In general, if you have used all of your athletic eligibility in the ACAC or NCAA then you cannot compete in the CIS. However, NCAA athletes who participated for three years or less in the NCAA, but are no longer eligible in the NCAA because of the NCAA time-clock/age limit or terms of attendance regulations, may compete in the CIS using their remaining CIS eligibility.

IV. RECRUITING

A. Recruiting Guidelines

Do CIS universities provide for recruiting trips?

Yes. Universities can bring prospective student athletes to campus for recruiting trips.

Can a CIS university cover prospect travel expenses for recruiting trips?

University funding of recruiting trips for prospective athletes is acceptable provided these trips are consistent with general university policy.

How many official visits can I make?

Although there is no limit on the number of universities you can visit on financed recruiting trips, each university can provide for only one financed recruiting trip per year for each prospective student-athlete.

Can CIS universities pay for my parents to visit the campus?

No. CIS universities are prohibited from paying, providing, or arranging for the payment of transportation costs incurred by relatives or friends of a prospective athlete.

Can I receive university apparel or other products while on a recruiting trip?

Yes. You can receive university products or services provided the products or services do not exceed \$50.00 over and above what is provided the general prospective student population.

What is a CIS Letter of Intent?

A student-athlete may formally declare his intention to attend a specific CIS member school during the upcoming academic year by signing a Letter of Intent. Upon signing the Letter all CIS members are to discontinue further recruitment of the student-athlete. It is at the discretion of a CIS institution to include the terms of AFA within the Letter of Intent, however, when included, the school is expected to honor those terms.

- Part II -

**Alberta Colleges Athletic
Conference**

(ACAC)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC)

What is the ACAC?

The ACAC is the governing body for collegiate hockey in Alberta. The ACAC is permitted to make regulations provided they are consistent with or more restrictive than those made by the CCAA. The Canadian Colleges Athletic Association is the governing body for Canadian collegiate athletics. At this time, the ACAC is the only hockey league in the ACAC.

How many ACAC hockey programs are there?

There are eight (8) ACAC hockey programs:

- Augustana University College, U of A
- Briercrest College
- Concordia University College of Alberta
- MacEwan College
- Mount Royal College
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Portage College Voyageurs
- SAIT Polytechnic

B. Financial Assistance

Can ACAC institutions offer financial awards or scholarships to its student-athletes?

Yes. ACAC institutions can offer financial assistance to its

athletes provided that any financial assistance granted specifically to participate in sports can not exceed the total tuition and enrollment fees.

What is the definition of financial assistance?

Financial assistance includes scholarships, bursaries, grants and financial awards.

Who is eligible for an athletic financial assistance?

Any student who competes in athletics and meets the requirements for financial assistance can receive financial assistance. Each institution sets its own eligibility requirements for athletic assistance.

Is there a maximum amount of assistance that individual student-athletes can receive?

Yes. Financial assistance or awards can not exceed the total cost of the student-athlete's tuition and enrollment fees.

What is the definition of "enrollment fees"?

Enrollment fees shall include all required fees, including tuition, recreation fees, Student Association fees, library fees, computer fees, etc.

II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. High School Requirements

What are the academic requirements in order to be

eligible to compete in the ACAC?

There are no minimum high school requirements set out by the CCAA or the ACAC to determine initial athletic eligibility. Each individual institution sets the entrance requirements. If a student is admitted to the institution then that student is eligible to compete in the ACAC. Therefore, initial academic requirements will vary depending on the program of study and institution to which you are applying.

B. Continued ACAC Eligibility

What are the academic requirements to be eligible to continue competing in the ACAC?

Once attending an ACAC institution and competing in athletics, a student-athlete must maintain “full-time” status and achieve a passing GPA each semester in order to be eligible to compete in the following semester. The ACAC defines full-time status as being registered in and attending a minimum nine (9) credit hours (or equivalent as determined by the institution’s Registrar) in each semester in which they participate in ACAC competition

Who determines what is “full-time” and what is a “passing GPA”?

The ACAC defines full-time status as being registered in and attending a minimum nine (9) credit hours (or equivalent as determined by the institution’s registrar) in each semester in which they participate in ACAC competition. Each individual institution shall determine what constitutes a passing GPA

III. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Athletic Eligibility

Who is eligible to compete in the ACAC?

To be eligible for ACAC competition, a student-athlete must be enrolled as a fulltime student in post-secondary courses, in the semester of participation, at the accredited post-secondary institution for which he/she represents.

How many years of athletic eligibility do I have to compete in ACAC athletics?

You have five (5) years to compete in the ACAC.

What is considered “a year of competition”?

You will be considered to have used one year of eligibility if you have participated in one scheduled ACAC contest (your name appears on one (1) official game sheet for a league game). This does not include preseason contests.

Can I attend two ACAC institutions and still take part in the athletics programs?

Yes, students who are registered in programs that require attendance at more than one institution will be eligible for athletics participation at the institution where the student is physically attending on a full-time basis.

B. Amateurism

Do I lose ACAC athletic eligibility if I compete for a professional team, play in a professional league or get paid to play hockey?

No. In men's hockey, a student-athlete does not lose eligibility for any years of participation as a professional athlete.

Do I lose ACAC athletic eligibility if I tryout for a professional team?

No. Hockey players are allowed to tryout for professional hockey teams without jeopardizing their ACAC eligibility.

C. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL)

Can I play games in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the ACAC?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, the ACAC does not consider major junior hockey leagues to be professional hockey leagues. Therefore, competition in these leagues will not jeopardize any ACAC eligibility.

Can I tryout for teams in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the ACAC?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, participation in major junior hockey tryouts will not jeopardize any ACAC eligibility.

D. Transferring to the ACAC

Does NCAA and CIS participation count towards the five

(5) years of my ACAC eligibility?

Yes. Participation in the NCAA or CIS will be considered equivalent to and deducted from your four years of ACAC eligibility. The NCAA and CIS definitions of “competition”, “participation” and “eligibility” will be respected in determining loss of ACAC eligibility. As an example, if you entered the NCAA and played 10 games in your first season then, according to NCAA definitions, you would have “competed” and as such used one (1) year of NCAA “eligibility”. Therefore, if you transfer to the ACAC you would have only four (4) years of ACAC eligibility remaining.

Any student-athlete who has completed his post-secondary eligibility within any non-CCAA jurisdiction (e.g. NCAA) shall not be eligible for participation in the ACAC.

Can I transfer from one CCAA/ACAC institution to another CCAA/ACAC institution and still play?

A student-athlete who, between the end of one academic year and the beginning of the next and for the first time in his/her post-secondary career, transfers from one ACAC or CCAA institution to another ACAC or CCAA institution, is eligible to compete immediately provided that all other eligibility criteria are met. Different rules will apply for more than 1 transfer.

If you transfer from an ACAC institution for which you competed in at least one hockey game during the same season, you will be deemed ineligible to compete in ACAC hockey for the remainder of that sport year.

IV. RECRUITING

A. Recruiting Guidelines

Do ACAC institutions provide for recruiting trips?

Students are free to visit the campus of an ACAC institution at any time.

How many official visits can I make?

There are no restrictions on the number of times you can visit an ACAC campus.

Can an ACAC/CCAA institution cover prospect expenses for recruiting trips?

Funding of recruiting trips for prospective athletes is acceptable; however, prospective student-athletes can only receive one visit on campus, prior to August 1st for a fall semester registration and prior to December 1st for a winter semester registration. The expenses covered are limited to transportation, meals and accommodation.

Can ACAC/CCAA universities pay for my parents to visit the campus?

No. No institution shall finance or arrange for transportation costs incurred by his family or friends.

Can I receive apparel or other products while on a recruiting trip?

An ACAC member may provide the prospective recruit with institutional merchandise not exceeding a value of \$50 over and above what is provided to the general prospective student population.

- Part III -

**National Collegiate Athletic
Association**

(NCAA)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

What is the NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an organization through which American colleges and universities govern their athletics programs. The NCAA oversees 89 championships in 23 sports. There are more than 400,000 student-athletes competing in three divisions (Division I, II and III) at over 1,000 colleges and universities within the NCAA. The Divisions are called Division I, Division II, and Division III. Each division creates its own rules governing personnel, amateurism, recruiting, eligibility, benefits, financial aid, and playing and practice seasons – consistent with the overall governing principles of the Association. One of the key differences among the three divisions is that colleges and universities in Divisions I and II may offer athletics scholarships, while Division III colleges and universities may not.

What do I need to do to compete in the NCAA?

In order to compete in the NCAA you must graduate from high school, write the SAT or ACT, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (discussed below), meet NCAA academic standards, remain academically and athletically eligible to compete and be admitted to an NCAA institution.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

In order to compete in the NCAA you must meet both academic and athletic eligibility requirements. The NCAA Eligibility Center, often referred to as the “clearinghouse”, certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics. Prospective student-athletes should register at eligibilitycenter.org by 11th grade to help ensure that they are on the right path to qualify academically.

B. Division I, II and III

There are three divisions of NCAA: Division I, Division II and Division III. Any school that is a member of the NCAA belongs to one of these divisions.

What is Division I?

Division I is the highest level of athletic competition in the NCAA. Athletic programs at Division I universities can offer financial aid or athletic scholarships based solely on athletic ability. NCAA hockey is comprised of six (6) Division I Hockey Conferences. These are:

- Atlantic Hockey
- Big Ten
- ECAC
- Hockey East
- National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHA)
- Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)

In total, there are 59 distinct teams within Division I hockey. Of these the Ivy League consists of 6 teams that compete in the ECAC: Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton and Yale. To find more information about a particular team within a conference go to: www.collegehockeyinc.com.

What is Division II?

Universities that are considered Division II and sponsor hockey programs currently compete at either the Division I or the Division III level. Division II programs are similar to Division III level in that they focus largely on the academic experience of the player but, unlike Division III institutions, they are permitted to offer financial aid or scholarships based solely on athletic ability.

What is Division III?

Division III universities focus much more on the academic experience than on the athletic experience of the student-athlete. As such Division III universities prohibit financial aid or scholarships based on athletic ability. Furthermore, rules and regulations governing competition in Division III athletics are less stringent than those that govern competition in Division I.

In total there are 9 conferences and 75 teams competing in Division III hockey.

Division III does not use the Eligibility Center (discussed below). For more information on a particular Division III college or university and their policies on admission, financial aid,

practice and competition, visit the college/university website. For more information about a particular hockey program at the Division III level, visit www.USCHO.com.

C. NCAA Eligibility Center

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the academic and amateur/athletic credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics (it does not apply to Division III). There are two components to the eligibility determination: (1) the “academic” certification process, which determines whether you are academically eligible, and (2) the “amateurism” certification process, which determines whether you are athletically eligible.

It is important to note that academic and/or amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center does not guarantee you admission to any Division I or II university. You must apply for college admission separately. The Eligibility Center only determines whether you meet minimum NCAA requirements as an incoming student-athlete in a Division I or II college to be able to practice and compete in NCAA athletics and to receive an athletic scholarship.

For more information about the NCAA Eligibility Centre and contact information, visit www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

How does the NCAA Eligibility Center determine academic certification?

To determine academic certification the Eligibility Center evaluates the types of high school courses taken, the grades achieved in those high school courses and standardized test scores from exams such as the SAT or ACT. The Eligibility Center then provides the athlete's initial-eligibility certification results to all universities that request this information. Please see below for a more detailed discussion of academic requirements.

How does the NCAA Eligibility Center determine amateurism certification?

If you want to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you must also be certified as an amateur student-athlete. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine the amateurism eligibility of all freshman and transfer student-athletes for initial participation at an NCAA Division I or II college or university. In Division III, certification of an individual's amateurism status is completed by each college or university, not the NCAA Eligibility Center.

When you register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, you will be asked questions about your athletics participation. The information you will provide, and along with any additional information requested by the NCAA Eligibility Center staff outside of the registration process, will be reviewed and a determination will be made as to whether your amateurism status should be certified or if a penalty should be assessed

before certification. If a penalty is assessed, you will have an opportunity to appeal the decision on your behalf.

The following pre-NCAA enrollment activities may be reviewed:

1. Contracts with a professional team.
2. Salary for participating in athletics.
3. Prize money.
4. Play with professionals.
5. Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
6. Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
7. Agreement to be represented by an agent.
8. Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.
9. Any financial assistance based on athletics skills or participation.

Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism rules is available on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

When should I register for the Eligibility Center?

You should register with the Eligibility Center sometime during Grade 11. A transcript that includes six semesters of grades should be sent to the Eligibility Center from your high school.

Additionally, SAT and ACT test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Eligibility Center. The Eligibility Center will not accept test scores based on transcripts. When

students register for the ACT or SAT, they can input 9999 (the Eligibility Center test code) to have the test score sent directly to the Eligibility Center.

How do I register for the Eligibility Center?

Go to www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

D. Athletic Scholarships

What are “athletic scholarships”?

An athletic scholarship is an award of money from a university or college that is given to you based on your athletic ability or your participation on a university team. This is different than “financial aid” (discussed below), which is usually based on financial need and not on athletic ability or participation. Division I and II schools are permitted to offer athletic scholarships. Division III schools offer only academic scholarships or “financial aid” (discussed below). They do not offer athletic scholarships.

Athletic scholarships are formalized by entering into an agreement called a “National Letter of Intent”, which is a written agreement between the institution and the student-athlete.

What is a “National Letter of Intent”?

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is the name of the document that formalizes an athletic scholarship. It is a binding agreement between a student-athlete and a

university. Under an NLI, the university agrees to provide an athletic scholarship to a student in exchange for the student-athlete's agreement to attend the university.

Can I make a verbal commitment to a school and sign a National Letter of Intent with a different school or can an institution make a verbal commitment to me and then offer my scholarship to another player?

The National Letter of Intent program does not recognize verbal commitments (or even stating publicly one's intentions to attend a certain institution). You may verbally commit to one institution and subsequently sign a National Letter of Intent with another institution. Conversely, an institution may accept your verbal commitment and later offer the scholarship to another student-athlete.

What is covered by an athletic scholarship?

Division I and II institutions are permitted to provide a student-athlete with tuition and fees, room, board and required course-related books. Athletics scholarships are awarded in varying amounts, ranging from full scholarships (also known as "full-rides"), which can include tuition, fees, room, board and books, to very small scholarships that, for example, provide only required course-related books.

Is it possible to get a 4-year scholarship?

Yes. Division I schools are now allowed to offer scholarships guaranteed for more than one year (e.g., guaranteed 4-year scholarship).

Are scholarships guaranteed?

Athletic scholarships are granted for a minimum of one academic year. In Division I, institutions are now allowed to offer scholarships guaranteed for more than one year (e.g., guaranteed 4-year scholarship).

Athletic scholarships that expire – for example, a 1-year scholarship – may be renewed. The school must notify the student-athlete in writing by July 1 whether the athletic scholarship will be renewed for the next academic year. Individual schools have appeal policies for scholarships that are reduced or not renewed.

Who decides if I get a scholarship?

Although the admissions office of a university can refuse the admission of any student, thereby effectively refusing any athletic scholarship, university athletic programs have considerable influence with their respective admissions office. This allows coaches to scout and recruit players and offer scholarships to those players they want for their programs.

Does every student-athlete receive a 100% or “full” scholarship?

Universities are permitted to grant eighteen “full” scholarships – meaning that the university can provide 18 scholarships each of which covers the full amount of the eligible expenses of the athlete. However, university hockey teams typically carry 22-26 players. Therefore, it is most often the case that the eighteen “full” scholarships are distributed among the

22-26 players on the roster. As a result, it is typical for the eighteen full scholarships to be divided into a mix of partial athletic scholarships (covering less than 100% of the athlete's expenses) and full athletic scholarships. In other words, most NCAA hockey teams have players who receive a portion of their expenses in athletic scholarship and some players who receive all their expenses in scholarship.

Can athletic scholarships be cancelled if I play bad or the coach doesn't like me?

Athletic scholarships may not be reduced, canceled or increased during the period of the scholarship:

- based on your ability, performance, or contribution to your team's success;
- because an injury prevents you from participating; or
- for any other athletic reason.

If you are receiving an athletic scholarship, the scholarship may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the scholarship only if you:

- become ineligible for NCAA competition;
- misrepresented any information on your application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement;
- commit serious misconduct; or
- voluntarily quit the team for personal reasons.

Can I keep my scholarship if I am not playing on the team?

Athletic scholarships are awarded for athletic participation. Therefore, if you are no longer on the team because you

(a) rendered yourself ineligible for NCAA competition, (b) misrepresented information on your university application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement, (c) committed serious misconduct which warrants a substantial disciplinary penalty, or (d) voluntarily quit the team for personal reasons, you may lose your athletic scholarship.

What universities offer athletic scholarships?

Athletes can receive athletic scholarships from Division I and II universities or colleges only. However, not all Division I and Division II institutions offer athletics scholarships (e.g. Ivy League institutions).

E. Financial Aid

What is financial aid?

Financial aid is a grant from the university that is typically based on your and/or your parents' ability to pay for university (as opposed to an "athletic scholarship" which is usually based solely on athletic ability and participation on a university team).

What is covered by financial aid?

Financial aid can be granted for tuition and fees, room and board, books and transportation.

How do universities determine the amount of financial aid?

Although determining financial aid varies between universities, it is typically calculated based on the student and his parent's

ability to contribute to the cost of post-secondary education. This is determined by evaluating the current savings and expected earnings of the student over the summer and the student's parents' overall wealth (i.e. earnings, savings, investments etc). Based on these types of criteria, the institution makes a judgment on the amount that the student and parents are able to contribute towards a university education. In theory, any shortfall between the expected contribution and the expected university expenses (e.g. tuition, room and board, books, and transportation) is covered by financial aid.

Can I keep my financial aid if I am not playing on the team?

Since financial aid is not based on athletic ability, in most situations you cannot lose your financial aid simply because you are no longer on the hockey team. However, if you are released from the team for disciplinary reasons or for failing to meet academic standards, the school may rescind future financial aid or continued enrollment.

What universities offer financial aid?

Financial aid is offered at a variety of universities. Most Division III universities offer financial aid, as do many universities in Division I such as those in the Ivy League (e.g. Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Brown).

II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Academic Eligibility

What do I need to do to be academically eligible to compete in Division I of the NCAA?

In order to compete in Division I of the NCAA you must:

1. graduate from high school
2. complete 16 “core” courses (see below)
3. achieve a minimum grade point average (GPA) in those core courses (if you are Canadian, see below for details on converting your high school grades to GPA)
4. earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core course GPA/average and test score sliding scale (see sliding scale below)
5. register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and be certified by the Eligibility Center as academically and athletically eligible to compete in university athletics.

What do I need to do to be academically eligible to compete in Division II of the NCAA?

In order to compete in Division II of the NCAA you must:

1. graduate from high school
2. complete the 16 “core” courses set out below
3. earn a 2.0 GPA or better in those core courses;
4. earn a combined SAT score of 820 (critical reading and math only) or an ACT sum score of 68
5. register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and be certified

by the Eligibility Center as academically and athletically eligible to compete in university athletics.

What do I need to do to be academically eligible to compete in Division III of the NCAA?

Division III college-bound student-athletes are not certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center because Division III colleges and universities each set their own admissions standards and there are no initial-eligibility requirements in the division. College-bound student-athletes should contact their Division III college or university regarding policies on admission and academic eligibility.

B. High School

What are the “core” courses that are required to be academically eligible to compete in Division I of the NCAA?

The “core” courses that are necessary for academic eligibility in Division I are:

- **4** years of English.
- **3** years of math
- **2** years of natural/physical science
- **1** year of additional English, math or natural/physical science.
- **2** years of social science.
- **4** years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

You must complete the 16 core-course requirement within

four consecutive academic years (i.e., eight semesters) from the start of grade 9. If you graduate on time from high school within four consecutive academic years (i.e., eight semesters) from the start of grade 9, you may use one (1) additional core-course completed within one year from the date of on-time graduation. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated. In other words, you may only use one (1) “upgrading course” for NCAA eligibility purposes.

What is the sliding scale for purposes of determining my academic eligibility for Division I?

A portion of the sliding scale used to determine academic eligibility for Division I is set out below (for the full scale refer to the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA.pdf)

GPA	SAT	ACT
>3.50	400	37
3.50	420	39
3.25	520	46
3.00	620	52
2.75	720	59
2.50	820	68
2.25	920	77
2.00	1010	86

Note that the SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of

the SAT is not used. The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is the sum of the following four ACT sections: English, mathematics, reading and science. More information about the SAT and ACT can be found below.

What are the “core” courses that are required to be academically eligible to compete in Division II of the NCAA?

For students enrolling in Division II after to August 1, 2013, the “core” courses that are necessary for academic eligibility in Division II are:

- **3** years of English
- **2** years of math
- **2** years of natural/physical science
- **3** year of additional English, math or natural/physical science.
- **2** years of social science.
- **4** years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

How do my high school grades translate to GPA for the purpose of NCAA Eligibility?

The high school average corresponding to a specific GPA and SAT will vary slightly from province to province. For more information on calculating GPA refer to the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility, which can be found at www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/IS1314.pdf

How is the NCAA core course grade-point average (GPA)

different from a student's overall grade-point average or high school average?

Your high school average generally includes grades from most or all the courses you attempted in Grade 10 through Grade 12. However, the NCAA calculates GPA by using only NCAA-approved courses (also known as “core courses”) for Grade 9 through Grade 12.

What courses satisfy the core course requirements?

There are only certain courses that satisfy the requirements set out above, and those courses differ from province to province. In addition, certain course have been specifically denied approval and cannot be used to determine NCAA eligibility. The list of approved core courses for each province and territory is contained within NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility, which can be found at www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/IS1314.pdf.

The core course code for each province/territory follows:

- 998001 Quebec
- 998002 Saskatchewan
- 998003 Ontario
- 998004 Alberta
- 998005 British Columbia
- 998006 Manitoba
- 998007 Newfoundland and Labrador
- 998008 Prince Edward Island
- 998009 Nova Scotia
- 998010 New Brunswick
- 998011 Yukon Territory

998012 Northwest Territories
998013 Nunavut

Do upgraded courses count in determining NCAA academic eligibility?

In Division I, all core courses must be completed in the first eight semesters of high school, based on when a student first started Grade 9. If a student graduates on time with his or her class (i.e. in eight semesters), the student may use one core course taken after graduation. In other words, you can only use one (1) “upgrading” course in determining your academic eligibility and “core” courses for Division I.

In Division II, all core courses will be used up until the student enrolls as a full-time student in any college or university.

C. SAT I: Reasoning Test

What is the SAT?

The SAT is a 3 hour and 45 minute exam that tests reading, writing and math. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator of a student’s readiness to perform college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and the accepted scores at an institution. For more information on the SAT, visit www.collegeboard.org.

It is important to note that once you enroll “full-time” in college or university you can no longer write the SAT.

What subjects does the SAT cover?

There are three sections on the current version of the SAT.

- reading section, which includes reading passages and sentence completions.
- writing section, which includes a short essay and multiple-choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage; and
- math section, which includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability.

How is the SAT scored?

The SAT has three scores, each on the scale of 200-800 points. Your score includes writing (W 200-800), mathematics (M 200-800), and critical reading (CR 200-800).

If the SAT is written more than once, the Eligibility Center will mix and match scores to achieve the best result. For example, if a student takes the SAT more than once, the Eligibility Center will use the best sub-score (critical reading and math) from different SAT test dates to meet the minimum test-score requirement. The same is true for ACT. The Eligibility Center will use the best English, math, reading and science sub scores from different ACT test dates to get the student the highest aggregate score.

Will the NCAA be using the writing section to determine NCAA eligibility?

No. The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. However, it is important

to note that although the NCAA may not be using the writing section in determining academic eligibility, member universities are free to use it in assessing student-athlete applicants.

When and where is the SAT offered?

The SAT is offered several times a year at various locations in Canada and in all major cities. For specific dates and locations, visit www.collegeboard.org. It is important to register early as registration deadlines are approximately 5 weeks prior to the testing date.

How do I register for the SAT?

Go to www.collegeboard.org.

How many times can I write the SAT?

There is no limit to the number of times that a student can write the SAT, however only 6 scores will appear on the SAT score report.

How many times should I write the SAT?

You should write the SAT at least 2 times. Since the SAT is a very unique test, prior experience writing and studying for the test will help you perform better on subsequent attempts. Also, because you can combine your highest math and critical reading sections from all SAT tests, the more tests that you write the more likely it is that you will perform better in one of these areas.

How do I study for the SAT?

The most effective way to prepare for the SAT is to purchase an SAT study guide available at most book stores or to sign-up for online preparation courses. These study aids are extremely useful for learning how to write the test and in becoming familiar with the exam format and question types.

Can I write the SAT while attending university or college?

Yes, as long as you are not classified as a “full-time” student as per that institutions definition of “full time”. You must be classified as a “part-time” student.

D. ACT

What is the ACT?

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in: English, math, reading and science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four subject area tests plus a 30-minute Writing Test. The ACT takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete, including a short break. For more information on the ACT, visit www.actstudent.org.

What subjects does the ACT cover?

The ACT covers the following subjects:

- **English**, 75 questions, 45 minutes
- **Math**, 60 questions, 60 minutes
- **Reading**, 40 questions, 35 minutes
- **Science**, 40 questions, 35 minutes
- **Writing**, 1 question, 30 minutes

When and where is the ACT offered?

The ACT is offered several times a year at various locations in Canada and in all major cities. For specific dates and locations, visit www.actstudent.org. It is important to register early as registration deadlines are approximately 5 weeks prior to the testing date.

How do I register for the ACT?

To register for the ACT go to www.actstudent.org.

How do I study for the ACT?

Because the ACT is an “achievement” test, measuring what a student has learned in school, the best preparation for the ACT is preparation for high school curriculum—courses in English, math, science, and social studies. For practice questions and tests go to www.actstudent.org or purchase a study guides for the ACT from a book store or online.

How is the ACT scored?

Each test score (English, math, reading, science) ranges from 1 (low) to 36 (high). Note that the ACT score used for NCAA purposes is the sum of the following four ACT sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.

Which scores are reported if I test more than once?

There is a separate record for each test and only test scores that are requested are released to universities. Unlike the SAT, you may not select test scores from different test dates to construct a new record; you must designate an entire test

date record as it stands. ACT does not create new records by averaging scores from different test dates.

What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing general reading, writing and math skills. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: critical writing, math, and writing. Math makes up 50% of SAT's test score and only 25% of ACT's test score.

Who should take the SAT and who should take the ACT?

Students who have recently graduated or are near graduation may perform better on the ACT as it focuses on specific subject areas studied in high school. Students who have been out of high school for a year or more may perform better on the SAT as it tests for general reasoning and aptitude. Also, students who are more proficient at math compared to reading, writing or science should consider writing the SAT rather than the ACT.

III. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Amateurism

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

The NCAA Eligibility Center, often referred to as the “clearinghouse”, certifies the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics. Prospective student-athletes should register at eligibilitycenter.org by 11th grade to help ensure that they are on the right path to qualify academically.

What is amateurism?

In order to compete in the NCAA a student-athlete must be considered an “amateur” by the NCAA Eligibility Center. In determining amateurism status, the NCAA Eligibility Center will review, among other things:

1. Contracts with a professional team.
2. Salary for participating in athletics.
3. Prize money.
4. Play with professionals.
5. Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
6. Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
7. Agreement to be represented by an agent.
8. Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.
9. Any financial assistance based on athletics skills or participation.

Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism rules is available on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

How many years of athletic eligibility do I have to compete in NCAA athletics?

You have four (4) years of athletic eligibility in the NCAA. However, you must complete those 4 years of athletic eligibility within five (5) years of first enrolling full-time in a post-secondary institution.

B. Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL)

Can I play games in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the NCAA?

The NCAA considers major junior hockey to be professional hockey. Therefore student-athletes who compete in major junior jeopardize some or all of their NCAA athletic eligibility because they fail to remain "amateurs" as per NCAA regulations.

Student-athletes will lose all athletic eligibility to compete in NCAA Division I hockey if they:

- compete in any major junior game after their expected date of high school graduation, or
- sign a contract (e.g. WHL/OHL/QMJHL Standard Player Agreement) with a major junior team.

Student athletes will lose some athletic eligibility to compete

in NCAA Division I hockey if they:

- compete in any major junior game before their expected date of high school graduation, without signing a contract, or
- attend a major junior training camp for more than 48 hours while having their expenses covered by the major junior team

The only scenario in what a player can compete in major junior and still retain NCAA athletic eligibility is if he plays (1) an exhibition game (2) before graduating from high school (3) without ever having signed a player agreement. Any other competition in major junior will lead to the loss of all NCAA athletic eligibility.

Can I tryout or practice for teams in major junior and still be eligible to compete in the NCAA?

Before enrollment in a NCAA university you can:

- Tryout or practice for any length of time with a professional or major junior hockey team at your own expense but not compete in a game with that team.
- Receive one expense paid tryout with a professional or major junior team as long as it does not exceed 48 hours. (Note: You can only receive 1 expense paid tryout from each team.)

Note that during a tryout or practice, an individual loses NCAA athletic eligibility, if the individual:

- receives any compensation (in excess of expenses) for

- participation in the practice sessions;
- enters into any contract or agreement with a professional (major junior) team or sports organization; or
- if he takes part in any outside competition as a representative of that major junior team (games, scrimmages, 3-on-3 tournaments, etc.).

Does the major junior rule apply to Division II and III?

Although the rule varies slightly between divisions, competition at the major junior level may jeopardize eligibility to compete in all NCAA divisions. For more specific information concerning how the rule is applied to Division II and III visit www.ncaa.org.

Can a loss of eligibility be appealed to the NCAA?

Yes, an individual who has participated on a major junior ice hockey team may appeal to regain eligibility. However, such individual shall lose at least one-year of eligibility.

C. 21-Year Old Rule

What happens if I turn 21 years old during the junior hockey season?

If you play a junior hockey game after your 21st birthday you will lose one (1) year of NCAA athletic eligibility, leaving you with three (3) years remaining.

Does this rule apply to Division II and III?

No. This rule applies only to Division I.

How can I turn 21 years old, continue playing junior hockey and still retain NCAA eligibility?

Using the NCAA “transfer rules” you can continue playing junior hockey after your 21st birthday and retain 4 years of athletic eligibility if, prior to your 21st birthday you enroll full-time at a post-secondary institution that does not sponsor a hockey program.

However, you must satisfy the NCAA academic eligibility requirements (discussed above) prior to enrolling in the post-secondary institution that does not sponsor a hockey program. Also, please note that the NCAA will not accept SAT scores obtained from tests taken after enrolling full-time in a post-secondary institution.

D. Use of Agents

An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she ever has agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his athletics ability or reputation in that sport. The rules surrounding agents, family advisors and recruiting services are complex and if you are thinking of using one, please contact the NCAA to determine the rules.

IV. RECRUITING

A. Promoting

What are the rules around agents and family advisors?

An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she ever has agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an “agent”. NCAA regulations state:

An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly:

- (a) Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
- (b) Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete’s enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete’s potential earnings as a professional athlete

NCAA rules do not allow the following:

- A student-athlete to have an oral or written agreement with an agent.
- A student-athlete cannot agree to be represented by an agent, regardless of whether the agreement is now or in the future.
- A student-athlete cannot accept any benefits from an agent, financial advisor, runner or any other person associated with an agency business, regardless of the value of the benefit or whether it is used.

NCAA rules allow you to have a “family advisor.” These rules allow a student-athlete to have an advisor to review a prospective contract provided that the athlete pays the advisor the going rate for the advisor’s services and as long as the advisor does not participate in negotiations on the athlete’s behalf with the professional team. A family advisor cannot

- market you to any professional team/sports organization;
- contact professional teams or sports organizations on your behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts;
- pay for any expenses associated with a professional team tryout or workout
- receive compensation based on you receiving an athletic scholarship or financial aid

You are also prevented from entering into an agreement (whether oral or written) with the family advisor for future representation.

The difference between a family advisor (allowed) and an agent (not allowed) can be minor and hard to identify. If you are thinking of engaging an advisor, please contact the NCAA to determine the rules.

What do university coaches look for when they recruit student-athletes?

In making decisions on prospective players universities will consider the entire profile of the student-athlete. That profile

includes academic qualities such as high school marks, SAT or ACT scores, as well as athletic and personal qualities such as skill, attitude, character, and work ethic. What qualities are most important depends on the needs of the individual university and hockey program.

How do I best promote myself to NCAA hockey programs?

The most effective way to promote yourself is to work on developing into a well-rounded student-athlete. Start by taking and performing well in proper high school classes, studying for and achieving a high score on the SAT or ACT and working hard on developing as an athlete. Extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering or internships, are also valuable for a college application.

Can I contact NCAA hockey programs and coaches?

Yes. You can contact university and coaches at any point and there are no restrictions on the time or content of the contact.

Should I send a hockey resume to NCAA hockey programs to help promote myself?

There is no downside to sending a resume and brief cover letter to college coaches beginning as early as grade 10. At the very least this will help you get your name in front of them. Keep in mind, however, that college coaches are very busy so do not be concerned if you do not hear back from any of the programs in response to your resume.

If you decide to send a student-athlete resume make sure

that it is no longer than 1 page and includes only relevant information such as SAT, high school average and hockey statistics. Be sure to address the resume to one of the assistant coaches, not the head coach. For more information on each program, visit www.uscho.com.

B. Recruiting Guidelines

When can universities start contacting and recruiting?

College coaches can begin calling you only after you complete Grade 10. After June 15 at the conclusion of Grade 10, college coaches can call you once (1) a month through to July 31 after Grade 11. Beginning on July 31 following Grade 11, college coaches can call you once (1) per week.

You may call any coach at your expense at any time and coaches may take calls from you. However, a college coach cannot return a call if a message is left on their voice mail unless that call satisfies the restrictions set out above.

In addition, you may have unlimited contact via email beginning on July 1 following Grade 10. Coaches cannot respond to emails while a player is in Grade 10.

Recruiting material may be provided to the prospect on or after June 15 at the conclusion of Grade 11.

What is an “official visit” or “fly-down”?

An “official visit” or “fly-down” is a visit to a university campus

paid for by the university or hockey program. Fly-downs are used by athletic programs to introduce you to the university and members of the team, give you a flavor for the campus and induce you to attend their university.

How many official visits can I make?

You can receive a maximum of five (5) official visits while in high school and a maximum of 5 official visits post graduation. You visit each campus one (1) time during high school and then again one (1) time post-graduation.

What are the rules concerning official visits?

In order to make an official visit you must:

- have started classes in grade 12
- provide the university with high school transcripts
- completed the SAT or ACT score and provided the university with a score report
- have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Each official visit may last no longer than 48 hours and can cover food, entertainment, lodging and transportation.

- APPENDIX A -

**QUESTIONS TO ASK
UNIVERSITIES AND COACHES**

A. Athletic Questions

- How many players are on the roster? How many players have to sit out each game?
- What role do you see me playing my first year? Fourth year?
- How many players are you losing to graduation on the team? At my position?
- How many new players will be coming in on the team? At my position?
- What does a typical week look like?
- What should I expect in terms of physical training?
- What does pre- and post- season training consist of?
- When does the head coach's contract end? (Especially important for students on athletic scholarships)
- How many players have had their scholarship cut, or have had to leave school because their financial aid was reduced?
- What is the required GPA to remain athletically eligible at your college?

B. Academic Questions

- What is the average SAT/ACT score for incoming students? Average GPA?
- Does the school offer two or four year programs?
- What fields of study is the school best known for?
- What majors are the most popular?
- How is the academic calendar structured?

- What kind of academic support system is offered?
- Explain the computer and library resources.
- Where can I get stats such as student to teacher ratios, and graduate employment rates, etc.?
- What is the school's graduation rate?
- What is the team's graduation rate?
- What is the required GPA to remain academically eligible at your college?

C. Financial Aid Questions

- How is financial aid calculated?
- If I am injured what happens to my financial aid?
- Is there someone to help me complete the required forms?
- What percentage of the student body receives financial aid?
- What percentage of students who apply for financial aid have ALL their financial need met?
- How many past players have left because their financial aid was reduced?
- What other sources of aid or bursaries are available? How do I go about getting them?
- Describe any student loan programs offered by the school? Repayment periods?

D. Athletic Scholarship Questions

- What does my scholarship cover? Tuition? Room and board? Books? Food? Etc.

- What other expenses should I be expected to incur that are not covered by an athletic scholarship?
- If I am injured what happens to my scholarship?
- How many past players have had their athletic scholarships reduced? Eliminated?
- What other sources of aid or bursaries are available? How do I go about getting them?
- Describe any student loan programs offered by the school? Repayment periods?

E. Campus Life Questions

- Are students-athletes required to live on or off campus?
- What are the residence halls like?
- What is the surrounding town like?
- How far is it from the nearest international airport?
- What do players on the team do on nights off or weekends off?