

## So You Want to be a College Student-Athlete

Jean Gee  
Senior Associate Athletic Director  
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics  
University of Montana

November 18, 2019

### REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

- Graduation from high school
- Test score from ACT or SAT
- Completion of appropriate number of core courses
- Meet sliding scale of core GPA combined with test score

*Note: All students interested in Division I athletics must fulfill the requirements. That includes "walk-ons".*

### TEST SCORES

- Test scores must be sent directly to the EC from the testing agency. Scores reported on a high school transcript will not be accepted. The code to the EC is 9999.
- For the ACT, the sum of the 4 subsections will be used.
- For the SAT, the sum of the Math and Verbal/Critical Reading subsections.
- The writing subsection of the ACT and SAT are not used for eligibility purposes.

### TEST SCORES

- If a student takes an exam more than once, the best score in each subsection will be used.\*\*

Example:

ACT exam December 2013	ACT exam April 2014
English = 18	English = 16
Mathematics = 25	Mathematics = 27
Reading = 23	Reading = 24
Science = 21	Science = 19

Score for NCAA Eligibility Purposes = 18 + 27 + 24 + 21 = 90

**\*\*EXCEPTION: SAT subsection scores from the NEW SAT (starting March 2016) may NOT be combined with subsection scores from the old SAT (taken before March 2016).**

### Core Courses

- How do I know which courses fulfill core?
  - Your high school has an approved core course list on file with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
  - The courses you take must match the course title on the list **exactly** in order to use the course in your core calculation.
  - If courses you have taken and/or plan to take are not on the list, your high school must submit those courses for approval and inclusion on the list.
  - High school core course lists can be downloaded from the Eligibility Center website.

### Core Courses

- Will a college course count in core?
  - Yes as long as the high school accepts it, it is acceptable for any other student, meets the requirements for core and the high school puts the course on the high school transcript.
  - College courses do NOT need to be listed on the high school core course list.
  - Eligibility Center does need to receive an official transcript from the college.

### Core Courses

- Nontraditional courses = courses taught via the internet, distance learning, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence, or some variation of any of the above
  - Must meet definition of core
  - The instructor and student must have ongoing access to one another for teaching, evaluating and providing assistance.
  - The instructor and student must have regular interaction throughout the course.
  - The student's work must be available for evaluation and validation.
  - Grading of the student's work must be conducted by appropriate academic authorities.
  - The course includes a defined time period for completion.
  - The course is acceptable for any student and is placed on the high school transcript.

### Time Limit for Core Courses and Test Scores

- Can I take core courses the summer after I graduate?
  - You must graduate with your class as determined by when you started 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - As long as you graduate with your class, you may use one (1) core course the summer after graduation.
- If I don't meet the test score requirement, can I retake it while I am attending college?
  - NO! You must receive the qualifying test score *before* you enroll full-time at your college.

**Test Scores**

If a student plans to attend an NCAA Division I college or university in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic years, use the following chart to understand the core course GPA he or she will need to meet NCAA Division I requirements. A combined SAT score is calculated by adding critical reading and math subtests. An ACT score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subtests. A student may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before he or she enrolls full time in college. If a student takes other test more than once, the best subtests from each test are used for the academic certification process.

When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, he or she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 0000 to send that score directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts **CANNOT** be used to an academic certification.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER BLOOMING SCALE			DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER BLOOMING SCALE		
Minimum Score	Score	Final Award	Minimum Score	Score	Final Award
3,400	400	37	2,700	80	69
3,300	410	36	2,720	80	69
3,200	420	35	2,740	80	69
3,175	440	40	2,875	84	73
3,100	440	41	2,900	84	73
3,025	470	47	2,925	84	73
3,000	480	47	2,950	84	73
2,975	500	50	2,975	87	76
2,900	500	50	2,950	86	75
2,825	530	56	2,925	86	75
2,800	530	56	2,900	86	75
2,775	540	57	2,975	87	76
2,700	540	57	2,950	86	75
2,625	570	63	2,925	86	75
2,600	570	63	2,900	86	75
2,575	580	64	2,975	87	76
2,500	580	64	2,950	86	75
2,425	610	70	2,925	86	75
2,400	610	70	2,900	86	75
2,375	620	71	2,975	87	76
2,300	620	71	2,950	86	75
2,225	650	77	2,925	86	75
2,200	650	77	2,900	86	75
2,175	660	78	2,975	87	76
2,100	660	78	2,950	86	75
2,025	690	84	2,925	86	75
2,000	690	84	2,900	86	75
1,975	700	85	2,975	87	76
1,900	700	85	2,950	86	75
1,825	730	91	2,925	86	75
1,800	730	91	2,900	86	75
1,775	740	92	2,975	87	76
1,700	740	92	2,950	86	75
1,625	770	98	2,925	86	75
1,600	770	98	2,900	86	75
1,575	780	99	2,975	87	76
1,500	780	99	2,950	86	75
1,425	810	105	2,925	86	75
1,400	810	105	2,900	86	75
1,375	820	106	2,975	87	76
1,300	820	106	2,950	86	75
1,225	850	112	2,925	86	75
1,200	850	112	2,900	86	75
1,175	860	113	2,975	87	76
1,100	860	113	2,950	86	75
1,025	890	119	2,925	86	75
1,000	890	119	2,900	86	75
975	900	120	2,975	87	76
900	900	120	2,950	86	75
825	930	126	2,925	86	75
800	930	126	2,900	86	75
775	940	127	2,975	87	76
700	940	127	2,950	86	75

Total concordance between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Establishes two separate standards

1. Athletically related financial aid and practice
2. Competition

## ELIGIBILITY

### There will be 3 Possible Academic Outcomes

1. **Full qualifier** = competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.
2. **Academic redshirt** = athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester).
3. **Nonqualifier** = no athletics aid, practice or competition the first year.

## FULL QUALIFIER

**Sixteen (16) core courses required in the following areas:**

- o 4 years English;
- o 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
- o 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
- o 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
- o 2 years social science; and
- o 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.

## FULL QUALIFIER

### Competition Sliding Scale

Minimum sum ACT or SAT (critical reading and math only) score that matches the 16 core-course GPA.

- **Example:** 2.3 core-course GPA requires 980 SAT (new SAT) or 75 sum ACT.
- **Example:** 760 SAT (new SAT) or 55 sum ACT requires core-course GPA of 2.875.

## FULL QUALIFIER

### Core-course Progression

- Must complete 10 core courses before seventh semester of high school (senior year).
- Of the 10 core courses completed by the end of the junior year, seven must be in the area of English, math, or science.
- These 10 core courses become “locked in” for the purpose of GPA calculation.
- A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used if taken after the seventh semester begins.

## ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

**An academic redshirt is created for those prospects that do not meet the “Qualifier” sliding scale requirement and/or the “10/7” requirement, but does meet the “Academic Redshirt” sliding scale and 16-core course requirement.**

## ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

### Requirements for scholarship and practice

16 core courses in the following areas:

- 4 years English,
- 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher,
- 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered by any school attended);
- 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
- 2 years social science; and
- 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.

**Minimum GPA of 2.0 in 16 core courses.**

### Academic redshirt sliding scale:

Minimum sum ACT or SAT score (critical reading/math only) that matches the 16 core-course GPA.

**Example:** Core GPA of 2.00 requires SAT of 1100 (new SAT) or ACT sum of 86.

## ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

- If these requirements are met an academic redshirt can receive an athletics scholarship his/her first year and practice with the team during his/her first term (i.e., semester), but cannot participate in competition or team travel.
- After the first semester is complete, in order to continue to practice for the rest of the year, the student must have successfully passed 9 semester credits with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

## NONQUALIFIER

### What If A Student Does Not Meet Either Set of Requirements?

He/she then becomes a **Nonqualifier** and...

- A. Cannot receive athletics aid during the first year.
- B. Cannot practice or compete during the first year.

## NONQUALIFIER

### Requirements for a NonQualifier to be eligible after the first year of collegiate enrollment

- Must pass a minimum of 24 credits during the academic year, which may include summer.
- Of those 24 credits, 18 credits must be earned during the regular two academic semesters (fall and spring) – CANNOT include summer.
- Must successfully pass 6 credits during each semester.
- *Football Only:* Must pass at least 9 credits during the fall term.
- Must successfully achieve at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

## REGISTRATION

- Complete the registration process with the NCAA Eligibility Center at the beginning of your junior year at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- The Eligibility Center must receive official transcripts from every high school attended.
- SAT/ACT scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Eligibility Center. The code for the EC is "9999". Scores on a high school transcript will NOT be accepted.

## AMATEURISM

- During the registration process, you will answer a series of questions. These questions are intended to evaluate your amateurism status.
- Answer the questions honestly and as completely as possible.
- Use a valid and current email address. This is how the EC will communicate with you if they have questions about any of your answers.
- During your senior year (beginning April 1), you will need to log back into your Eligibility Center account and request final amateurism certification.

## Some Final Words

- **This is your eligibility. Take responsibility!**
- Identify your interest in college athletics to your guidance counselor early.
- Use the resources available to make sure you are meeting the requirements:
  - Guidance counselor
  - NCAA website
  - College compliance offices
- NCAA requirements and college admissions requirements are different. Fulfilling one does not mean you are OK with the other. Check with your potential colleges on admissions requirements.
- The NCAA and your college do not share documents. Therefore, you must always request two sets of documents be sent: one set to the NCAA and one set to your selected college.

DO WELL IN SCHOOL!!

