

## **The Game Plan for College Admissions**

A guideline of academic/athletic tasks for you to complete during high school is listed below. Stay in contact with your counselor and coach through out this process as they are there to help you.

### **Freshman & Sophomore Years**

#### **Academics**

- Take a strong academic course load so that you will be prepared for college level work and you will meet the NCAA requirements for competing in college sports.
- Take advantage of any study skills courses that may be available.
- Develop good study skills/habits.
- Get to know your counselor.
- Arrange for any special help that you may need in any particular classes. Ask for help before it is too late – don't wait until grades come out.
- Get information about careers/colleges.
- Talk with your parents about your college/career plans.
- Talk with your coach about college athletics.
- Become involved in other school activities/clubs to become a well-rounded person and increase marketability. Continue involvement through out high school.

#### **Athletics**

- Begin to develop a record of your athletic accomplishments.
- Attend summer camps for exposure, improved skills, and to compare your skills with those of your peers.
- Become familiar with the weight room and set up a weight program that will help increase speed, flexibility, and increase muscle – all helping to improve your game.
- Try to take weight-training class.

### **Junior Year**

#### **Academics**

- Continue to take rigorous academic courses.
- Work with your guidance counselor and coach to develop a list of possible schools you might attend based on your academic achievement and athletic ability.
- Register for and take the SAT or ACT during the spring.
- Visit college campuses and feel free to make an appointment to see the coach of your sport while you are on the campus. (It is legal for a junior to initiate contact with a coach). Make sure you visit the college when class is in session so you can attend a class.
- Develop a resume, which emphasizes your athletic career and also highlights your other activities. This document should also list selected academic information and the names of coaches who would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. You may also include any press clippings that have appeared in newspapers.

- Encourage your parents to attend college information night, Junior Parent Night, and all other college planning meetings.
- Apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse (more information on this in the next section).

### **Athletics**

- Work with your coach to develop a video of your skills to have available for college coaches.
- Continue to attend camps and clinics for exposure and continue to improve skills.
- Continue to use the weight room.
- Take Advanced Weight Training class (if possible).

## **Senior Year**

### **Academics**

- Continue to take a challenging course load.
- Keep your grades up – even after college acceptance (colleges can take away your offer of admission if there is a drop in your grades).

### **Athletics**

- Continue to work hard to improve athletic skills.
- Continue to use the weight room.
- Take Advanced Weight Training class (if possible).

### **What is the NCAA?**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a voluntary association devoted to the sound administration of intercollegiate athletics. Through the NCAA, member colleges consider any athletic problem that crosses regional or conference lines and have become national in character. The association strives to maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the educational program and the athlete as an integral part of the student body. The NCAA also stands for good conduct in intercollegiate athletics and serves as the colleges' national athletics accrediting agency.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association was founded in 1906. It is made up of 972 schools classified in three divisions (Division I has 318 schools; Division II has 261; and Division III has 393). Schools in Division I, which is divided into two divisions for football (Divisions I-A and I-AA), compete at the so-called major college level.

The NCAA sponsors 83 championships in 22 sports. Almost 24,500 men and women student-athletes annually compete for NCAA titles.

**More information on college athletics comes from the NCAA web site - [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Please refer to this website to find the most current information. You can order the Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete to find the up-to-date information.**

### **NCAA Division I**

Division I colleges are your major universities that must offer at least 6 varsity sports in men's and women's team. Division I football is broken down further into classifications of Division I-A and Division I-AA.

Division I-A schools must be able to seat at least 30,000 in their stadiums. They must also offer 7 men's and women's varsity sports teams, and play at least 60% of their football games against Division I-A teams.

Division I-AA colleges must have 6 varsity men and women's teams. There is no attendance requirement at their games.

### **NCAA Division II**

Division II schools must offer 4 varsity men's and women's sports teams and play half of their games against Division I or II schools. They offer less scholarships than Division I schools. Division II schools do not participate in a national play-off in Football and other sports.

### **NCAA Division III**

Division III schools do not offer athletic scholarships. Financial aid is offered on a need basis. Division III schools must offer 4 varsity men's and women's sports teams. More than half of their games must be against Division III opponents. It is possible for a college to compete in different divisions.

## **NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse**

If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, you must be registered with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Refer to the Academic Eligibility Section (listed below) to determine the initial-eligibility standards that apply to you. Please note that initial-eligibility certification pertains only to whether you meet the NCAA requirements for participation as a freshman in Division I or II athletics and has no bearing on your admission to a particular Division I or II institution. As eligibility rules do change it is important to stay in constant contact with your coach and counselor to ensure your eligibility. Do this early in your high school career to make sure you will be eligible to play in college.

### **Clearinghouse Registration Materials**

Your counselors can obtain registration materials, at no cost, by calling the Clearinghouse at 319-337-1492.

### **Registration Process/When to Apply**

You should apply for certification after your junior year in high school if you are sure you wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics (Division I or II) as a freshman. If you fail to submit all required documents, your incomplete file will be discarded after three years, requiring you to pay a new fee if certification is requested after that time. In order to be registered with the Clearinghouse complete the following:

- Fill out the student-release form completely
- Mail or fax the top (white) copy of the form to the Clearinghouse
- Be sure to include the fee. (The fee can be waived if you received a waiver of the ACT or SAT fee – information is specified on the student-release form.)
- Give the pink and yellow copies of the student-release form to your high-school counselor
  - o Who will then send the yellow copy, along with an official copy of your high-school transcript, to the Clearinghouse.
- The high school will keep the pink copy of the form for its files.
- After graduation, and before school closes for the summer, your school also must send the Clearinghouse a copy of your final transcript that confirms graduation from high school.

**If you have attended more than one high school or been home-schooled at any time:**

If you have attended multiple high schools since 9th grade, you must have an official transcript from each school. These transcripts can either come from each school or the high school from which you are graduating. The transcripts must come by mail directly from the high school (not from you). You should give the pink and yellow copies of the student-release form to the counselor at the high school from which you will be graduating. You may also need to make copies of this form and send them to the counselors at the other schools that you have attended. If you've been "home-schooled" for some portion of grades 9-12 and if you attended a "traditional" school for the other portion of grades 9 through 12, you are required to register with the clearinghouse. Faxed transcripts are not acceptable under any circumstances.

**ACT/SAT Scores**

Qualifying test scores are required for participation at both Division I and Division II colleges. If you intend to participate at either a Division I or II school, the test scores may be taken from your official high-school transcript or be sent to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agency.

When you register to take the ACT or the SAT, you can mark code 9999 so that the Clearinghouse will be one of the institutions receiving your scores; or alternatively, you can submit a request (and fee) for an "Additional Score Report" to the appropriate testing agency by indicating code 9999 on your request form.

**What the Clearinghouse provides to the colleges recruiting you:**

The Clearinghouse will send your eligibility status to any Division I or II College that requests it. Please note that the Clearinghouse will not send your eligibility information at your request; rather, the college must make the request for that information. Additionally, if no member institution requests your eligibility status, a final certification decision may not be processed.

**More information on college athletics comes from the NCAA web site - [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Please refer to this website to find the most current information. You can order the Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete to find the up-to-date information.**

### **Partial Qualifier**

A "Partial qualifier" is eligible to practice with a team at its home facility and receive an athletic scholarship during his or her first year at a Division I school and then has three seasons of competition remaining. A partial qualifier may earn a fourth year of competition, provided that at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has received a baccalaureate degree.

As a partial qualifier you have not met the requirements for a qualifier, but you are required to:

- Graduate from high school;
- Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses in the appropriate core areas
- Present a core-course grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) and a combined score on the SAT verbal and math sections or a sum score on the ACT based on the partial qualifier index scale.

### **NonQualifier**

A "NonQualifier" is a student who has not graduated from high school or who has presented neither the core-curriculum grade-point average nor SAT/ACT scores required for a qualifier. A nonqualifier shall not be eligible for regular-season competitor practice during the first academic year in residence and then has three seasons of competition remaining. A nonqualifier during the first academic year in residence shall be eligible for nonathletic institutional financial aid that is not from an athletics source and is based on financial need only.

A nonqualifier may earn a fourth year of competition, provided that at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has received a baccalaureate degree. A student with a diagnosed disability who was not a qualifier may earn a fourth season of competition, provided the student-athlete has satisfied specified procedures and has completed at least 75 percent of his or her degree program at the beginning of the fifth academic year after the student-athlete's full-time collegiate enrollment.

### **Partial Qualifier**

A "partial qualifier" is eligible to practice with a team at its home facility and receive an athletics scholarship during his or her first year at a Division II school, and then has four seasons of competition remaining. In order to be classified a "partial qualifier," you have not met the requirements for a qualifier, but you are required to graduate from high school and meet one of the following requirements:

- Specified minimum SAT or ACT score; or Successful completion of a required core curriculum consisting of 13 core courses and a 2.000 grade-point

### **NonQualifier**

A "nonqualifier" is a student who has not graduated from high school or who has presented neither the core-curriculum grade-point average nor SAT/ACT score required for a qualifier. A nonqualifier is not eligible for regular-season competition and practice during the first academic year in residence and then has four seasons of competition. A nonqualifier may not receive athletics-related aid as a freshman, but may receive regular need-based financial aid if the school certifies that aid was granted without regard to athletics ability.

## **Division III Academic Eligibility Requirements**

**These requirements currently do not apply to Division III colleges, where eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition is governed by institutional, conference and other NCAA regulations.**

### **Waiver of Bylaw 14.3 Requirements**

Waivers of the initial-eligibility requirements may be granted based on evidence that demonstrates circumstances in which your overall academic record warrants a waiver. All requests for such a waiver must be initiated through an NCAA school that officially has accepted you for enrollment as a regular student or if acceptance is contingent on a favorable subcommittee decision. You should contact the school recruiting you for more information about this waiver process. Students with disabilities may initiate the initial-eligibility waiver process on their own without the help of a member institution. Please contact the NCAA national office for more information.

## **Division 1**

### **General**

You become a "prospective student-athlete" when you start ninth-grade classes. Before the ninth grade, you become a prospective student-athlete if a college gives you (or your relatives or friends) any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to prospective students generally.

You become a "recruited prospective student-athlete" at a particular college if any coach or representative of the college's athletics interests (booster or representative) approaches you (or any member of your family) about enrolling and participating in athletics at that college. Activities by coaches or boosters that cause you to become a recruited prospective student-athlete are:

- Providing you with an official visit
- Placing more than one telephone call to you or any other member of your family; or visiting you or any other member of your family anywhere other than the college campus.
- In addition to general recruiting regulations, no alumni, boosters or representatives of a college's athletics interests can be involved in your recruiting. There can be no phone calls or letters from boosters.
- The restriction doesn't apply to recruiting by alumni or representatives as part of a college's regular admissions program for all prospective students, including nonathletes.
- You (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to sign a National Letter of Intent or attend an NCAA college.
- Letters from coaches, faculty members and students (but not boosters) aren't permitted until September 1 at the beginning of your junior year.

### **Telephone Calls**

In all sports other than football, phone calls from faculty members and coaches (but not boosters) are not permitted until July 1 after completion of your junior year. After this, in sports

other than football, a college coach or faculty member is limited to one telephone call per week to you (or your parents or legal guardians), except that unlimited calls to you (or your parents or legal guardians) may be made under the following circumstances:

- During the five days immediately before your official visit by the college you will be visiting
- On the day of a coach's off-campus contact with you by that coach; and
- On the initial date for signing the National Letter of Intent in your sport through two days after the initial signing date.

You (or your parents) may telephone a coach at your expense as often as you wish. Coaches also may accept collect calls from you and may use a toll-free (1-800) number to receive telephone calls from you on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year. Enrolled student-athletes may not make recruiting telephone calls to you. Enrolled students (nonathletes) may telephone you as part of a college's regular admissions program directed at all prospective students. Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may receive telephone calls at your expense on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year.

### **Telephone Calls - Football**

In Division I-A football, an institution's coaches may telephone a prospect once during the month of May of the prospect's junior year in high school and then not again until September 1 of the prospect's senior year in high school.

In Division I-AA football, an institution's coaches may telephone you once during the month of May of your junior year in high school and then not again until September 1 of your senior year in high school. Also, an institution's football coaches can telephone you as often as they wish during the period 48 hours before and 48 hours after 7 a.m. on the initial signing date for the National Letter of Intent. Outside of a contact period, a football coach may only telephone you once per week.

### **Contacts**

A college coach may contact you in person off the college campus only on or after July 1 after completion of your junior year. Any face-to-face meeting between a college coach and you or your parents, during which any of you say more than "hello", is a contact. Also, any face-to-face meeting that is prearranged or that occurs at your high school or competition or practice site is a contact, regardless of the conversation. These contacts are not permissible "bumps."

Currently in all sports other than football, coaches may contact you off the college campus no more than three times. However, a college coach may visit your high school (with the approval of your high-school principal) only once a week during a contact period.

Football coaches may contact you off the college campus seven times. However, no more than one contact per week may occur during a contact period, regardless of where the contact occurs. Also, a college football coach may visit your high school (with the approval of your high-school principal) only once a week during a contact period.

### **Evaluations**

An evaluation is any off-campus activity used to assess your academic qualifications or athletics ability, including a visit to your high school (during which no contact occurs) or watching you practice or compete at any site.

Currently in all sports other than football, basketball and ice hockey, institutions have seven permissible recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations) during the academic year, and not more than three of the seven opportunities may be in-person, off-campus contacts.

Basketball coaches have five "recruiting opportunities" to utilize on you during any year. In using those five opportunities, a basketball coach may use any combination of contacts and/or evaluations that equal five; however, not more than three of the opportunities may be contacts.

Football coaches may not evaluate you more than two times each year (May 1 through April 30). In football, only one evaluation may be used during the fall evaluation period and only one evaluation may be used during the May evaluation period.

In all sports, competition on consecutive days within a tournament (and normally at the same site) or that involves a tier of a tournament (e.g., regional) counts as a single evaluation. In addition, once you sign a National Letter of Intent, you may be evaluated an unlimited number of times by a college coach from the college with which you have signed.

In football and basketball only, there are certain periods (see recruiting calendars below) when a coach may contact you off the college campus and/or attend your practices and games to evaluate your athletics ability. In all other sports, contacts and evaluations may occur anytime except during a dead period.

### **Official Visits**

During your senior year, you can have one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus. You may receive no more than five such visits. This restriction applies even if you are being recruited in more than one sport. You can't have an official visit unless you have given the college your high-school (or college) academic transcript and a score from a PSAT, an SAT, a PACT Plus or an ACT taken on a national test date under national testing conditions. Your academic transcript may be a photocopy of your official high-school (or college) transcript. [Note: In this instance, the Division I school may use the services of the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to validate your credentials.]

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals, lodging and complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. A coach may only accompany you on your official visit when the transportation occurs by automobile and all transportation occurs within the 48-hour period. Meals provided to you (and/or your parents) on an official visit may be provided either on or off the institution's campus.

The complimentary admissions you receive may provide you seating only in the facility's general seating area. You may not be given special seating (e.g., press box, bench area). In addition, a student host may help you (and your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$30 per day to cover all costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money can't be used to purchase souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos. Additionally, during a campus visit, the school may provide you with a student-athlete handbook.

### **Printed Materials**

A Division I college that is recruiting you may provide to you only the following printed materials on or after September 1 of your junior year:

- Official academic, admissions and student services publications and videotapes published by the college

- General correspondence, including letters and college note cards (attachments to correspondence may include materials printed on plain white paper with black ink)
- Game programs (a college may only give you a program on an official or unofficial visit; colleges may not mail you a program);
- A media guide or recruiting brochure (but not both) in each sport
- Any necessary pre-enrollment information about orientation, conditioning, academics, practice activities, as long as you have signed a National Letter of Intent or have been accepted for enrollment;
- One student-athlete handbook. (A college may only give you a handbook on an official or unofficial visit. Effective August 1, 1997, a college may mail you a handbook once you've signed a National Letter of Intent or been accepted for enrollment.)
- One wallet-size playing schedule card in each sport.

In addition, a Division I college may show you a highlight film/videotape, but may not send it to or leave it with you or your coach.

Finally, a Division I college also may provide you a questionnaire, camp brochure and educational information published by the NCAA (such as this guide) at any time.

## **Division 2**

### **General**

You become a "prospective student-athlete" when you start ninth-grade classes. Before the ninth grade, you become a prospective student-athlete if a college gives you (or your relatives or friends) any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to prospective students generally.

You become a "recruited prospective student-athlete" at a particular college if any coach or representative of the college's athletics interests (booster or representative) approaches you (or any member of your family) about enrolling and participating in athletics at that college. Activities by coaches or boosters that cause you to become a recruited prospective student-athlete are:

- Providing you with an official visit;
- Placing more than one telephone call to you or any other member of your family; or visiting you or any other member of your family anywhere other than the college campus

In addition, no alumni or representatives of a college's athletics interests (boosters or representatives) can be involved in off-campus recruiting; however, you may receive letters from boosters, faculty members, students and coaches on or after September 1 of your junior year.

You (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to sign an institutional or conference letter of intent or to attend an NCAA school.

### **Phone Calls – General**

In all sports, telephone calls from coaches, and faculty members are permissible on or after June 15 before your senior year. After this, a college coach or faculty member is limited to one telephone call per week to you (or your parents or legal guardians), except that unlimited calls to you (or your parents or legal guardians) may be made under the following circumstances:

- During the five days immediately before your official visit (by the college you'll be visiting);
- On the day of the coach's off-campus contact with you; and
- On the initial date for signing the National Letter of Intent in your sport through the two days after the initial signing date.

Coaches may accept collect calls and use a toll-free (1-800) number to receive telephone calls from you (or your parents or legal guardians) at any time. Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may not make recruiting telephone calls to you unless the calls are made as a part of an institution's regular admissions program directed at all prospective students. Enrolled students (including student-athletes) may receive telephone calls at your expense on or after June 15 before your senior year.

### **Phone Calls – Football**

In Division II football, however, unlimited phone calls to you can be made during a contact period and once a week outside of a contact period.

### **Contacts**

A college coach may contact you in person off the college campus but only on or after June 15 before your senior year. Any face-to-face meeting between a coach and you or your parents, during which any of you say more than "hello" is a contact. Furthermore, any face-to-face meeting that is prearranged, or occurs at your high school or at any competition or practice site is a contact, regardless of the conversation.

These contacts are not permissible "bumps."

In all sports, coaches may contact you off the college campus three times. However, a coach may visit your high school (with your high-school principal's approval) only once a week during a contact period.

### **Evaluation**

An evaluation is any off-campus activity used to assess your academic qualifications or athletics ability, including a visit to your high school (during which no contact occurs) or watching you practice or compete at any site. In all sports, coaches may evaluate you an unlimited number of times.

In football and basketball only, there are specified periods when a coach may contact you off the college campus and/or attend your practices and games to evaluate your athletics ability.

With the permission of your high school's director of athletics, you may tryout for a college team before enrollment. The tryout must occur in a term other than the term in which the traditional season in the sport occurs or after your high-school eligibility is completed and may include tests to evaluate your strength, speed, agility and sports skills. Except in football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling, the tryout may include competition.

### **Official Visits**

You can visit a college campus any time at your expense. On such a visit, you may receive three complimentary admissions to a game on that campus, a tour of off-campus practice and competition sites in your sport and other facilities within 30 miles of the campus, and a meal for you and your parents or guardians in the college's on-campus student dining facilities.

During your senior year, you can have one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus. You may receive no more than a total of five such visits. This restriction applies even if

you are being recruited in more than one sport. A college may not give you an official visit unless you have provided it with a PSAT, ACT or SAT score from a test taken on a national testing date under national testing conditions.

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals and lodging. You also may receive three complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. In addition, a student host may help you (and your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$30 per day to cover costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money cannot be used to purchase college souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos.

### **Printed Materials**

A Division II college recruiting you may provide to you printed recruiting materials on or after September 1 at the beginning of your junior year.

In addition, a Division II college may show you a highlight film/videotape, but may not send it to you or leave it with you or your coach.

Finally, a Division II college also may provide you with a questionnaire, camp brochure and educational information published by the NCAA (such as this guide) at any time.

### **Division 3**

#### **General**

You become a "prospective student-athlete" when you start ninth-grade classes. Before the ninth grade, you become a prospective student-athlete if a college gives you (or your relatives or friends) any financial aid or other benefits the college does not provide to prospective students generally.

You become a "recruited prospective student-athlete" at a particular college if any coach or representative of the college's athletics interests (booster or representative) approaches you (or any member of your family) about enrolling and participating in athletics at that college. Activities by coaches or boosters that cause you to become a recruited prospective student-athlete are:

- Providing you with an official visit
- Placing more than one telephone call to you or any other member of your family; or visiting you or any other member of your family anywhere other than the college campus.

In addition, you (or your family) may not receive any benefit, inducement or arrangement such as cash, clothing, cars, improper expenses, transportation, gifts or loans to encourage you to attend any NCAA school.

An athletics department staff member, alumni or representative of a college's athletics interests (boosters or representatives) may contact you in person off the college campus after your junior year of high school. There is no limit on the number of contacts or the period when they may occur.

You may not tryout for a Division III college's athletics team. A tryout is any physical activity (e.g., practice session or test) conducted by or arranged on behalf of a college, at which you display your ability.

You can visit a college campus any time at your own expense. On such a visit, you may receive three complimentary admissions to a game on that campus; a tour of off-campus practice and competition sites in your sport and other college facilities within 30 miles of the campus; a

meal in the college's on-campus student dining facilities; and housing, if it is available to all visiting prospective students.

### **Official Visits**

During your senior year, you can make one expense-paid (official) visit to a particular campus; however, there is no limit on the number of campuses that you may visit if you initially enroll in a Division III college.

During your official visit (which may not exceed 48 hours), you may receive round-trip transportation between your home (or high school) and the campus, and you (and your parents) may receive meals, lodging and complimentary admissions to campus athletics events. All meals provided to you (and/or your parents) on an official visit must occur in an on-campus dining facility that the college's students normally use. If dining facilities are closed, the college is permitted to take you off-campus for meals. In addition, a student host may help you (and your family) become acquainted with campus life. The host may spend \$20 per day to cover all costs of entertaining you (and your parents, legal guardians or spouse); however, the money can't be used to purchase college souvenirs such as T-shirts or other college mementos.

Finally, a Division III college is permitted to provide you and your high school and/or two-year college coach any official academic, admissions; athletics and student-services publications published by the college and other general information available to all students.

### **Sample Questions to ask during your Recruitment**

The following questions and information were developed by the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (<http://www.ncaa.org/edout/saac/index.html>). The committee urges prospective student-athletes to ask these types of questions during their recruitment.

#### **Athletics**

1. What positions will I play on your team?
  - It's not always obvious.
  - Most coaches want to be flexible so that you are not disappointed.
2. Describe the other players competing at the same position.
  - If there is a former high-school all-American at that position, you may want to take that into consideration.
  - This will give you clues as to what year you might be a starter.
3. Can I "redshirt" my first year?
  - Find out how common it is to redshirt and how that will affect graduation.
  - Does the school redshirt you if you are injured?
4. What are the physical requirements each year?
  - Philosophies of strength and conditioning vary by institution.
  - You may be required to maintain a certain weight.
5. How would you best describe your coaching style?
  - Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline.
  - You need to know if a coach's teaching style does not match your learning style.
6. What is the game plan?

- For team sports, find out what kind of offense and defense is employed.
  - For individual sports, find out how you are seeded and how to qualify for conference and national championships.
7. When does the head coach's contract end?
    - Don't make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school.
    - If the coach is losing and the contract ends in two years, you may have a new coach.
  8. Describe the preferred, invited, and uninvited walk-on situation. How many make it, compete and earn a scholarship?
    - Different teams treat walk-ons differently.

## **Academics**

1. How good is the department in my major?
  - Smaller colleges can have very highly rated departments.
  - A team's reputation is only one variable to consider.
2. What percentage of players on scholarship graduate in four years?
  - This will tell you about the quality of their commitment to academics.
  - The team's grade-point average also is a good indicator of the coach's commitment to academics.

## **College Life**

1. Describe the typical class size.
  - At larger schools, classes are likely to be larger and taught by teaching assistants.
  - Average class size is important to the amount of attention you receive.
2. Describe in detail your academic support program. For example: Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, and faculty cooperation.
  - This is imperative for marginal students.
  - Find colleges that will take the 3.000 students and help them get a 3.500 GPA.
3. Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.
  - This will give you a good indication of how much time is spent in class, practice, studying and traveling.
  - It also will give you a good indication of what coaches expect.
4. What are the residence halls like?
  - Make sure you would feel comfortable in study areas, community bathrooms, and laundry facilities.
  - Number of students in a room and coed dorms are other variables to consider.
5. Will I be required to live on campus throughout my athletics participation?
  - If the answer is yes, ask whether there are exceptions. Apartment living may be better than dorm living.

## **Financial Aid**

1. How much financial aid is available for summer school?
  - There is no guarantee. Get a firm commitment. You may need to lighten your normal load and go to summer school in order to graduate in four years. You can take graduate courses and maintain your eligibility.
2. What are the details of financial aid at your institution?
3. What does my scholarship cover?
4. What can I receive in addition to the scholarship and how do I get more aid?
5. How long does my scholarship last?
  - Most people think a "full ride" is good for four years.
  - Financial aid is available on a one-year renewable basis.
6. If I'm injured, what happens to my financial aid?
  - A grant-in-aid is not guaranteed past a one-year period even for injuries.
  - It is important to know if a school has a commitment to assist student-athletes for more than a year after they have been injured.
7. What are my opportunities for employment while I'm a student?
  - Find out if you can be employed in-season, out-of-season or during vacation periods.

**More information on college athletics comes from the NCAA web site - [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Please refer to this website to find the most current information. You can order the Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete to find the up-to-date information.**