

Division & Sport Breakdown

Finding a college that fits you both academically and athletically can be a tricky task.

Even if you have the brainpower to succeed in the classroom and the skills to dominate your sport, finding a college division or association that fits you both academically and athletically can be a tricky task.

Check out the following chart. It outlines much of what you need to know—and be aware of—concerning the various college athletics divisions and associations. You'll learn whether the elite competition and top-notch facilities of a D-I school are where it's at for you, or if the smaller classes and chance to be a solid twosport athlete at a D-III put a smile on your face.

Upon reviewing this information, you'll know that D-III programs [both NCAA and NJCAA] provide no athletic aid. For divisions that do offer aid, each association [NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA] determines the total number of athletic scholarships available for each sport.

For scholarship purposes, sports are categorized as either headcount or equivalency. Headcount sports (e.g., football) have a set number of full

scholarships only. If an NCAA D-I college with 85 football scholarships offers one to you, it has 84 left for other players. Equivalency sports (e.g., baseball) also have a set number of scholarships, but they can be divided among any number of student-athletes. So if your sport has three scholarships available, a school can award a full scholarship to you, split the second between two athletes, and divide the third among three or more athletes.

When talking with college coaches, remember to ask whether your sport is headcount or equivalency. This will give you an idea of what kind of money is available.

Division	Benefits	Downside	Athletic Aid Available?
Division I & I-AA* *Football only	Practice clothing and athletic equipment provided // Several strength and conditioning coaches // State-of-the-art training and competition facilities // Top-notch competition	Larger class sizes // Athletic time commitment // Pressure to perform athletically // Cross-country travel	Yes
Division II	<i>Compared to D-I:</i> Better student-teacher ratio // Less pressure to perform athletically // Less travel	Less fan support for program // Athletic time commitment // Average facilities	Yes
Division III	<i>Compared to D-I & -II:</i> Better student-teacher ratio // Games played in immediate region // Easier to play two sports // Minimal summer commitment	Less fan support for program // No athletic aid available // Average facilities	No
NAIA	Good student-teacher ratio // Coaches have fewer recruiting restrictions // Less pressure to perform athletically // Transfer between schools is easy	Below-average facilities // Coaches may be faculty members // Athletic time commitment	Yes
NJCAA Divisions I, II & III	Opportunity to play right away // A chance to improve your GPA to get admitted to a four-year college // Division I programs can offer full athletic scholarships	Division II programs can only offer tuition, fees and books // Division III programs do not offer athletic aid // Below-average facilities	D-I & -II: Yes D-III: No

Sport	Division							
	NCAA	NCAA	NCAA	NCAA	NAIA	NAIA	NJCAA	NJCAA
	D-I M	D-I W	D-II M	D-II W	Men	Women	Men	Women
Archery	-	5	-	9	-	-	-	-
Badminton	-	6	-	10	-	-	-	-
Baseball	11.7	-	9	-	12	-	24	-
Basketball	13	15	10	10	D-I/11 D-II/6	D-I/11 D-II/6	16	16
Bowling	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Cross Country	See Track	See Track	See Track	See Track	5	5	30*	30*
Equestrian	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fencing	4.5	5	4.5	4.5	-	-	-	-
Field Hockey	-	12	-	6.3	-	-	-	-
Football D-I	85	-	36	-	24	-	85	-
Football D-I-AA	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	4.5	6	3.6	5.4	5	5	8	8
Gymnastics	6.3	12	5.4	6	-	-	-	-
Hockey	18	18	13.5	18	-	-	16	16
Lacrosse	12.6	12	10.8	9.9	-	-	20	20
Rifle	3.6	-	3.6	-	-	-	-	-
Rowing	-	20	-	20	-	-	-	-
Skiing	6.3	7	6.3	6.3	-	-	-	-
Soccer	9.9	12	9	9.9	12	12	18	18
Softball	-	12	-	9	-	10	-	24
Squash	-	12	-	9	-	-	-	-
Swimming	9.9	14	8.1	8.1	8	8	15	15
Synchronized Swimming	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Team Handball	-	10	-	12	-	-	-	-
Tennis	4.5	8	4.5	6	5	5	8	8
Track & Cross Country	12.6	18	12.6	12.6	12	12	30*	30*
Volleyball	4.5	12	4.5	8	-	8	-	14
Water Polo	4.5	8	4.5	8	4.5	8	4.5	8
Wrestling	9.9	-	9	-	6	-	16	-