

Are There Really Athletic Scholarships Available?

You bet there are!

Colleges and athletic departments are **very motivated to attract good athletes** to their programs. Athletic departments are well-funded because **winning teams boost attendance**, maintain alumni support and lift student morale. In fact, **a recent USA Today study** ("[Athletic spending grows as academic funds dry up](#)") shows that **the average college's athletic budget rose by 25%** between 1995 and 2001, while university spending increased only 10%. While not everyone on campus is happy about the **favoritism towards the athletic budget**, it's **good news for student-athletes**.

How many athletic scholarships are there?

There is even more good news for those seeking athletic scholarships: **Athletic departments** at NCAA colleges **spend in excess of \$4 billion** per year on their athletic programs. And roughly **one quarter of their budget(\$1 billion)** is **awarded annually as scholarships** to student-athletes!

Over **126,000 student-athletes receive athletic scholarships** each year from NCAA Division I and II schools alone. (**Division III schools aren't allowed to offer athletic scholarships**, but unofficially compensate by **offering other forms of non-athletic financial aid** to academically and financially qualifying student-athletes they want to recruit.)

How many student-athletes are competing for these scholarships?

NCAA's 1,265 member colleges and universities report that they have more than **355,000 student-athletes** playing each year. **Approximately 36% of these NCAA student-athletes receive a share of the \$1 billion earmarked for athletic scholarships.**

NAIA's 299 colleges and universities report that they have over **46,000 student-athletes** playing each year. Though **NAIA doesn't track scholarship or financial aid statistics**, they do report that **over 90% of NAIA institutions offer athletic scholarships.**

What are the odds of playing at the Collegiate level?

Only outstanding student-athletes are likely to make the jump from high school to collegiate play. NCAA recently published approximate statistics for several sports, **comparing** the number of **graduating High School** athletes to incoming **College Freshman athletes**. They show that the number of NCAA Freshman roster positions in the surveyed sports runs **between 3% and 13%** of graduating High School Senior student-athletes. (Note: these figures don't include the NAIA colleges or the Junior Colleges.)

Student-Athletes	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball	Men's Ice Hockey	Men's Soccer
High School Student-Athletes	549,500	456,900	983,600	455,300	29,900	321,400
High School Senior Student-Athletes	157,000	130,500	281,000	130,100	8,500	91,800
NCAA Student-Athletes (all divisions)	15,700	14,400	56,500	25,700	3,700	18,200
NCAA Freshman Roster Positions (all divisions)	4,500	4,100	16,200	7,300	1,100	5,200
NCAA Senior Student-Athletes (all divisions)	3,500	3,200	12,600	5,700	800	4,100
Percent High School to NCAA (all divisions)	2.9%	3.1%	5.8%	5.6%	12.9%	5.7%

What's this mean to you?

If you're a high school student-athlete who wants to play at the college level, this means **you need to get noticed** by the college athletic recruiters, **you need to stand out**, and **you need to sell yourself effectively**. That's what the **Recruit-Me System helps you do**.