NAIA Eligibility
The NAIA are the experts in the business of small college athletics. We intentionally teach character and prepare student-athletes to be tomorrow’s leaders. We develop Champions of Character® through our core values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Sportsmanship
- Servant Leadership
About the NAIA

- More than $800 million in scholarships annually
- 77,000+ student athletes
- 250+ schools; 21 conferences
- 27 national championships
Reasons to choose the NAIA

- High caliber competition
- Play the sport you love; less than 2% of high school athletes compete in NCAA DI
- Take part in $800M in athletic scholarships
- Higher percentage of athletes competing in post-season; 17% post-season participation in the NAIA vs. 14% in NCAA DII and 10% in NCAA DIII
- Character development as our guide
- Tight-knit campus communications mean closer interaction, stronger relationships and personalized attention
- Expand your search to find the program that fits – NAIA schools offer you more opportunities
What Students Are Saying

- "You grow up watching championships and I just couldn’t believe that I was going to be on a team that was going to be considered one of the best in the country. I was given another shot to play while all of these other teams’ seasons were ending. I cried the first time we went to the national championship I was so excited."
  - Makenzie Montano - Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)

- "The NAIA allowed me to be a competitor again. Every athlete should consider the NAIA. It was as exciting to compete in NAIA as any other level. There is nothing lesser about it.
  - Anna Shields - Point Park (Pa.)

- "Competing in the NAIA can be so competitive so stepping up to that next level has been great."
  - Kayla Inlay - Morningside (Iowa)

- "Getting your hand raised and getting a team trophy. Being in the atmosphere and being around all the great competitors is amazing. I want to put my school and name on the map. I want to show all the hard work that we and our coaches have put in the whole year."
  - Tanner Irwin - Williams Baptist (Ark.)

- "I was blessed to be a part of Grand View's program with guys from different places all over the world. They established a unique team culture. We have a saying ‘one team, one family’ and it’s something that we really believe in."
  - Tim Johnson - Grand View (Iowa)
Where are our schools located?
Attending an NAIA School

- Visit our [homepage](#) to search for schools that fit your needs
27 Championship Sports
Emerging & Invitational Sports

- Men’s Lacrosse
- Women’s Wrestling
- Women’s Beach Volleyball
- In partnership with the NFL – the NAIA is the first collegiate organization to start Women’s Flag Football
Recruiting in the NAIA

- NAIA recruitment rules *encourage* coach-student mentoring and development of a personal relationship
- Have direct connection with NAIA coaches at official NAIA Showcase events
- No communication restrictions between NAIA coaches and HS athletes
- Coaches *can* connect with student-athletes using texting, email, phone, Twitter, Facebook and any other social media
Recruiting in the NAIA

- No recruiting calendar restrictions
- 2 days of tryouts per NAIA school
- High academic achievers are exempt from the scholarship limits; high grades make students more recruitable
- Scholarship stacking allowed; multi-sport athletes can get scholarships in more than one sport to maximize school’s counting of aid
- Casting a wide net in athletic recruitment increases recruitment pool and increases the student’s chance to find a program with the right fit
Register at PlayNAIA.org
Student Registration Fees

- Students pay a one-time fee:
  - $90  Freshmen from the US & Canada
  - $135 Transfers from the US & Canada
  - $150 International Students

- Waivers are available based on need:
  - ACT/SAT fee waiver or Free/reduced school lunch
  - HS counselors must review the waiver request through the Portal
1. Registration
   • Create account
   • Confirm email address
   • Pay registration fee

2. Complete Your Profile
   • Enter all academic and athletic information
   • Submit your profile

3. Send Documentation
   • Complete tasks – get your file ready
   • NAIA Eligibility Center staff review your eligibility

4. Decision Complete
   • Play in the NAIA once eligible
Student Registration
Submit Documents

- **High school documents**
  - Required through the [NAIA High School Portal](#)

- **Post-secondary transcripts**
  - NAIA Registrar Portal
  - Parchment & National Student Clearinghouse
  - Mail
  - Send after completion of your attendance at each school

- **International documents**
  - Required through [www.InCredEvals.org](http://www.InCredEvals.org)
Sending High School Transcripts

- Transcripts must be official and come *directly* from the school.
- The eligibility center only requires a high school transcript from the school from the student graduates.
- Send transcripts *after* high school graduation, unless the student qualifies for an Early Decision:
  - 3.0 GPA – send after junior year (not earlier than junior year)
  - 2.5 GPA – send after 1st semester senior year
  - 2.0 GPA – send after HS graduation
- **Submission required** for fee waivers and U.S. high school transcripts through our electronic portal by your counselor.
Do you, or another valid user at your school, have an NAIA portal account setup already (separate registration from the NCAA’s portal)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
U.S. High School Portal

- Counselors are required to submit student transcripts through the portal
- First step: create an account on www.PlayNAIA.org
- This resource guide can assist you setting up a profile
- Transcripts and fee waivers are processed through the portal
Submitting ACT and SAT Test Scores

- Test scores must be sent *directly* from the testing service
- Test scores **CANNOT** be taken from high school transcript
- Contact [ACT](https://www.act.org) or [The College Board](https://www.collegeboard.org) directly to send your scores
- Use our test code: 9876
Sending Transcripts for Transfer & International Students

• **U.S. post-secondary transcripts**
  • Official transcripts required from all schools attended and must include final grades
  • Preferred through the [NAIA Registrar Portal](https://www.playnaia.org), also accepted through approved e-vendors or through snail mail
    • Registrars can create their account on [PlayNAIA.org](https://www.playnaia.org)

• **International documents**
  • Required via InCred beginning January 2021
  • Students order an evaluation on [www.InCredEvals.org](https://www.InCredEvals.org)
NCSA Pre-Eligibility Indicator Drill

- Students can create a free NCSA profile to test their NAIA eligibility with our partner, NCSA’s pre-eligibility projection drill
Eligibility Differences NCAA vs. NAIA

- No core courses in the NAIA
- GPA requirement is 2.0 cumulative for all courses
- No sliding scale; meet two of three (GPA, ACT/SAT or top 50% of class)
- NAIA Eligibility Center reviews transfer students and requires transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended
- Decision of eligible required to compete in the NAIA; can receive scholarships and practice prior to a determination
- Receive final eligibility decision as early as junior year so get started early
- Do not need to be on a coach recruit list to get an eligibility decision if coming straight from high school to college
  - Use this as a recruiting advantage – students stand out to coaches when proactive about their eligibility – help students get engaged early
Standard Entering Freshmen Eligibility Requirements

Test Score Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date test was taken</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 3/1/2016</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 3/1/2016 &amp; 5/1/2019</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 5/1/2019</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standard Entering Freshmen
Class Rank Exception

- Starting in fall of 2020 NAIA membership passed an exception to the class ranking requirement

- Students who meet the GPA or standardized test score but do not meet the class rank requirement can meet an exception by:
  - Earning 9 institutional credit hours prior to enrollment
  - College credit can be earned via summer credits, dual credit or AP hours accepted as earned on a college transcript
COVID-Related Exceptions for Entering Freshman

Entering freshmen exceptions arising out of the Spring of 2020

Please note these are a collection of some of the most important scenarios arising out of the COVID pandemic. To find out more information please go to naia.org/cvid19.

**WHO**

- Entering Freshmen
  A freshman is anyone who has not been identified for at least two semester terms of attendance or three quarter terms of attendance.

**WHAT**

Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Generally, entering freshman have to meet two out of three initial eligibility requirements: ACT/SAT test score; high school GPA; and/or high school class rank.

- Freshman seeking a decision for the **fall of 2020** or **spring of 2021** are able to meet initial eligibility requirements by having only a 2.000 final high school GPA.

**HOW**

- The NAIA Eligibility Center will apply the exception automatically.

**WHEN/WHERE**

- If a student utilizes this exception, then they would be eligible to compete in the 2020-2021 academic year.

- However, before they compete in their next season of competition, they have to have at least a 2.000 cumulative collegiate GPA.

Check out these **Updates**, **PDF Infographic** and **FAQs** for more info
COVID-19 Eligibility Impacts
A Flexible Response

- Cancelled 2020 spring seasons:
  - NAIA and college transfers receive an extra year of both in terms of a season of competition and receive two extra terms of attendance (equivalent of one year)
  - Not charging for outside competition from May 2019 to May 2020

- Distance/e-learning courses are acceptable

- Pass/fail grades are acceptable. Note: Only if a student was relying on a grade to advance GPA above the 2.0 threshold will going pass/fail impact eligibility

- No negative impact to future eligibility if a student delays high school graduation as a result of COVID-19
COVID-19 Eligibility Impacts Cnt’d

- High school graduation still required
- International students must still meet US high school graduation
  - Requirement to have comparability evaluated by InCred Evaluations
  - (InCredEvals.org) delayed until January 2021
- Homeschooled students can still meet automatic eligibility of
  elevated test score or apply to the Homeschool Review Committee
- Successful completion of a GED meets the 2.0 minimum &
  automatic eligibility exception granted
Sending Transcripts During COVID-19

- HS transcripts are still required through the NAIA Portal but individual exceptions will be evaluated on case-by-case basis.

- High school transcripts should be sent once high school graduation date is posted (now).

- Official transcripts are required from all post-secondary institutions a student has attended (College registrars can send through an NAIA Portal account, snail mail, or approved e-vendors of Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse or e-Scrip-Safe).
How To Help

- HS counselors – register for the online portal account and familiarize yourself with the transcript upload process; the NAIA’s required submission process
- Encourage early engagement to minimize eligibility review delays
- Promote awareness of the opportunities in the NAIA
- Visit updates and FAQ pages for specific & detailed scenarios
- Registrars – create online portal account for easy upload of transcripts or send through approved e-vendors or snail mail
Helpful Resources

- Sending Transcripts: setting up secure portal profiles
  - HS Counselors
  - College Registrars
- COVID-19 Updates
  - Updates
  - FAQs
  - COVID Freshmen Rules Updates Graphic
  - COVID Transfer/Current Rules Updates Graphic
- Student Resources
  - Decision Progress Guide
  - Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
  - Guide for the International College-Bound SA
- Freshmen Eligibility Rules
  - https://play.mynaia.org/media/1138/early_decision_freshman_requirements.pdf
- Transfer Eligibility Rules
  - 24/36 hr rule
  - Progress rule and seasons of competition
Connect with the NAIA on Social

- PlayNAIA
- @NAIA
Questions?

- Visit: [www.PlayNAIA.org](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- Email: Fill out the [Contact Us form](http://www.PlayNAIA.org)
- Phone: 816.595.8300