



STUDENT-ATHLETE PATHWAY TO A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Your priorities in Grade 9 – u14/u15 (Freshmen)

- Be aware of your social media, including comments and pictures, and what it says about you. Post-secondary institutions are known to investigate your social media footprint.
- Develop good time management skills which is necessary to balance school, sports, and a social life in this order. This is the same as a student-athlete at university/college.
- Start building your Player Profile to showcase your academic and soccer highlights.
- Research universities/colleges you would like to consider attending in the future
 - ✓ Canadian University/College List
 - ✓ American University/College List
- Reach out to at least 10 university/college universities and introduce yourself
- Visit at least 2 to 3 local universities within 1-2hrs to begin the process of finding the right fit for you.
- Review the academic requirements for eligibility for: (See 'NCCA Courses and Eligibility')
 - ✓ University/Colleges in Ontario
 - ✓ University/Colleges outside of Ontario in Canada
 - ✓ University/Colleges in the NCAA Division 1 & Division 2
- Review the [International Guide](#) for credit values per course to assure you are on track towards the 16 core course credits needed to be NCAA eligible
- Review the approved NCAA core course list for Ontario as each province in Canada has a list of core courses approved for use towards NCAA eligibility.

Applied	Academic
<p>Applied courses emphasize practical and hands-on learning, with abstract reasoning incorporated where appropriate. Applied courses in grades 9 and 10 prepare students for college preparation courses in grades 11 and 12. If the student plans to attend college in the future, entering the applied stream is recommended.</p>	<p>Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract reasoning, with practical learning incorporated where appropriate. Academic courses in grades 9 and 10 prepare students for university preparation courses in grades 11 and 12. If the student plans to attend university in the future, entering the academic stream is recommended.</p>

What do you need to graduate from high school?

18 compulsory credits

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

4	credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
3	credits in mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2	credits in science
1	credit in Canadian history
1	credit in Canadian geography
1	credit in the arts
1	credit in health and physical education
1	credit in French as a second language
0.5	credit in career studies
0.5	credit in civics

In addition, students must complete:

✓	12 optional credits†
✓	40 hours of community involvement activities
✓	the provincial literacy requirement

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

	<p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English or French as a second language** a Native language
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a classical or international language social sciences and the humanities Canadian and world studies guidance and career education cooperative education***
	<p>Group 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health and physical education the arts business studies French as a second language** cooperative education***
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> science (Grade 11 or 12) technological education French as a second language** computer studies cooperative education***

* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

*** A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits.

† The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.

University/College Pathway for Student-Athletes from Canada – What Canadian high-school credits will count for NCAA Eligibility

Each province in Canada has a list of core courses approved for use towards NCAA eligibility. Ensure you carefully review the approved core course list for your province.

- [NCAA Core Courses for Canadians](#)
- [List of NCAA Canadian Core Courses for Eligibility](#)
- [NCAA Core Courses for Ontario](#) (Use Code **998003**)

NCAA Initial Eligibility vs University Admission

It's important to understand that this is a **separate process**. Each university will have its own admissions process and it's important to check the websites of the University/Colleges you are considering. You must send your transcript and SAT or ACT test scores to BOTH the NCAA Eligibility Center AND the Admissions office of the universities. Be sure to contact the post secondary admissions office early to make yourself aware of all the requirements.

What are the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Academic Requirements?

To play Division 1 or 2 sports you need to meet the following academic requirements:

- Present an acceptable form of proof of secondary school graduation
- Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in the correct subjects
- Earn a minimum core-course GPA: 2.300 for D1 / 2.200 for D2
- Earn an SAT/ACT score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division 1 or 2 sliding scale

What's an NCAA core course?

Division 1 Core Course Eligibility

To compete at an NCAA Division 1 university, 16 core-course credits must be completed in the following areas:

- English/Native Language – 4 credits
- Natural/Physical Science – 2 credits
- Math (Algebra I or higher) – 3 credits
- Social Science – 2 credits
- Additional (English, or native language, math, or natural/physical science) – 1 credit
- Additional (English, or native language, math or natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion, or philosophy) – 4 credits

Division 2 Core Course Eligibility

To compete at an NCAA Division 2 university, 16 core-course credits must be completed in the following areas:

- English/Native Language – 3 credits
- Natural/Physical Science – 2 credits
- Math (Algebra I or higher) – 2 credits
- Social Science – 2 credits
- Additional (English, or native language, math or natural/physical science) – 3 credit
- Additional (English, or native language, math or natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy) – 4 credits

Classes that are not NCAA core courses include:

- Classes in non-core areas, fine arts or vocations such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.
- Personal skill classes such as personal finance or consumer education.
- Classes taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth. These classes are often titled basic, essential, fundamental, or foundational.
- Classes that are not academic in nature such as film appreciation, video editing or greenhouse management.