

Facts About NCAA Sports

Does the NCAA award athletics scholarships?

Individual schools award athletics scholarships. Division I and II schools provide more than \$3.7 billion in athletics scholarships annually to nearly 190,000 student-athletes. Division III schools, with more than 183,000 student-athletes, do not offer athletically related financial aid, but most student-athletes receive some form of academic scholarship or need-based grant.

Do many high school athletes earn athletics scholarships?

Very few, in fact. About 2% of high school athletes are awarded some form of athletics scholarship to compete in college.

Do NCAA student-athletes have difficulty meeting graduation requirements with the time demands of their sport?

While competing in college does require strong time-management skills and some thoughtful planning with academic advisors, on average NCAA student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.

Do many NCAA student-athletes go on to play professionally?

Fewer than 2% of NCAA student-athletes go on to be professional athletes. In reality, most student-athletes depend on academics to prepare them for life after college. Education is important. There are nearly half a million NCAA student-athletes, and most of them will go pro in something other than sports.

ESTIMATED PROBABILITY OF COMPETING IN NCAA ATHLETICS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Student-Athletes	All Sports	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball	Men's Ice Hockey
High School Student-Athletes	7,200,000	540,800	399,100	1,006,000	482,700	35,300
NCAA Student-Athletes	499,000	18,800	16,500	73,700	36,000	4,300
Percentage Moving from High School to NCAA	7%	3.5%	4.1%	7.3%	7.5%	12.3%
Percentage Moving from NCAA to Major Professional*	2%	1.2%	0.8%	1.6%	9.9%	7.4%

*Percent NCAA to Major Professional figures are based on the number of draft picks made in the NBA, WNBA, NFL, MLB and NHL drafts.

Note: The number of student-athletes in this table is current as of the 2018-19 academic year. NFHS statement to media (August 2021): Due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFHS and its state associations were not able to obtain participation information for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.



Over 500,000 Student-athletes
20,000 Teams
3 Divisions
1 Association