

Your Winter Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

December



Estimate your financial aid.

The [FAFSA4caster](#) gives you a free early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid, so you can get a general idea of how much you'll receive from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as what you have to make up in athletic/academic awards and loans.



Register for your first ACT or SAT.

This will give you enough time to retake the test to increase your scores and your chances of landing an academic scholarship. Don't forget to [add your scores](#) to your NCSA Profile.



Start tracking your [NCAA eligibility](#).

If you're interested in D1 or D2 colleges, make sure you have a good understanding of the [NCAA Sliding Scale](#), including [GPA](#) and [test score](#) requirements. While the NCAA is no longer requiring the SAT/ACT for the class of 2021, they [have not made any changes to other grad years](#).

January



Come up with a list of [recruiting resolutions](#).

Planning ahead and setting [SMART goals](#) will help you stay on track throughout the recruiting process. Focus on what you want to accomplish, and what steps you need to take to get you there.



[Pick up the phone](#).

The average college coach gets **less than seven phone calls a week** from recruits, so you're guaranteed to make an impression. Plan what you're going to say ahead of time, jot down a few questions and key facts and practice with a parent or teammate.

February



Get organized.

Keep track of where you are in the recruiting process for each school on your target list, [top matches](#) and [favorites](#). NCSA's Progress Cards help you visualize your to-do's and [next action steps](#).



Insider Tip:

NCSA's Progress Cards also show you what you should be doing next—and when, so you're guaranteed to never miss a deadline, even if you're at different points in the recruiting process with multiple colleges.



Review your transcript.

After you finish the semester, review your transcript to ensure that [you're on track](#) to meet the NCAA [core course requirements](#). Remember, you should have 10 completed core courses before the end of the year, and seven of those will be locked in.



Keep track of important dates:

- Regularly check the [D1 and D2 recruiting calendars](#), including the [NCAA's response to COVID-19](#).
- Make sure you understand [how the NCAA Recruiting Rules and Updates](#) affect juniors.