

The WCFS Strategy for Student Eligibility NCAA Division I & II Schools

THE NCAA BACKGROUND

Institutions

The NCAA has created new rules that take into consideration the modern world of online cyber and non traditional classes. The guiding rule is: every core course required for student eligibility must be individually reviewed and approved. Whether from a public, private, non-traditional or home school, every core course must be approved. No institution or course is exempt from the same approval process.

Students

Students can mix and match coursework across the entire academic spectrum; however, every core course must be approved if the student desires eligibility to play Division I or II sports in their freshman year. Homeschool students may use facilitating agencies like WCFS to assist presenting a student's courses, or they may join an appropriate institution that can offer a diploma through their own pre-approved courses.

Non-traditional Schools

Courses not offered in a traditional brick and mortar school, such as Correspondence Schools and Online Academic Programs have been classified as non-traditional. These schools classes are accepted on a course by course basis, the same as any other lawful school in their state or lawful jurisdiction. Maryland public school students may now take online classes as a part of their graduation requirements.

WCFS

Walkersville Christian Family Schools (210-521) is classified as a non-traditional school. We must offer approved courses and only those courses will qualify for student eligibility. We also qualify as facilitating agency that can assist the home school student in presenting their courses to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

The WCFS Strategy

Offering an Educational Program

WCFS offers a pre-approved curriculum that students can take directly from WCFS via enrollment in our "academy courses". This curriculum will grow by over time through our internal development process. However, courses offered will be comparable to our current version of WCFS Clinics, and these clinic courses are our first line of courses we wish to release for NCAA approval. This curriculum exists as the qualifying "offering of an educational program" for a bona fide church operated educational institution as per section 2-206, D, 4, of Maryland's Education Code. Students taking these courses will receive the approvals given to them by the NCAA eligibility division.

Tutor-Content Factor

The controlling factor of all WCFS "academy courses" will be the "tutor-content factor". All "academy courses" will be pre-approved as to content, methods and portfolio. These courses shall also be direct-to-tutor accountability courses that have fixed calendar deadlines that conform to accepted academic practices. As appropriate, it is our intention to submit qualifying core courses for NCAA approval.

NCAA Approval

Students seeking to play NCAA Division I & II sports are required to submit to the NCAA eligibility requirements. Simply put, this means that an eligible student has completed 100% of the minimum required core courses; and that these courses are approved by the NCAA as satisfying the core-course requirements. Students who lack 1 credit may

be eligible for Division I schools if they take that credit prior to their freshman year. Students who lack more than one credit are only eligible for Division II schools; they may make up as many credits as needed before beginning their eligibility. Walk-on student athletes will prove eligibility through the college they are attempting to walk-on as a team member, this includes providing eligibility through transcripts and any college courses required to gain eligibility. There are no eligibility requirements for students in Division III schools.

Activating the Eligibility Process

Students who hope to be recruited to play college sports need to consider the following process.

1. Take approved NCAA courses whenever possible.

If the course you are taking is not yet approved, it is important to get that course registered and approved; this is done by the institution offering the course. WCFS will work with each individual family in order to get approval for courses their prospective students will need for eligibility. Transcripts for these courses will be submitted by the authorizing institution, which will be WCFS for our courses. Other approved courses will require transcripts from the other institutions. Such situations are credits earned from attending another school prior to enrolling in WCFS (sealed transcripts suffice), credits earned from the local community college under a dual credit arrangement (these courses must be 100 level or above courses in a core subject), or online credits earned from another institution while attending WCFS.

2. Do an intensive course description and syllabus for each course offered through your homeschool program.

Home school courses are defined as courses taught at home by the parent. These courses cannot be pre-approved at the eligibility center; however, they are submitted after completion to the eligibility center for prospective NCAA student athletes seeking eligibility. As a rule, courses that satisfy the scope and substance of core courses, and that are completed in a verifiable manner are generally accepted. It is possible for such a core course to be denied after the fact, so preparation means everything.

3. Wait to be recruited by a Division I or II school.

The eligibility center does not open up a file for any potential student-athlete until that student has been recruited by a Division I or II school and that school contacts the NCAA eligibility center. Students not recruited by Division I or Division II schools must wait until they can try-out for the school's team as a walk-on. At that time, the college will review transcripts and make a decision regarding eligibility directly with the NCAA.

4. Finish your Junior year.

The eligibility process begins for students who have been recruited after the completion of their junior year. Transcripts and course approvals are resolved at this time. Conditional eligibility will be conferred as determined by the pre-approved courses or the post-approved courses for home school subjects.

5. Close out the Senior year with proper courses and passing grades. Our office is responsible to submit transcripts and will facilitate course approvals, whether before or after the fact.

6. Keep paperwork up-to date as the senior is completed.

One of the marks of a good athlete is a good student who self-organizes his or her life, living and workspace. Preparing for eligibility in the earliest years of high school will provide the biggest impact on acceptable academic performance. Be ready to give an account unto God and man! Contact the WCFS offices to set up a personal appointment to strategize and review your student-athlete's eligibility.