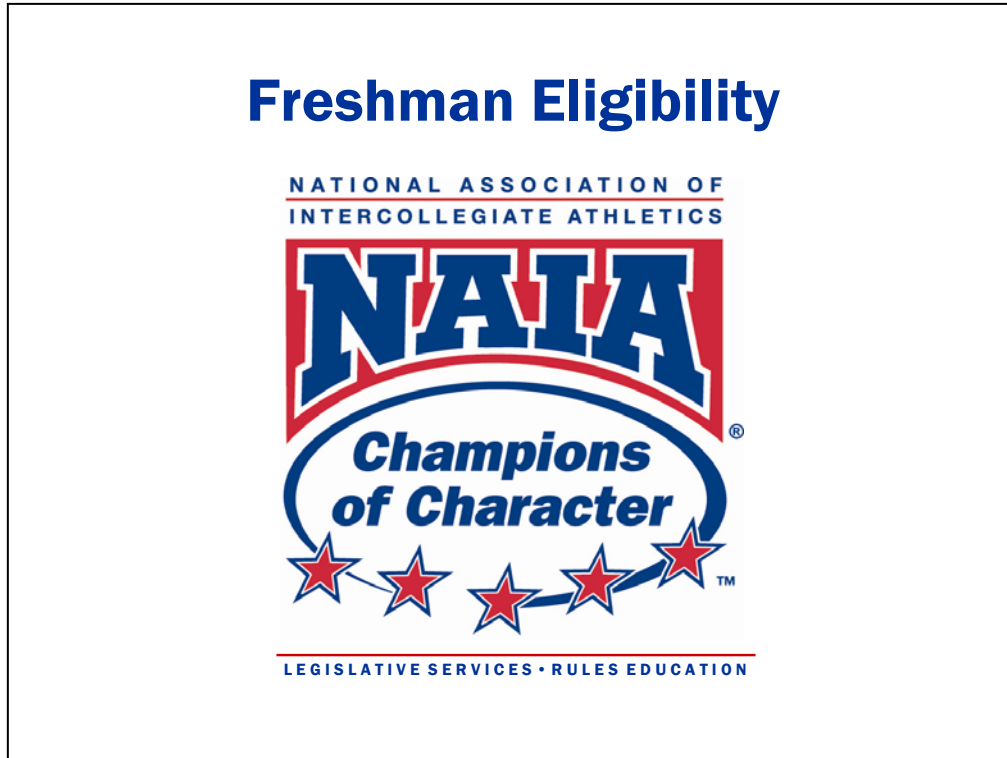



FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY RULE



NAIA Basics of Eligibility: Freshman Eligibility

Welcome to a discussion of the NAIA's Freshman Eligibility Rule.

FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY RULE



Freshman Eligibility

To be eligible for NAIA competition

A freshman must be:

- Graduate of accredited high school
- Accepted as regular student in good standing
- Meet **two** of **three** requirements:

Test Score
Minimum score of:
ACT — 18
SAT — 860 (**Critical Reading and Math Sections only**)

- ◀ National testing only
- ◀ ACT as part of state assessments

Let's talk about student's normal progression through their academic career at your institution beginning with freshman eligibility

It is important to remember that the NAIA freshman eligibility rules are different than rules other associations have including the NCAA. One thing we all have in common is that a student must be a graduate of an accredited high school or accepted as a regular student in good standing at your institution.

In the NAIA, the student must meet **two of three requirements** in order to be eligible to compete as a freshman.

The student must meet the **test score requirement**, which is a minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 860 on SAT. On the SAT, it is Critical Reading and Math sections only. The other important thing to remember on test scores is that they must be taken on the national testing date under national testing conditions. Residual tests taken on campus are not acceptable.

The only exception to the national testing date requirement is for students whose states use ACT for their state testing. There are three states we are aware of right now – Colorado, Michigan and Illinois who use ACT as a part of their state assessment and for “no child left behind.” If the student takes the test as part of the state testing in these three states, and any others who choose to contract with ACT in the future, it is considered to be acceptable and it is permissible for you to use the scores from that test.

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Test Score Minimum score of: ACT — 18 SAT — 860 (<i>Critical Reading and Math Sections only</i>)	High School GPA Minimum overall high school GPA of 2.000 on 4.000 scale	◀ Determined by high school
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The second requirement the student has to meet is **a high school GPA**, a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

We accept the GPA calculation the high school provides. We know many high schools have different systems for calculating GPAs, but we don't get into the business of second guessing high schools. Whatever the high school reports to us is what is used. If the high school says a student has a 2.5, then we accept that. If the high school says the student has a 1.98 GPA, we accept that as well. The high school determines what the student's GPA is. The only thing we require is that the student's GPA be recorded and awarded in the same manner as every other student at the high school.

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Test Score Minimum score of: ACT — 18 SAT — 860 (<i>Critical Reading and Math Sections only</i>)	High School GPA Minimum overall high school GPA of 2.000 on 4.000 scale	Class Rank Top 50% of high school graduating class
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The final requirement is that the student graduates in the top 50% of his or her graduating class. It is a strict requirement. If you're ninth in a high school graduating class of 17, it's not good enough.

Please remember is that you only have to meet two of the three requirements. We typically hear two different arguments from parents about the class rank issue.

One is the student doesn't test well. We are not going to agree or disagree with that statement. We will accept that if the parents tell us that it's true. This is why we use only two of the three requirements. For a student who does not test well, he or she has the opportunity to prove his or her academic ability to succeed as a freshman student by finishing in the top 50% of the high school graduating class with a GPA of 2.0.

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The other argument we hear from parents is that the student attended a high school that is very competitive with the number of outstanding students, and to finish in the top 50% of the graduating class, the student would have to meet an exceptional GPA along the lines of a 3.7, 3.8, or a 3.9 GPA. Again, we don't doubt this is true. We know there are many high schools that are very competitive and have some incredible students. But in that case a student who is attending one of these top high schools in the country has the ability to show again the academic ability to succeed as a freshman by attaining a minimum score of an 18 on the ACT, or an 860 on the SAT and a high school GPA of 2.0.

There are a couple of things to remember. One, this is not meant to be punitive. These scores and these requirements are in place to make sure that a student who is moving from being a high school student to a college student and then also a college athlete can make that transition. With the additional pressures and responsibilities that come with this move, we want to be sure the student is prepared academically to succeed. All of us would agree that our ultimate goal is to see the students at the end of their time at their institution to leave with a degree. That should be their top priority as they progress through your institution.

FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY RULE



Freshman Eligibility

Learning disabilities

Waiver process evaluates:

- Student's diagnosis
- Accommodations institution has made in past
- Assistance student will receive at your institution

Another topic that is important to discuss is students with **learning disabilities**. Obviously many students with learning disabilities still meet these requirements, and if they do there is no reason for them to go through any additional processes to be certified as eligible. But if you have a student who doesn't meet these requirements and has been diagnosed with a learning disability, there is a process that can evaluate the student's academic record and review their disability to provide an exception.

When appropriate, the National Eligibility Committee will provide a waiver for those students. Please note that these waivers are not automatic and require the student provide additional information. Your institution provides additional information regarding the student's diagnosis, what accommodations have been made to students in the past and what accommodations and what assistance the student will receive at your institution. The committee will evaluate all of these and determine what is appropriate for the student to compete during their freshman year.