Life in the Balance

Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced and inclusive approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. The Division II experience not only provides student-athletes the opportunity to earn scholarships based on their academic, athletic and leadership abilities, but it also offers the best championships-participant ratio among the NCAA’s three divisions, and it prioritizes preparation for life beyond graduation. Division II gives student-athletes the unique opportunity to compete in the classroom, on the field, in their career, for their causes, and on their terms.

Enrollment at DII Active Members

- 38.2%: 118 Institutions with 2,500-7,499 students
- 50.8%: 157 Institutions with fewer than 2,500 students
- 9.4%: 29 Institutions with 7,500-14,999 students
- 1.6%: 5 Institutions with 15,000 students and more

Average Number of Student-Athletes

- Schools without football: 281 (142 MEN 139 WOMEN)
- Schools with football: 448 (279 MEN 169 WOMEN)

Men

- Undergraduate enrollment is 511,498 (44%), 70,121 of whom are student-athletes (14%).
- Average number of sports sponsored is 7.1.

Women

- Undergraduate enrollment is 660,068 (56%), 50,313 of whom are student-athletes (8%).
- Average number of sports sponsored is 8.3.

Championships

- 12 men’s championships = 8,720 participants total
- 13 women’s championships = 7,929 participants total
- 1:7 Championships Participation Ratio*

*The Division II championships access ratio is the best in the NCAA.

Graduation Rates

Division II graduation rates (2006-09 cohorts)

- 49% student body federal rate
- 55% student-athlete federal rate
- 71% Academic Success Rate

Median Total Expenses

- Median total expenses by quartile (in millions)
  - 1ST QUARTILE OF SCHOOLS: (with football) $9.9 (without football) $7.5
  - 2ND QUARTILE OF SCHOOLS: (with football) $7.2 (without football) $5.4
  - 3RD QUARTILE OF SCHOOLS: (with football) $5.9 (without football) $4.1
  - 4TH QUARTILE OF SCHOOLS: (with football) $3.8 (without football) $3.0

Overall Median Expenses: $5.7 million
What is Division II?

Division II is a collection of more than 300 colleges and universities that conduct their athletics programs as part of the parent organization National Collegiate Athletic Association, whose mission is to:

1) Govern athletics competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner;
2) Integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount; and
3) Position college sports as a pathway to opportunity.

The NCAA’s three-division structure was created in 1973 to give member institutions a more varied menu from which to classify their athletics programs. Division II gives those programs that want to keep their athletics budgets in good proportion to the total institutional budget a place to compete.

Any response to “What is Division II?” should emphasize:

- Our commitment to academic success;
- Our ability to award athletics scholarships;
- Our unparalleled access to NCAA championships; and
- Our balanced approach that allows student-athletes to “Make It Yours” – to experience all the campus and surrounding community have to offer.

Make It Yours

Division II student-athletes led the development of the Make It Yours brand enhancement adopted at the 2015 NCAA Convention.

Here’s what Make It Yours means for DII members:

- It’s making graduation a priority.
- It’s about earning scholarship dollars for your athletic ability and competing for national championships.
- It’s making athletics participation truly part of the college experience rather than just one aspect of it.
- It’s making lifelong friends at a campus whose size affords a more intimate setting.
- It’s making the academic experience more personal.
- It’s about professors, coaches and staff caring for you as a student.
- It’s about an experience in which you can be an active participant.
- It’s about a campus that is tight-knit enough to respond to individual student needs.
- It’s about having coaches who help athletes develop their resumes as much as their athletics skills.
- It’s about a custom-fit approach to athletics and education rather than a one-size-fits-all.