Division II is a collection of more than 300 NCAA colleges and universities that provide thousands of student-athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level of scholarship athletics while excelling in the classroom and fully engaging in the broader campus experience.

This booklet is designed to help athletics directors and other athletics department staff members tout the benefits of Division II membership to both internal and external audiences.

For more information about Division II, visit www.NCAA.org/D2.
Division II spans from New England to Hawaii, from Florida to Alaska, from Texas to Minnesota and from North Carolina to California.

Division II is the only NCAA division with schools in Alaska (Anchorage and Fairbanks), Puerto Rico (Bayamon, Mayaguez and Rio Piedras) and Canada (Simon Fraser).

Division II’s access ratio to NCAA championships is the best of the three divisions, with at least one of every seven athletes enjoying postseason competition annually (even more in some sports).

Division II believes in a balanced approach that integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students to focus fully on their academic pursuits and participate in other campus and community activities.

In a recent survey of current Division II athletes, 95 percent of them said they would recommend a Division II experience to a prospective student. A similar percentage (93 percent) of athletes 10 years removed from their DII athletics experience said they would recommend Division II to a prospect. That represents an ongoing and lasting impact!
Division II student-athletes are competitive, skilled and passionate about their sports.

Coaches on the recruiting trail have found that prospects are attracted to the idea of becoming an All-American and competing for a national title – both of which are plentiful in Division II.

DII athletes are featured on more than 100 national broadcasts, including 25 regular-season and postseason football games, 48 regular-season men’s and women’s basketball games, six nationally televised postseason basketball games and 10 regular-season games in other sports. All other championships are streamed live on NCAA.com.

DII athletics events are held in intimate and family-friendly settings. DII athletes can be highly regarded for their athletics ability – so much so that when they return to campus in 10 years, people will know who they are.

Several years ago, one of our basketball recruits was being offered scholarships at Division I schools but was told he’d probably redshirt his freshman year and then they would ‘see how things go’ after that. Our coach told him he’d start every game and become one of the greatest athletes ever to play here, and that’s exactly what happened.

Bill Fusco
Director of Athletics
Sonoma State University
Division II means access to NCAA championships

- Division II sponsors and fully funds 25 national championships—12 in men’s sports and 13 in women’s sports—that annually give the more than 16,000 student-athletes who participate in them the experience of a lifetime.

- Of the three divisions, Division II provides its athletes with the most access to championships competition (one championships opportunity for every seven athletes in highly sponsored sports such as basketball, volleyball and track; the ratio is even higher in sports such as lacrosse and field hockey).

- Most Division II championships have large brackets, which means there are several berths for each of the division’s eight competition regions.

- Division II is the only NCAA division that conducts “National Championships Festivals,” an Olympic-style event in which a number of national championships are held at a single site during a period of several days.

“Division II coaches often recruit prospects who are persuaded by the opportunity to compete for a national championship, and they know that those chances are more plentiful in Division II.”

Mark Corino
Director of Athletics
Caldwell University
Division II’s academic philosophy calls for a comprehensive program of learning and development in a personal setting. Graduation rates indicate the model’s success, as student-athletes graduate at rates about 6 percentage points higher than their student body counterparts. Also, Division II established an “Academic Success Rate” in 2006, which, unlike the federal graduation rate, measures graduation outcomes for athletes who are not receiving athletically related financial aid (it also includes transfers and mid-year enrollees). The ASR for the most recent four-year cohort is 71 percent.

**DIVISION II GRADUATION RATES (2005-08 COHORTS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Student body Federal rate</th>
<th>Student-athlete Federal rate</th>
<th>ASR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division II overall</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division II men</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division II women</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division II colleges and universities accommodate more first-generation students than any other division. Among a recent sample of approximately 20,000 college athletes, 16 percent of Divisions I and III athletes reported being first-generation college students, while 24 percent of Division II student-athletes reported first-generation status.
Division II means achieving balance

- Division II shapes student-athletes who graduate with the skills and knowledge to be productive citizens.

- Division II students are able to play sports, be integrated in campus life, do well in the classroom and graduate with distinction. They are able to have a much more well-rounded experience, because their seasons don’t last all year long.

- Division II students have an excellent opportunity to be highly skilled and highly decorated athletes, but the balanced approach allows them to become marketable in their career because they’ll have time to focus on their academic pursuits, their grades, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare themselves for life after graduation.

- Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities, which helps drive attendance at athletics contests, fosters relationships between student-athletes and community members, and develops more of a shared civic experience. Community engagement also strengthens the bond among teammates and fosters individual and personal growth.

“...You’re playing the sport because you love it, and you’re not in it for yourself or for proving that you are the superstar. Everyone is chipping in something to be a part of the team, which makes for strong and often lifelong relationships among Division II student-athletes.”

Pennie Parker
Director of Athletics
Rollins College
Division II is affordable

- Rather than being financially self-sustaining, almost all Division II programs are funded through the institution itself, just like other departments of the college or university.

- Division II’s “partial-scholarship” model for financial aid helps keep athletics budgets more in line with the institution’s bottom line. It costs Division II schools less than half as much to sponsor a competitive athletics program as it does in Division I (see accompanying chart).

- The median expense for Division II athletics departments with football is roughly $6 million, while that figure is about $15 million for Division I Football Championship Subdivision programs and about $64 million for programs in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision.

- A recent study demonstrated that a school moving from Division II to Division I experienced an average real increase in athletics spending of $3.7 million each year. Only $500,000, on average, was offset by new revenue (tickets, media, agreements, donors, NCAA distribution, sponsorships). That means a reclassifying school would have to generate $3.2 million each year from other sources of funding (for example, increased student fees, state government support, transfer of funds from other campus departments).

### MEDIAN NET OPERATING RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Football Bowl Subdivision</th>
<th>Football Championship Subdivision</th>
<th>DI Schools Without Football</th>
<th>Schools With Football</th>
<th>Schools Without Football</th>
<th>Schools With Football</th>
<th>Schools Without Football</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generated Revenues</td>
<td>$44,455,205</td>
<td>$4,136,548</td>
<td>$2,666,733</td>
<td>$672,717</td>
<td>$336,441</td>
<td>$294,378</td>
<td>$109,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$63,958,569</td>
<td>$15,153,704</td>
<td>$14,321,711</td>
<td>$6,043,867</td>
<td>$4,556,170</td>
<td>$3,377,678</td>
<td>$1,697,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Generated Revenue</td>
<td>- $14,733,951</td>
<td>- $11,041,239</td>
<td>- $11,244,847</td>
<td>- $5,170,652</td>
<td>- $4,110,400</td>
<td>- $2,978,273</td>
<td>- $1,481,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a leader within the athletics department, you’re proud of the growth and development opportunities you afford your student-athletes. But some people who don’t understand Division II as well as you do think that the DII experience is somehow lesser than others in the collegiate sports menu. Here are some perceptions you might run into along the way and the realities to counter them:

**Perception:** Division II is a lesser experience.

**Reality:** On the contrary, Division II athletes are just as competitive as their Division I counterparts and in many cases just as talented. Compare DII championships results in sports such as swimming and track and field with conference championships results in the so-called “mid-major” conferences in Division I, and the fact is that the DII kids fare just as well or better.

**Perception:** Division II athletes aren’t good enough to play professionally.

**Reality:** Here’s just a sampling of pros and their DII alma maters:

- **Matt Adams** (MLB St. Louis Cardinals; Slippery Rock)
- **Tesho Akindele** (2014 Major League Soccer Rookie of the Year; Colorado Mines)
- **Lee Janzen** (Two-time U.S. Open golf champion; Florida Southern)
- **Billie Jean King** (Tennis Hall of Fame; Cal State Los Angeles)
- **Earl “The Pearl” Monroe** (Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; Winston-Salem State)
- **Chris Wondolowski** (2012 Major League Soccer MVP, U.S. National Team; Chico State)
- **Roberto Garza** (NFL Chicago Bears; Texas A&M-Kingsville)

**Perception:** DII athletes don’t succeed academically.

**Reality:** This one is really off base. On average, DII athletes graduate at rates about 6 percentage points higher than the general student body at DII schools. Plus, they have more access to their faculty mentors than at some larger schools, and they are not restricted in their choice of major.