

The Distinguishing Dozen

1 | **Graduation rates**

The Division II student-athlete graduation rate is consistently higher than that of the total student body.

2 | **Athletics scholarships**

The partial athletics scholarship model rewards athletics ability while allowing student-athletes to earn other sources of financial aid. A recent study on the financial impact of the partial-scholarship model in DII found that it generates revenue for the school, and that scholarship student-athletes boost institutions' overall academic profile.

3 | **Regionalization**

Division II's regionalization philosophy in scheduling limits missed class time for student-athletes.

4 | **Balanced bottom line**

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.

5 | **Favorable admission rates**

Division II membership is split almost evenly, with 49 percent of schools being public and 51 percent private. On average, Division II schools have the highest admission rate (70 percent, versus 62-63 percent in the other two divisions).

6 | **Access to education**

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

7 | **Community engagement**

Through student-athlete leadership, Division II has enjoyed long-term and successful partnerships with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Team IMPACT and military groups. In addition, Division II is the only division to conduct community engagement activities at all championships final sites.

8 | **Positive game environment**

Division II members pledge to conduct athletics contests in a family-friendly environment that is civil and entertaining.

9 | **Unique geographical footprint**

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).

10 | **National championship opportunities**

Division II features ample opportunity for student-athletes to advance to national championship competition as a result of the division's generous championship access ratios (the highest among the three NCAA divisions).

11 | **National Championships Festivals**

Division II is the only NCAA division that conducts Olympic-style events in which a number of national championships are held at a single site during a period of several days.

12 | **Make It Yours**

This student-athlete-driven brand enhancement gives Division II student-athletes a rallying cry to celebrate their unique athletics experiences. In a recent survey of 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!

Question What are your "distinguishing dozen"?



For more information and resources, visit the "Tools to tell the DII story" link on the Division II homepage at NCAA.org.