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.

Our “Life in the Balance” philosophy was developed a decade ago and has withstood the test of time. The governance structure works diligently to protect that sense of balance in developing legislation and policy.

- 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.

Question: How does your athletics program emphasize “balance” at your institution?

As faculty, we're naturally inclined to emphasize the student side of the student-athlete, but we also understand the balanced approach in Division II. As such, we work to accommodate schedules so that the student-athlete achieves the balance that the division regards so highly as a defining attribute.

Paul Engelmann
Faculty Athletics Representative, University of Central Missouri

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