Our Three Divisions

The NCAA’s three divisions were created in 1973 to align like-minded campuses in the areas of philosophy, competition and opportunity.

What are the eligibility requirements in each division?
College-bound students who want to compete at a Division I or Division II school must meet standards set by NCAA members. For Division III, athletes must meet the admissions standards set by the school. Eligibility standards can be found at eligibilitycenter.org.

How is each division governed?
NCAA schools develop and approve legislation for their own division. Groups of presidents and chancellors lead each division in the form of committees with regularly scheduled meetings.

Did you know?
Division I manages the largest athletics budgets. The average for schools in the Football Bowl Subdivision is $65.9 million.

Division II provides one championship opportunity for every seven athletes, the highest championship access ratio in the NCAA.

Division III has the highest graduation rate among athletes: 87%.

Learn more at ncaa.org/about.