How We Support College Athletes

Opportunities and Experiences

- Each year, the NCAA funds 90 championships in 24 sports, including paying for almost 14 million miles of travel to get athletes to the competitions.

- More than 90% of former student-athletes reported they were satisfied with their overall college experience.

Financial Assistance

- NCAA schools award more than $3.2 billion in athletics scholarships every year to more than 175,000 student-athletes.

- The NCAA finances a Student Assistance Fund of more than $80 million each year to help Division I athletes with essential needs, from flying home for a family emergency to buying a winter coat.

- The NCAA funds an insurance policy covering all college athletes who experience catastrophic injuries while playing or practicing their sport — providing up to $20 million in lifetime insurance benefits.

- To support the nutritional needs of student-athletes, Divisions I and II schools can provide unlimited meals. Some schools have nutritionists and other health professionals to work with players.

Wellness and Insurance

- The NCAA’s Sport Science Institute promotes health and safety through research and training on concussions, overuse injuries, drug testing, mental health, sexual assault and more.

Academic Services

- NCAA schools help student-athletes succeed in the classroom by providing state-of-the-art technology, tutoring and access to academic advisors.

- Since 2004, more than 15,000 former college athletes in Division I have returned to campus to complete their degrees. The NCAA offers a degree-completion program, and schools can fund additional scholarships to help former athletes graduate.

- More than 8 in 10 student-athletes at Division I schools earn bachelor’s degrees. That is their highest rate ever and higher than the rate for the general student body.

Personal and Professional Development

- The NCAA offers education and training programs, such as the Student-Athlete Leadership Forum and Career in Sports Forum, which are designed to enhance the well-being and personal development of college athletes.

- The NCAA After The Game Career Center connects former student-athletes with career-seeking advice and job postings for various industries and levels of experience.