

Grade 12

- 1. Continue to document your accomplishments and how your athletic goals developed over the summer; make an appointment to update you college counselor in August.
- 2. Have the best academic performance you have ever had during the fall semester- senior year is not a time to slack off!
- 3. Take the SAT, ACT, and/or SAT Subject Test(s) as needed before January.
- 4. Complete your online NCAA registration at www.eligibilitycenter.org if you have not already done so.
- 5. After graduation, your counselor will send your final transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center with proof of graduation

Final Reminders...

College coaches often look at the way in which a student-athlete and his or her family approach their academic responsibilities and the college process as a marker of whether to recruit that student. Character counts! Your St. Joseph's coach and your college counselor are here to help, but YOU are in the driver's seat of this process. Respond to the requests of coaches in a timely fashion; be proactive! Build key relationships; remember that communication between you, your coach(es), your parents, the Athletic Director and the Guidance Office is critical to making the recruiting process as successful as possible. Last but not least: The college coach does not admit athletes- the college admissions director admits students who happen to be athletes. Good luck in your journey!



Ten Things to Remember During the Recruiting Process

1. Succeed in the classroom. You must achieve certain academic requirements to be eligible to play college sports. Grades count!
2. Keep an open mind. Even if you have your heart set on one particular school, keep your options open.
3. Promote yourself to college coaches. Don't wait for coaches to find you. Call, write, or email coaches to let them know that you are interested in playing on their teams; register on their Web sites under "prospective student-athlete."
4. Use all of the resources available to you. Get your parents, your coaches (SJ and club teams) and the Guidance Office involved in the recruiting process.
5. Improve your entire package. Good character, a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and hustle are all important attributes that college coaches look for in players.
6. Attend showcases, tournaments, and prospect camps. These events are perfect opportunities to demonstrate your ability to many college coaches.
7. Explore all sources of financial aid. Many students receive other sources of financial aid, not just athletic scholarships
8. Learn about all your options. Become familiar with the different divisions. Visit www.eligibilitycenter.org for more information. Ask Questions!
9. Set goals and deadlines. Make lists of academic and athletic accomplishments that you want to achieve during each year of high school.
10. Have fun! Play for the love of the game!

**If you have any questions regarding the NCAA
Clearinghouse please contact:**

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ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Playing At the Next Level

A Guide for Prospective College Athletes



Do you want to play a sport in college? This guide serves as the framework for the guidance that St. Joe's provides to potential college athletes. St. Joe's coaches work closely with you and the College Guidance Office throughout this process. The level of college athletics at which you compete will depend on your talent and the commitment that you are willing to make to your sport. It is very important that you keep everyone, including your coach(es), your parents and your guidance counselor, involved and informed of your progress. Whether or not you play and, if so, the level at which you will compete, will have an impact on your college experience. It is a big decision; having an understanding of how the admission process works in conjunction with these decisions will make it easier for you to navigate through the process.

Grade 9

- 1. Talk with your coach(es) about playing at the collegiate level. He/she can assess your skills and help you with an individualized plan designed to continue to develop these essential skills; your coach will also help you to explore the option of age-appropriate camps to attend.
- 2. Set up a meeting with your guidance counselor, and Athletic Director (Kevin Butler) to discuss goals with you and your parents. Be sure to be documenting all of your accomplishments! The Guidance Office will begin a file with your information pertaining to you and your athletic goals.
- 3. Begin to fill out prospective athlete questionnaires on the Web sites of the colleges in which you are interested. Be sure to share the list of the completed athlete forms with your counselor and coach. Once you have completed the online forms it is appropriate to follow up with an email to the college coach to confirm your interest.
- 4. Succeed in ALL your courses! The better your overall academic program and performance, the more options you will have. The foundation for the future starts now!



Grade 10

- 1. If you haven't already done so, talk to your coach about playing in college. It is important to have your skills assessed and to implement an individualized plan to develop your skills.
- 2. Set up an initial meeting with the Athletic Director and your Guidance Counselor to discuss your goals. If this process started for you last year, then now is the time to update your coach and counselor on your accomplishments. Keeping the lines of communication open between your coach(es), both school and club if applicable, the Athletic Director, and the College Guidance Office is important in developing your athletic goals. Remember to document your accomplishments and note any contacts with college coaches you might make.
- 3. Familiarize yourself with the *NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete*, which is available on line at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Included in this valuable guide, you will find information regarding academic eligibility requirements, the differences between Division I, II, and III athletic programs, recruiting regulations, athletically related financial aid, and a complete list of NCAA-sponsored sports.
- 4. REGISTER for the NCAA clearinghouse. Create an account on www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- 5. Make satisfactory progress in all of your courses. Strive for the best academic success you can possibly achieve in the classroom.
- 6. In addition to your sport, continue to develop yourself personally through extra-curricular opportunities. Find ways to develop leadership qualities through your activities- athletic or otherwise.
- 7. Begin to fill out prospective athlete questionnaires on the Web sites of the colleges in which you are interested if you have not already done so. Be sure to share the list of the completed athlete forms with you counselor and coach. Once you have completed the online forms it is appropriate to follow up with an email to the college coach to confirm your interest.
- 8. Send emails to coaches updating them on your academic and athletic accomplishments; notify them of any visits you might be making to their schools.
- 9. Continue to develop your skills, attend camps and other opportunities, including college fairs, athletic nights, etc.
- 10. Begin to prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT, plus the SAT subject tests, if appropriate.
- 11. Prepare a highlight video if it is relevant to your sport.



Grade 11

- 1. If you are just beginning this process, now is the time to talk to your coach about playing in college. It is important to have your skills assessed and to implement an individualized plan to continue to develop your skills.
- 2. Meet with The Athletic Director, your coach(es), and your guidance counselor in the fall to finalize your athletic goals; are you using athletics as a hook for a top academic/highly competitive college? Are your goals set on competing at the highest level athletically possible?
- 3. Set up your testing schedule, update your athletic file, and, with the help of your coach(es), parents and guidance counselor, develop a list of schools. Be sure to focus on those schools that match your academic interests and athletic talents!
- 4. Complete NCAA clearinghouse registration at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- 5. When you register to take the ACT, SAT or both, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code "9999" as a score recipient. Doing this sends your official score directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- 6. Begin to fill out prospective athlete questionnaires on the Web sites of the colleges in which you are interested if you have not already done so. Be sure to share the list of the completed athlete forms with you counselor and coach. Once you have completed the online forms it is appropriate to follow up with an email to the college coach to confirm your interest.
- 7. When a college coach requests your transcript/scores, please submit all requests to the Guidance office and Mrs. Verespej. Be sure to include coach's name, school which he represents, and his email or fax.
- 8. Make sure you keep your Coach(es) up-to-date with a list of any contacts you have had with college coaches; ask your coach(es) to call/email your top choice college coaches on your behalf.
- 9. Send emails to coaches updating them on your academic and athletic accomplishments; notify them of any visits you might be making to their schools.
- 10. Continue to make your success in the classroom a priority. Balancing your sport effectively with rigorous coursework takes practice but is possible! If you strive to a higher level than the minimum NCAA qualifications, the more options you will have for college.
- 11. At the end of your junior year, your transcript will be automatically sent to the NCAA if you are registered. If you have attended more than one high school, the NCAA Eligibility Center will need official transcripts from all high schools attended. (They will not accept faxed or emailed transcript/test scores.)
- 12. Prepare a highlight video if it is relevant to your sport.