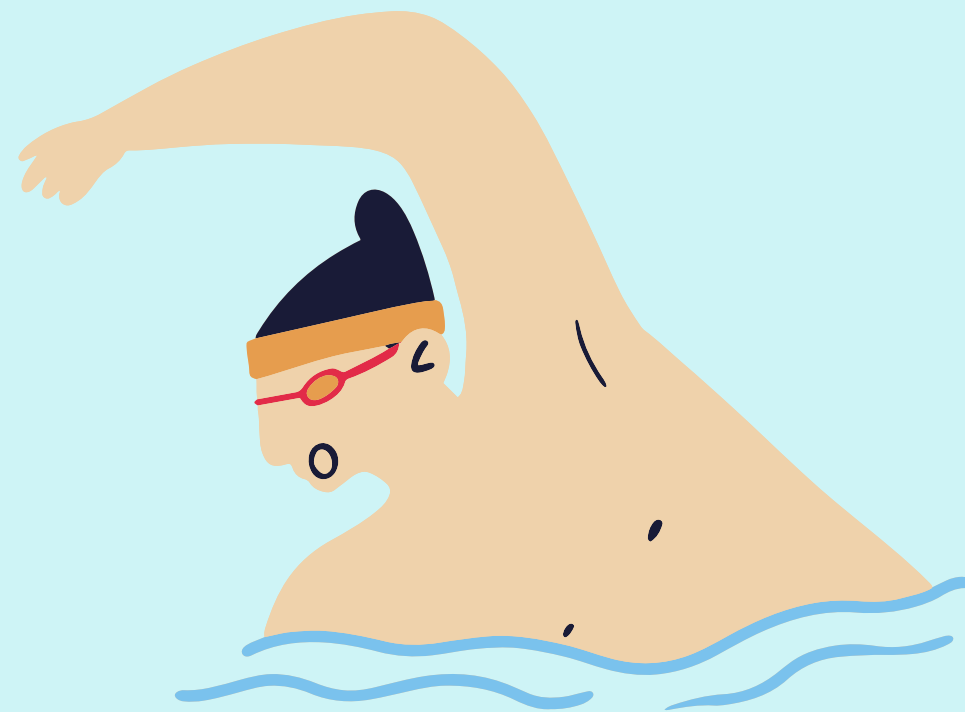




The College Application Process For Swimmers





So you want to swim in college?



There are a number of steps and important factors to consider when thinking about entering the world of college athletics including:

- Financial Aid
- Skill Level
- Academics
- The type of school you want
- And more!

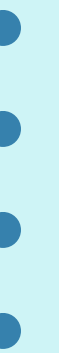


≡ How do you decide where to go to school to be a student athlete?

1. What the school has to offer **ACADEMICALLY!** Does the institution have the major or career path you want to pursue? Does the athletic program prioritize academics through study halls and practices?

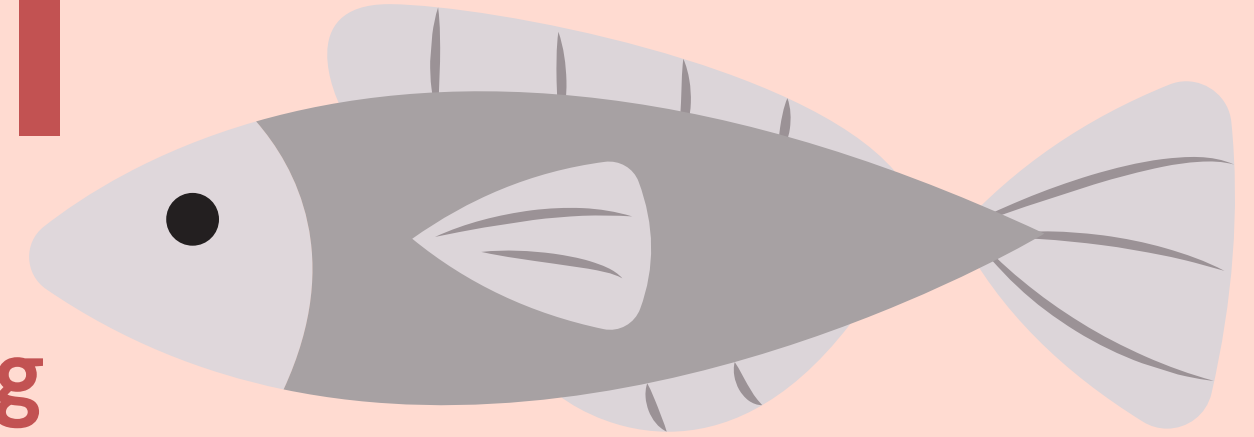
2. The amount of scholarship money offered to you

3. The athletic program, the team, and the coach. Can you see yourself for four years at the school? It's important to find yourself a program that fits you athletically!



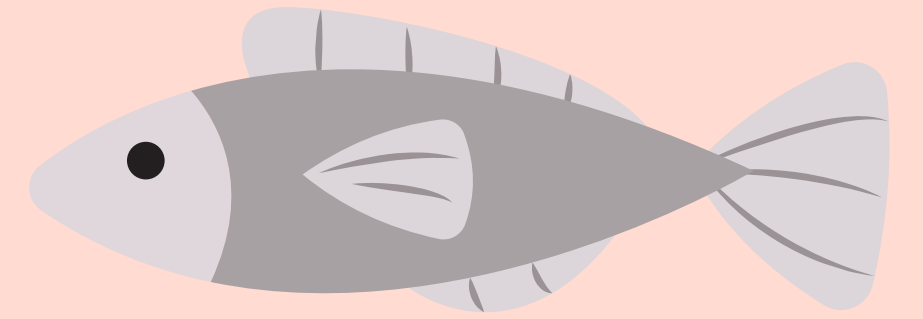
≡ Let's Get Real

It's important to be honest about your abilities as a student athlete when selecting what school is right for you



BIG FISH IN A LITTLE POND

If you're a "big fish in a little pond" the school might be a little lower in athletic ability compared to you as a student athlete. This would be like Tom Brady playing football for a school that never makes the playoffs.



LITTLE FISH IN A BIG POND

If you're a "little fish in a big pond" then the school you're looking at may be a little out of reach. You may have a chance of being a walk on (non scholarship student athlete with restrictions on competing) but you wouldn't be the top dog.

ONE FISH AMONG MANY

A student athlete at a school where they're "one fish among many" would be considered a good fit for the school. They're not Tom Brady, but they're also not going to be considered a walk on either



≡ Other things to consider



How to narrow your search!

- campus size
- housing/food
- location
- curriculum
- student/faculty
- ratio tuition and other costs



Now let's check what you need in high school to be qualified to compete in college!

Division I

[DI Fact Sheet Link](#)

Division II


[DII Fact Sheet Link](#)

Division III

You do not need to complete NCAA eligibility to compete at the Division III level. Individual institutions set their own standards for student athlete participation.



IMPORTANT

- Make sure that when you are picking classes in high school that they are NCAA compliant.
 - Each HS is different.
 - Talk with your high school counselor so that they are aware of your plans to be an NCAA athlete in college.
- 

≡ Registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse

The next step after identifying what Kind of school you would like to attend would be to register with the NCAA clearinghouse.

- Visit <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> and click on "Register" to start the process
- Student athletes should register at the end of their junior year to allow time for any eligibility issues
- The NCAA clearinghouse will process the eligibility status from the information provided as well as student transcripts

How to get a College Coach's Attention

Now that you know how to pick the best college for you and make sure your eligibility stays right, now comes showing your athletic ability off to schools!

- Make recruiting videos***
- Contact athletic programs and coaches via email or athletic resumes
 - Dear Coach
 - Recruiting Form Example LU
- Visit colleges
 - Official vs. Unofficial visits



Questions to Ask Colleges/ Coaches

Athletics

What role will I play on your team?

Describe the walk on process and scholarship opportunities.

Describe your coaching style.

Academics/ Student Life

What is your view on academics?

What does a typical day look like for a student athlete?

What percentage of athletes graduate in four years?

Recruiting

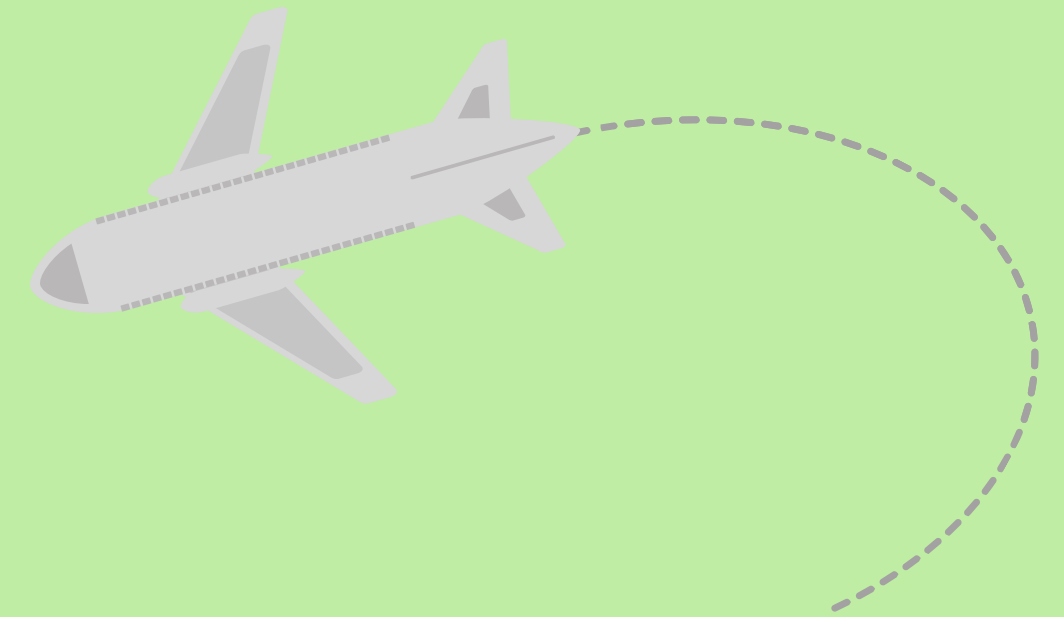
"Recruiting happens when a college employee or representative invites a high school student-athlete to play sports for their college. Recruiting can occur in many ways, such as face-to-face contact, phone calls or text messaging, through mailed or emailed material or through social media." (NCAA.org)

Certain sports have certain times where coaches are and are NOT allowed to contact high school student athletes. It is important to look into the specifics of your sport to maintain your eligibility.

[2023-2024 Men's Swimming Recruiting Rules and Calendar](#)

[2023-2024 Women's Swimming Recruiting Rules and Calendar](#)

Visits



Recruiting involves official and unofficial campus visits

OFFICIAL VISITS

The institution pays for the student athlete's trip. This can include:

- transportation
- lodging
- three meals a day
- such as home sporting events
- reasonable entertainment experiences

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

The student athlete or their parents pay for their visit

The only thing colleges can provide on an unofficial visit are three tickets to a home sporting event

As of July 1, 2023, there are no longer limitations on how many official visits student athletes can take to colleges.

Recruiting Tips

Here are some helpful tips when it comes to the recruiting process

- Always remember, just as you are evaluating if the school's program is a good fit, the school is doing the same for you.
 - Be respectful
 - Ask questions
 - Make good judgement calls
 - Talk with other recruits
 - Don't be afraid to let the coach know about other schools you are talking to

≡ The NLI

The National Letter of Intent



- After all of the classes, eligibility hoops to jump through, campus visits, and college phone calls come the most fun part of all: MAKING A DECISION!
- Division I and II programs require a signed NLI
Division III or NAIA programs will often do a ceremonial signing for student athletes to indicate their commitment to a certain program.
- Once an NLI is signed, other schools must cease the recruiting process for a student athlete
- The NLI is only for scholarship athletes, meaning a scholarship offer must be provided with it upon signing
- There are specific NLI signing days that make the document valid. If signed at the incorrect time, the NLI is invalid.

