

Your Fall Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

Start of Senior Year – August/September

- **Check in with your high school guidance counselor.**
[Confirm your NCAA eligibility](#)—once you start your senior year (seventh semester of high school), ten of your core courses are “locked in”—you can’t retake or replace any of these courses to improve your GPA.
- **If necessary, [retake the ACT or SAT](#).**
 While the NCAA is no longer requiring student-athletes to take these tests to be eligible to compete in the 2025-26 academic year, it’s still a good idea to take these exams, whether you’re trying to [maximize your scholarship opportunities](#) or improve your admissions chances at highly selective schools.
- **Make sure [your NCSA profile](#) is up-to-date.**
 As you reach the home stretch of your recruiting, your profile should be 100% complete—make sure you uploaded your most recent transcript and update your highlight footage and verified measurables/stats from summer recruiting events, camps or combines.

September

- **Keep Track of Important Dates**
 Stay up to date with the D1 and D2 Recruiting Calendars.
- **[Go on a campus visit or take a virtual campus tour](#).**
[Unofficial](#) or [official visits](#) provide a great opportunity to get some one-on-one time with a college coach, meet your potential team and tour the campus/athletic facilities, while virtual visits offer a safe, cost-effective option to get a good feel of the school.

October 1

- **[Complete your FAFSA](#) starting October 1.**
[The FAFSA determines your eligibility](#) for federal grants, loans and work-study funds [administered by the U.S. Department of Education](#). Try to complete it ASAP—aid is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. The FAFSA typically opens on Oct. 1 each year.

October

- **Refine and finalize your target schools.**
 Be realistic with your safety, target and dream schools—if you haven’t received an offer or much attention from college coaches, [expand your search](#) to include schools at all division levels.
- **Insider Tip:**
 Don’t stress! You can still find competitive programs outside of the D1 level. Maximize your options by [considering D2, D3 and NAIA schools](#)—some of these coaches recruit well into senior year.
- **Start applying to schools.**
 Keeping up with [admissions standards and deadlines can be tough](#)—make sure you know which schools have set applications deadlines, offer rolling admissions and whether they have their own application process or [use the Common App](#).
- **Keep track of college application costs.**
 While some colleges allow students to apply for free, [the average college application fee](#) was \$44 in 2020. If you’re applying to multiple schools, these costs can add up. The College Board allows you to [search for college application fee waivers](#)—whether you’re an in-state resident, first-year student or meet certain income criteria.

November 13

- **[Initial Signing Date](#)**
 For most sports—excluding football and basketball—this is the first (not the only!) day you can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. [Learn more about National Signing Day](#).