ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT

Student athletes who might be recruited by institutions classified as Division I or II must satisfy eligibility requirements stipulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The NCAA itself is the best source of information about technical matters regarding academic eligibility, recruiting rules, drug-testing, and related issues. The NCAA can be contacted in the following ways:

Online: ncaa.org
By phone: (877) 262-1492
By mail: a) general info: NCAA, PO Box 6222, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206-6222,
b) eligibility processing: NCAA Clearinghouse, PO Box 4043, Iowa City Iowa 52243-4043

Academic Eligibility

Students seeking to participate in Division I athletics must satisfy requirements set forth by the NCAA in their Division I Qualifier Index, a formula that takes into account GPA and SAT score. The minimum GPA to qualify for DI athletics is 2.0, and is calculated using only "core" courses specified by the NCAA. St. Luke's students need not worry about taking the right core courses since they are already included in the School's graduation requirements. The minimum SAT to qualify for DI play is a combined verbal and math score of 820. The bare minimum, however, does not qualify an athlete to participate at the Division I level; instead, the NCAA uses a sliding scale for comparing SATs and GPAs, where a lower GPA requires a higher SAT.

The standard for participation in Division II athletics is not as rigorous, requiring only that recruited athletes meet both the minimum SAT score (820) and the minimum GPA (2.0).

There is no NCAA eligibility requirement for students playing Division III athletics. Instead, DIII colleges unilaterally or as a league group establish their own institutional minimums for varsity play.

Time Table

Student athletes with the potential to be actively recruited in a given sport by college coaches should take the following steps to ensure the best possible outcome:

9th & 10th graders should ask the coach's opinion of their potential to play varsity athletics in college, and at what division level (I, II, or III). This early assessment of ability will help younger athletes realistically determine whether or not they might intensify their engagement with the sport in coming years, including summer camps and showcases. Game tapes should be made during each season of play throughout high school.

11th graders with the ability and desire to play varsity athletics in college should explain this to their college counselor during the first counseling conference in February. The college counselor will then consult with the SLS coach and athletic director to determine to what extent athletic recruitment might be a factor in college admissions. In the spring of the junior year, students with a strong potential to play Division I or II college athletics should send a "letter of interest" to college coaches, and explore ways of showcasing their ability for coaches during the summer, either on campus or at clinics. Near the end of their junior year, students should complete the NCAA Initial Eligibility form (online at ncaa.org or paper version obtained from the college counselor). In June following the junior year, the counselor will send the NCAA an official high school transcript and SAT results, which initiates the eligibility calculation.

12th graders, with the assistance of the School's coaching staff, should determine early in the fall which college coaches are most interested in recruiting them. Given this information in combination with the student's academic profile, the college counselor will then help the student estimate his or her chances of admission at various colleges. For student athletes who are athletically and academically attractive to a given college, an Early Decision application is a good idea.