



FIRSTPOINT USA

WORLD NO.1
in Sports Scholarships



Welcome to the Guide to American Sports Scholarships. The purpose of this booklet is to offer practical and impartial advice to FirstPoint USA scholarship candidates who are considering pursuing a sports scholarship to study in the United States of America.

Since 2001, over 8,000 FirstPoint USA student-athletes have taken advantage of the opportunity to pursue scholarships in America. During that time over \$200 million in scholarship awards has been secured by our team on behalf of our clients and their families.

As an All-American soccer player and Hall of Fame inductee at the University of Cincinnati, I have first-hand experience of the questions, concerns and considerations a family has to go through before deciding whether this is the right opportunity for their son or daughter. For many who apply to FirstPoint, the commitment required – both academically and athletically – will be too great a challenge for them to wish to take on. However, for some, like me, they will be highly motivated by the prospect of living a life of full-time academics and full-time sports at an elite level.

We have an excellent team here at FirstPoint and everyone has been a scholarship athlete at an American university who can share their own personal experiences with you.

This booklet is designed to help you understand the life of a college athlete and the process involved in FirstPoint securing a scholarship on your behalf. It should also help you evaluate whether this is the right option for you.

I hope this booklet provides you with much of the information that will assist you in your decision-making process. In the meantime, if there are any questions that either myself or the FirstPoint team can assist with, just let us know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Klein", followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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FIRSTPOINT USA AT A GLANCE: 01

FirstPoint USA was developed in 2001 with assistance from the Prince's Trust and has since secured over \$200 million of scholarship money for approximately 8000 athletes. The principal activity of the company is to work with over 2,500 US colleges & universities to assist with the placement of international student-athletes on sporting scholarships. In any given year, FirstPoint will receive up to 30,000 applicants from people Worldwide. FirstPoint currently places around 500 students each year, and is the World's No.1 in American Sports Scholarships. The company currently employs a team of 40 full-time staff, many of whom are former US collegiate athletes and FirstPoint clients themselves.



AMERICAN SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS: 02

The concept behind US sports scholarships is quite simple; it provides talented amateur sportsmen and women with an opportunity to pursue both an academic and athletic career simultaneously. A sports scholarship to a US university can cover many, sometimes all, of the costs associated with earning a university degree. In return, the student-athlete will represent the university in their respective sport and maintain a good level of academic performance.





AMERICAN COLLEGE SPORT:

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The college and university system in the US is significantly different from that in the UK, notably in the field of sports. University sports are a multi-billion dollar business in the US, with income drawn from attendance at sports events, sponsorship, TV rights and endorsements. This gives the universities the ability to offer full and part sports scholarships to student athletes (who always remain amateur) in many sports. Scholarships are available for a wide range of sports, from American football to basketball, soccer, hockey, golf, tennis, swimming & diving as well as track and field.



OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES: 04

Listening effectively to your needs and aspirations is at the heart of what we offer you as a client. By understanding your academic & athletic ambitions we're better able to provide an honest and comprehensive service to help you reach those goals.

- To work closely with you and your parents to maximise the opportunities presented by interested colleges & sports programmes.
- To guide you through all aspects of the US sports scholarship process, right up until your departure for America.
- To secure you the best scholarship award which suits your academic, athletic, financial and social needs.



BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM

FLORIDA GATORS

FLORIDA GATORS 3 15:00

10

20

30

40

50

FLORIDA

THE BENEFITS

06

TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETE:

The benefit for the student-athlete of attending a university in the US is gaining an education to degree level– wholly or partly paid for – life experience in the US, plus good coaching and performance opportunities. Currently the full cost of going to the US without a scholarship could be up to \$60,000 per year. It is unlikely that many of FirstPoint USA's clients could afford to fund that level of investment without the financial support of a scholarship.

TO AMERICAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

The benefit for the university is that they get a student athlete who will help them achieve sporting success, which is highly valued in the US and, in turn, helps to generate revenues for the university. The universities call for students to maintain academic achievement alongside sporting achievement and typically require students to maintain at least an academic 'C' grade average during their scholarship. The system is based on academic achievement at its heart; it is always emphasised that 'student athletes' come in that order – student first, then athlete.

WORKING WITH AMERICAN COLLEGE COACHES:

Many university coaches in America have used FirstPoint USA for several years. They know and respect that we assess every athlete before accepting them into the programme. The coaches also know that all FirstPoint USA clients are taken through the scholarship process comprehensively, which in turn makes their jobs easier. This 'kiss with confidence' approach means coaches will regularly contact FirstPoint with their identified needs. All told, FirstPoint liaise with around 2,500 universities in the US, with student athletes in almost every US State.

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

07





The process by which you could be considered for a sport scholarship can be a lengthy and complicated one. Unlike academic scholarships where you would simply submit an application indicating an interest in receiving funding to study at a university, students must engage in a highly-regulated recruitment process.

Sports scholarships are granted by the university or athletics association in which a university participates with athletic directors or coaches playing a central role in decision making.

Scholarships can be awarded for a number of different sports including: American Football, Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Rowing, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Swimming, Tennis and Football or as it is more commonly named in the US, Soccer.

Scholarships are provided on a yearly basis, generally renewable for four years which is the normal time required to complete a US undergraduate degree.



SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE AWARDED FOR A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SPORTS





THE ROLE OF A SPORTS CONSULTANT:

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My role as a Sports Consultant is to interview all applicants along with their parents to establish the candidate's credentials and suitability for a US sports scholarship.

During today's interview we will discuss what is expected of you as a client, as well as the realities of student life in the US. My aim is to establish your academic and sporting achievements, by taking up references, validating achievements (e.g. times, handicaps etc) and consider whether you are likely to be successful in achieving a sports scholarship.

All of our Consultancy staff are trained and encouraged to be frank, up-front, and honest about an applicant's prospects of obtaining a scholarship to an American university. This is generally well received; however, at times a parent's perspective of their child's sporting abilities can differ from that of our staff and/or the US Coaches we deal with. Soccer is one of the few sports where this "subjectivity" can be an issue as so much of a client's scholarship success is based on our, and the coaches, opinion of them as a player. Sports such as golf, tennis, running, etc are all measurable and US coaches will use these facts as a guide during the recruitment process.

We simply raise this point to highlight the fact that scholarship awards are based on the US coaches view and opinion of the player as they see them. We at FirstPoint will always work hard to promote you and to secure the most suitable scholarship for you but we will also be very honest on how we view your performance and suitability.

In July 2012, FirstPoint USA became one of the first sports scholarship agencies to become approved and certified by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association).

NCAA Division I colleges and universities are only permitted to work with scholarship agencies that are approved through the NCAA Scouting Service approval process.

The NCAA is recognised as the main governing body of American college sport. The association oversees 89 championships in 23 sports.



NCAA CERTIFIED & APPROVED SERVICE

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There are more than 400,000 student-athletes competing in three divisions at over 1,200 colleges and universities within the NCAA.

The approval process was implemented by the NCAA national office, to ensure compliance with legislated requirements governing the elements required to permit an institution's subscription and interaction with scholarship agencies and their prospective athletes.



OUR SERVICE TO YOU 16

Our service is comprehensive and tailored to your personal academic and athletic needs. For ease of understanding, the preparation & clearing aspects of the service have been broken down for you to review:

DESCRIPTION	STANDARD	ELITE
Academic Evaluation & Conversion Report	✓	✓
GPA Analysis & Calculation	✓	✓
Pre-Qualification of Athletic Eligibility	✓	✓
NCAA, NAIA & NJCAA Compliance Solutions	✓	✓
University Placement & Planning	✓	✓
University Admissions Assistance	✓	✓
Video Portfolio		✓
Sports Marketing & Promotion	✓	✓
Student Visa Assistance	✓	✓
Showcase Participation	✓	✓
FPUSA Scholarship Handbook	✓	✓
SAT Test Prep & Guidance	✓	✓
Academic Scholarship Search	✓	✓
College Deferment Option	✓	✓
US University Transfer Assistance	✓	✓
Post-Graduate Study Assistance	✓	✓
Pastoral Care & Aftercare Support	✓	✓

TIMELINE 17



1 - 3 MONTHS

WHAT WE DO

- Complete academic evaluation and grade translation report
- Calculate Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Gather academic & sporting data
- Create 'Sporting Profile'
- Build Video Portfolio

WHAT YOU DO

- Provide all of your academic and sporting information to our Client Services Team
- Book yourself in for a 'Filming Day' with our Media Team. This is used to build your video portfolio
- Start to think about your specific academic sporting and social needs

3 - 4 MONTHS

WHAT WE DO

- Determine eligibility status: NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA
- Develop marketing & promotional strategy
- Consider academic, athletic & financial need
- Begin shortlisting suitable US colleges and universities

4 - 10 MONTHS

WHAT WE DO

- Commence marketing to shortlisted colleges & universities
- Negotiate and broker scholarship deals
- Discuss offers and interest with Athlete and their Family
- Assist with university admissions process

WHAT YOU DO

- Commit to scholarship offer of your choice
- Complete the university admissions process

FINAL STAGES

WHAT WE DO

- Assist with Student Visa process
- Final checklist

WHAT YOU DO

- Complete Student Visa process
- Obtain Health/Travel insurance
- Book flights to the USA

WHY STUDY IN THE USA? 19

If you are considering going to University in The United States of America it is important to explore the cultural differences that you may encounter and how studying in the USA fits within your long term career aims. Also, thinking about becoming a student-athlete earlier will increase potential scholarship opportunities too.

When deciding what degree you would prefer to do, take the opportunity to see what career possibilities could follow from the subject you are interested in.

Interested in heading to the USA to study? You're in good company. Last year, over 10,000 UK students chose the USA for undergraduate study because it will allow you to:

1

CHOOSE FROM THE WIDE RANGE OF UNIVERSITIES ON OFFER:

There are over 4,500 US universities offering undergraduate degrees

2

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Many students are able to fund their studies through scholarships from US universities and external funding bodies. Every year over 600 US universities offer international students scholarships of \$70,000 or more. Scholarships can be offered on merit, financial need and extracurricular achievement but you will most likely be seeking a scholarship which will be offered in recognition of your ability to play sport.

3

EXPERIENCE AMERICAN COLLEGE LIFE

US universities are known for their vibrant campus life, marked by a plethora of opportunities for students to get involved on campus and in the community. There are literally hundreds of student organisations, athletic and campus events that allow students to pursue their interests in the arts, sport, leadership, voluntary service and more, all whilst getting their college degree.

4

HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO EXPLORE YOUR ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Generally speaking, the undergraduate curriculum in the US is quite flexible. It is perfectly acceptable to be undecided about your major or field of study when applying to university. US universities teach under what is called the 'liberal arts philosophy'. This means students take classes from a variety of subjects during the first 1-2 years of university study before specialising in their major field. Students also have the option to complete a 'double major', degrees in two academic fields, which are often completed within the normal four years of study. Students may also earn a minor qualification, which is awarded upon completing 3-5 classes in one field.

5

INTERNATIONALISE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR CV

When the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) surveyed 230 major UK recruiters, 65% of employers favoured applicants with overseas work experience. International students in the US have the opportunity to gain work experience during their studies and to work in the US for up to one year after graduation on the Optional Practical Training scheme.

6

TRAVEL IN THE US AND LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE

The US spans six time zones and has a great diversity in geography and culture. Long university summer holidays and programmes organised by the international students' office, such as holiday trips and host family schemes, offer students a great opportunity to see the US.

37:56
Never Give Up
To Learn

TOYOTA
#1 in Reliability



WHAT COURSE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

At University in the USA, your 'major' is the main academic subject that you will study on your degree. It is your field of specialisation during your undergraduate studies. You will also be required to study a core curriculum. Therefore, unlike the UK system in your first year (freshman) you will be required to study a compulsory core curriculum which may include Mathematics, Science, English, History, Logic and Philosophy, but which also allows you to choose electives in subjects that interest you. This is also your chance to take introductory courses in what you hope will become your main subject of study (known as your major).

In your second year as a Sophomore, you will complete the core curriculum and advance in some subjects to the next level. At this point if you have decided on a major subject you may begin taking classes specific to that subject. However, you are not required to formally declare a major until your third (Junior) year.

Your third year or Junior year should see you commence the advanced coursework for your major, which will see you build up to your fourth (Senior) year where you will complete your undergraduate study and take your final exams.

MONEY AS A DECIDING FACTOR

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For many clients, the amount of scholarship money offered – or more to the point, the amount of out-of-pocket expenses they and their parents have to be prepared to provide – becomes a major decision in choosing the college they will attend. Fortunately for one of our former clients Liam, he did not need to worry about those factors as we demonstrate in the case study below.

College coaches understand that the cost of attending college is an important factor for most parents and prospects, and they will be ready to talk about scholarship options (academic, athletic, etc) with you. However, college coaches would prefer you to choose their program and institution because of other factors such as their academics, their programme and the opportunities their institution will provide you when you graduate.

**ATTEMPTING TO PLAY
ONE COACH AGAINST
ANOTHER FINANCIALLY WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY HARM YOUR
REPUTATION**

Attempting to play one coach against another financially will undoubtedly harm your reputation and scholarship opportunities. Telling one coach that you received scholarship X from college Y, especially if it is not true, will alert the coaching staff (maybe incorrectly) that you are only interested in money. But, it is okay to tell a coach that you...

- Have received a scholarship offer from one or more institutions (be prepared to tell them which ones if they ask).
- Would like to attend their institution, but as it stands, your family cannot financially afford all the out-of-pocket expenses.
- Are willing to share with the coach the financial gap between what your parents can afford to pay and what they are expected to pay.
- Are exploring other avenues for scholarship and financial aid – academic, governmental financial aid and private scholarships.

Honesty in all communication with college coaches is important at every level – especially with regard to financial aid.

Although some college athletes receive a full scholarship, you should not enter a conversation with any coach believing that you will receive a full scholarship or that you deserve one. Coaches make financial choices based on certain criteria:

- The amount of money they have available for that given year.
- Your talent relative to the talent of the student-athletes within the programme.
- Your talent relative to the talent of student-athletes of the institutions they compete against.
- The need for your position during that given recruitment class.
- Their prediction on your development over the coming years and how that fits into the programme's future.
- Your current academic level and whether you will be able to progress, or at least maintain, a satisfactory level of academic standing. Poor grades will lead to an athlete being prohibited from competing and can result in loss of scholarship.



CASE STUDY: 26 LIAM DOYLE, MEN'S SOCCER

Liam had the interest of two coaches from the final two colleges on his shortlist. At this point, both coaches were feeling pressure and wanted an answer. They needed to know whether Liam was going to join their programme. His decision would not only affect their immediate recruiting needs, but it could change recruiting efforts two and three years down the road.

Coach Cook from the University of Cincinnati chose the pressure tactic in his final dealings with Liam. He demanded Liam make a decision by Friday afternoon at 4.00pm. The aggressiveness and lack of understanding from Coach Cook raised alarm bells. Liam knew he had to make a decision but he did not appreciate the pressure. At the end of the day, it was his life and his choice, and he was the one in control. Liam felt that it was his decision and no one should put pressure on him to make it by a certain time. Only one person was in charge of his recruiting process: Liam himself.

Coach Parsons from Ohio State University, however, understood that Liam needed more time to consider his options. Although he strongly believed his institution was a better fit for Liam, he wanted Liam to make that choice for himself. His patience and understanding won Liam over. Coach Cook's gamble of putting pressure on Liam had backfired, while Coach Parsons support helped Liam feel that Ohio State University was where he was genuinely valued, wanted and needed. On Thursday evening, Liam excitedly committed to Ohio State University, the soccer programme and Coach Parsons.

The recruiting process can be long and tricky at times and each prospective student-athlete will encounter all types of people along the way. It is a great adventure and a time for the prospects to learn more about themselves while they learn about other people and their lives as well. Liam received pressure and advice from many individuals who believed they had the right answers for him. It was important for him to gather information from people he trusted and respected. His parents, coaches and FirstPoint staff helped Liam navigate through the recruiting process.

Liam did have one last athletic step before he enrolled at Ohio State University. He signed a National Letter of Intent on signing day and a financial aid letter, which contractually bound Liam to Ohio State University for at least one year.

27 EXAMPLE SCHOLARSHIP OFFER.



Dear John,

I am pleased to inform you that the University of Cincinnati would like to offer you a soccer scholarship for the 2017/18 season and make you a member of the Bearcats.

The total costs to attend the University are as follows:

Tuition:	\$19,890.00
Activity/Fee:	\$300.00
Dorm Deposit:	\$350.00
Application Fee:	\$50.00
Room:	\$4450.00
Food:	\$2880.00
TOTAL:	\$28,010.00

The scholarship offer that we would like to put to you is as follows:

Soccer Scholarship:	\$13,980.00
Food:	\$1580.00
Housing:	\$4450.00
TOTAL:	\$20,010.00

The difference between the costs to attend the university and the scholarship package that we have offered you is \$8000; of which you will be responsible for paying for the year.

In the off-season there are opportunities to work here on the campus and therefore you should be able to cover the \$8000 cost yourself by doing some part-time work here at the university.

In addition to the \$8000 that you will be expected to cover for the year, you should also consider the costs of flights and the social aspect of living in America as these are not covered in your scholarship. The scholarship offer we have made you is significant in value and should you decide to accept it, you will become one of the biggest scholarship recipients in our current squad. Adding you to the program will help us in our pursuit of our first National Championship and I have no doubts that you will develop both academically and athletically here at Cincinnati.

I will need to receive your decision on whether to accept the offer within the next 7 days at the latest.

I hope that you will accept the offer and look forward to seeing you wearing the black and red of the Cincinnati Bearcats.

Yours sincerely,

Coach Dayes
Head Men's Soccer Coach
Cincinnati Bearcats

Cincinnati Bearcats

Every coach who contacts FirstPoint USA for players will be looking for different athletic and psychological attributes in their athletes. These characteristics can vary from coach to coach within a sport or athletic conference, and they can differ from one region of the country to another. The interesting thing about athletics and coaches is that an evaluation of a client is mostly subjective. What one coach likes, another may dislike.

There are some sports such as golf, track & field, cross country and swimming, however, where times and/or scores can demonstrate more accurately the athlete's ability. Each coach is looking for the best student athlete for his or her programme.

Beyond the accomplished FirstPoint client, coaches are always looking for future collegiate student athletes who have not yet 'peaked'.



WHAT ARE COACHES LOOKING FOR?

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Athletes mature at different rates throughout their career and consequently peak at different stages as well.

Development may depend on other sports in which an athlete competes, his or her physical maturity, and the length of time the athlete has competed in that sport. Many school-aged 'superstars' peak too early and do not have an accomplished collegiate career.

Every year college coaches are pleasantly surprised at the development of a relatively unaccomplished student athlete who turns out to be a very successful college student athlete. One of the most famous examples of this is David Robinson, who played just one year of high school basketball but developed tremendously both physically and technically during his time at the Naval Academy. David Robinson is now considered one of the best players to have ever played in the NBA.



SCHOLARSHIP MYTHS?

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The majority of people pursuing US sports scholarships are bombarded with myths and hand me down ideas from various sources regarding how best to become a competent and successful student-athlete. Due to these various interpretations, some people can get confused and frustrated about college and athletic recruitment which may lead to disappointment.

“Every athlete gets a full scholarship to participate in collegiate athletics”

- This is not usually the case. Some athletes do receive “full rides” to NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA colleges but there are many athletes who fund their college from academic scholarships in addition to the lucky few who receive athletic scholarships.

“Only the top athletes actively get recruited by college coaches”

- This, again, is not true. Top athletes get recruited to top programmes; but every college programme is looking for a balance of student-athletes, and many clients who were not heavily recruited do succeed. There is a college for every student and a programme for every athlete; and if you – as an athlete – wanted to pursue college athletics, you will find that you will be promoted to different programmes at various levels.

“Once a college coach says that you can be part of their program, the work is done.”

- Again, not true. There are many things that a prospective student athlete needs to achieve once he or she has been offered the opportunity to compete in collegiate athletics. Minimally, the student athlete still needs to be accepted academically to the institution, complete the NCAA eligibility requirements and re-focus his or her academic and athletic goals.

“You have a scholarship for all four years but the college can take it back from you if you do not perform well”

- Neither of these are true. An athletic scholarship is year-to-year; however, a college coach has to renew your scholarship and will likely do so unless you break team rules, become academically ineligible or decide to quit on your own.

ELIGIBILITY 33

Are you eligible to study in the USA?

Athletic associations govern college sports and set rules regarding scholarships and athletic recruitment. There are a number of associations that colleges or universities can join, most notably:

- **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)**

There are over 1200 member universities and colleges classified within three NCAA divisions (Divisions I and II being the most competitive). Athletic standards are high and the level of competition is intense. Only students with the very highest standard of ability tend to be recruited (www.ncaa.org).

- **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)**

There are around 350, mostly smaller colleges in the NAIA, organised by districts. Many NAIA colleges have excellent sports programmes and may offer some sports scholarships. The level of athletic ability is still high, although the standard is not set as high as for NCAA Division I teams. (www.naia.org)

- **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)**

Member colleges are accredited two-year institutions. The NJCAA is also comprised of three divisions, with scholarships offered only at the Division I and II levels. Division I colleges may offer full scholarships, and Division II may offer partial scholarships (www.njcaa.org).

Students hoping to be considered for a sports scholarship must meet normal university/college entrance requirements (published on the university admissions page) and continue to obtain satisfactory grades at university in order to receive and retain their scholarships.

As a guideline, various sporting authorities have set their own minimum academic requirements for competing students.

**STUDENTS MUST MEET
NORMAL UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Admissions Criteria

As a general rule, US universities will expect to see a similar type of qualification and results as British universities of a similar level of prestige and competitiveness.

As a minimum requirement for four-year Bachelor's degrees, you should have completed at least five GCSEs at grade C or above (or five Scottish Standard Grades), including English and Maths, plus be completing or have completed a post age 16 qualification. For Junior College, minimum academic results can be accepted.

A number of universities will accept a BTEC qualification. However if you have not completed the Extended Diploma you may not be deemed eligible to attend some NCAA Universities. There are a number of education providers in the UK who can offer you the opportunity to 'Top-Up' your existing BTEC qualification to the Extended Diploma. Call FirstPoint USA's Academic Team for more information about this.

Academic Performance

Your academic abilities will be evaluated in the first instance by your GCSE results and or your predicted A Level/BTEC results.

However, your academic aptitude will also be assessed through your performance on admissions tests. Admissions tests are used as a common denominator to compare applications from different US states (there is no national curriculum) and different countries.

The stronger your academic record inside the classroom and on standardised tests, the stronger your chances of admission. If you have done particularly well in your previous study, you may be awarded advanced standing by the US university you attend. However, academic achievements alone will not guarantee entrance to competitive US university programmes.

Unfortunately, there is not an official grade conversion between US and UK marks. Instead, US university admissions officers either evaluate international credentials internally or require that students use an external credential evaluator. Below is a chart displaying approximate grade conversions that may be useful in determining competitiveness for admission and funding.

UK LETTER GRADE	US LETTER GRADE	US GRADE POINT
A*	A+	4.0
A	A	4.0
B	B+	3.0
C	B	3.0
D	C+	2.0
E	C	2.0

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

- Five or more different academic subject passes at GCSE grades A–E or Scottish Standard grades 1–7 including Maths, English, Science and Social Studies (History, Geography etc.) with an overall average of grade 'C' or '3'.
- The NCAA applies a sliding scale for the minimum SAT scores that are required for acceptance to NCAA Division I colleges. This will depend on your average academic grade. The higher your average academic grade is, the lower the minimum SAT score required.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

'C' or '3' grade average overall in GCSE subjects, Scottish Standards, or an alternative qualification such as GNVQ or GSVQ if the school authorities can confirm your marks were in the 'Top Half' of the class. You must have a minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 940 on the SAT (if you take the SAT more than once, combining scores is NOT acceptable) to compete at an NAIA institution.

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Talented individuals who do not qualify for either of the above may be able to gain admission to a junior college. Each college will set its own entrance requirements. NJCAA colleges in general do not have a minimum passing score for the SAT although individual colleges may set one.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Overview – The SAT Test

The SAT Test, also known as SAT Reasoning Test, is a standardised test for college admissions in the USA. The SAT is owned, published, and developed by the College Board, a non-profit organisation in the USA. The College Board claims the test can assess a student's readiness for college. The current SAT Test, introduced in 2005 consists of three main sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

SAT consists of two major sections: Critical Reading, and Mathematics in addition to a Writing section. Each section receives a score on the scale of 200–800. This means that your overall score is out of 1600 excluding the Writing section.

The majority of Universities will only require the Critical Reading and Mathematics scores from your test. This can sometimes cause confusion if a sufficient score is achieved across all sections but not across the above two only.

Please note: Testing of English as a Second Language may also be required for Applicants who do not consider English to be their first language. In addition, the test often requires candidates to use American spellings, language and grammar.



HARVARD

CRIMSON



WILLIS TOWERS WORTH

FAQ'S 37

WHAT DOES A 'FULL SCHOLARSHIP' COVER?

A 'full' or 100% scholarship covers the cost of tuition, room, board, books and sports related clothing & equipment.

WHAT DOES A SCHOLARSHIP NOT COVER?

Travel to and from America in addition to the cost of the social aspect of living in America will be funded by the student-athlete and not the university.

WILL I RECEIVE A 'FULL SCHOLARSHIP'?

Foreseeing the monetary value of the scholarship that could be offered is something that is almost impossible to predict. In addition to academic results, SAT test scores, timing, available budgets, and the coaches' perspective of the individuals playing ability - the college coach is the only one who could say to a prospective student athlete that they will receive 'a full scholarship'. FirstPoint USA cannot and do not guarantee the ultimate level of scholarship award made to our clients.

WHAT SHOULD I BUDGET FOR THE YEAR?

It is highly likely that you will be required to contribute towards your 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th years at university in the US. As a result, it would be worthwhile to consider what, if any, level of financial contribution you could potentially afford to make towards fees not covered within the scholarship. The average contribution figure for FirstPoint USA clients in 2015/2016 was approximately \$8,500 for the first year (remember, this does not include flights, insurance and social spending etc.)

WHO DECIDES WHAT SCHOLARSHIP OFFER YOU ACCEPT?

Only the student-athlete and his/her parents will decide whether a scholarship offer is financially viable for them, and no one is obliged to commit to any scholarship offer.

WHAT ADDITIONAL COSTS ARE THERE THAT I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Not withstanding any of the costs associated with the scholarship you receive, you will have to consider the financial aspect of paying for flights to and from home, health insurance, and money to keep you whilst you are living as a student in the US. There are also costs for obtaining the Student Visa and registering for an SAT exam.

THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM IS NOT AS STRONG AS THAT IN THE UK OR AUSTRALIA. IS THE DEGREE WORTH ANYTHING?

In the UK there are excellent universities, good universities, average universities and poor universities. The value of the degree from each will vary dramatically. The US is no different, however with the country being so big there is naturally many more 'tier one' academic institutions to choose from compared to anywhere else in the world. At present, the United States has 17 of its universities ranked in 'The Times World Top-25 Universities', including Harvard holding the No.1 spot. This compares to the UK having 5 universities ranked amongst the best, and Australia only having 1. Students will typically attend a university which matches their academic abilities and credentials to date.

CAN I TRANSFER FROM ONE COLLEGE TO ANOTHER?

You are able to transfer from one college to another so long as you have earned at least 24 credit hours at the initial university you attend. If you were to transfer more than on one occasion during your college career then you will be asked to sit-out a full year of competition in order to regain your eligibility. Acceptance of college credit from one university to another will be decided by the admissions office at the receiving university.

WHO COVERS THE DIFFERENCE IF A % SCHOLARSHIP IS OFFERED?

It would be the responsibility of the student-athlete and his/her family to cover the remaining costs to attend the university.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T LIKE IT THERE?

We would always encourage each athlete to give the experience an entire year before making the decision whether they like it or not. However, if someone was so unhappy in the US that there was really no changing their outlook, then they are always free to come home. Home sickness is natural and it affects most people - you can work through it though and your coach, team mates and family can play a part in helping you get through it.

HOW MANY PLACES DOES FIRSTPOINT USA HAVE AVAILABLE ON ITS PROGRAMME EACH YEAR?

The company will assess over 30,000 applicants per year and carry 400 clients per year on a rolling basis.

HOW MANY COLLEGES WILL I BE PROMOTED TO?

The number of colleges that the Clearing Department will consider promoting an athlete to is based on many influencing factors. It is essential that any college that fits the client's academic, athletic, financial and social needs is short-listed so to ensure that every opportunity is explored. Some of our clients will be promoted to as many as 400+ colleges and universities. It all depends on the individual and their needs and abilities.



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