

University Scholarship Opportunities in the USA

The university system in the USA is the most popular higher education destination anywhere in the world. It caters for a large and diverse student body from around the world, which amounts to over 30% (500,000) of all International students worldwide choosing to study there every year.

The education system has over 4,000 universities throughout the country and for student-athletes it provides them with a positive opportunity to develop both physically and mentally in a team environment over the course of four years. Student-athletes are able to travel around the country and play the sport that they love to play with in a highly competitive system at the same time as receiving an education. After high school graduation the next step for every student-athlete is always extremely tough, so having this option to study, train, compete and develop is an incredible opportunity for young New Zealand student-athletes of varying academic and athletic levels.

We have provided the information below to act as a brief guide on the process involved, which will give you a better understanding on the criteria student-athletes must meet.

Academic requirements

US colleges typically take four years to graduate, with the first two years built upon core subjects (Math, English, Science, etc) and the remaining years more specific in accordance with the student-athletes choice of major.

As there are numerous different sports associations and divisions that a college can compete within and therefore a student-athlete can attend, each with their own specific rules and regulations, it is too complicated for us to provide detailed academic requirements. Instead we have focussed specifically here on the NCAA Division 1, but please be aware that these other divisions and associations have their own set criteria so if you do not meet the eligibility requirements set out here you may elsewhere.



In order to fulfill the basic academic eligibility requirements for Division 1 students must do the following:

- Graduate high school.
- Pass at least five academic subjects spread over the '16 Core-Courses'. With four of the five being English (4 years), mathematics (3 years), natural/physical science (2 years) and social science (2 years). The remaining ones required are 1 year of either additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. Plus 4 years of additional courses (from any subjects already mentioned or a foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy).
- Receive a Grade-Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.000 to 3.550 or higher on a U.S. 4.0 (4 high) scale from their GCSE and A-Level results and achieve an SAT exam score that is comparative to the GPA on the NCAA sliding scale (1010 for a 2.0 GPA for example).

Athletic requirements

With so many different associations and divisions spread out amongst over 4,000 universities in the US there are massive opportunities for student-athletes of varying athletic levels. It is not just for the elite performer that the system caters for, rather a wider scope of standards from regional level upwards, all of which have the opportunity to receive athletic aid at great US institutions.

Case Study



Chester Espie is a tennis player from the North Shore in Auckland that successfully graduated from Westlake School for Boys with his GCSE and A-Levels results in December 2011. A month later Chester joined Stetson University in Florida in America on a tennis scholarship, which is going to significantly help him and his family financially. He is now enjoying studying at a great university, traveling around the US and developing his tennis by competing against some of the best athletes in the world.

How to apply to a US college?



1. Sign up with an agency

There are companies that specialize in the application and recruitment process for tennis players wanting to go. These companies do typically charge a fee for their services, however with a professional company the player is able to avoid any unnecessary complications with their eligibility and is more likely to get a higher number of scholarship offers at colleges that are a better fit for them. Meaning more options financially as well as having choices on where they would like to spend their next four years.

[Play Atlantic](#) is a New Zealand based company that has been operating since 2003 and have placed hundreds of student-athletes during this time.

They offer four different package options for student-athletes, starting with a FREE package and is dependent on each individuals needs.

YouTube video

Embed code: `<iframe width="420" height="315" src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/ass7QFy9YK4" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

2. You can do it yourself

After doing some initial research into what colleges you would like to go to, you can contact them sending them a CV alongside a covering letter and link to your personal golf video of you performing.

Also make sure you look into the Eligibility requirements thoroughly with the NCAA and NAIA to ensure that you are doing everything properly and on time to ensure you remain eligible for college coaches to contact and then recruit you.