

Your Winter Recruiting Checklist

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

December



Get on a coach's radar.

For most sports, there is [zero communication allowed](#) between a D1 coach and a recruit before June 15 after sophomore year. The best way to let them know you're interested? [Fill out recruiting questionnaires and update them regularly](#).



Craft a compelling [personal statement](#).

Personal statements are a great opportunity to [show college coaches your character](#). Reflect on your athletic and academic achievements and identify what experiences or people have motivated and inspired you to pursue your sport at the next level.



Check your PSAT score.

PSAT scores are generally released beginning mid-December. Your scores are a good indicator of what you've learned so far, and pinpoint areas of improvement ahead of the ACT/SAT.

January 1



[Recruiting Kickoff \(Men's Ice Hockey Only\)](#)

D1 college coaches can start sending men's ice hockey student-athletes emails, DM's, texts and letters. Recruits can also make calls to and receive calls from D1 coaches and set up [unofficial visits](#).

January



Make—and stick to—[recruiting resolutions](#).

Setting [SMART goals](#) and planning your year ahead will help you stay motivated throughout the recruiting process. Focus on what you want to accomplish—from developing athletically, maintaining your NCAA eligibility to implementing healthier habits, set goals to stay focused and committed.



[Review our financial aid glossary](#).

We'll walk you through [the differences between a CSS Profile and the FAFSA](#), the types of loans and grants awarded to student-athletes, and what your [Estimated Family Contribution \(EFC\)](#) might be.

February



Gauge your talent level.

Whether it's by [uploading your most recent highlight/skills video](#) or [verified stats](#) to your profile, [comparing your athletic talents](#) to recruits currently on your favorite schools' team rosters, or getting evaluated by an NCSA Recruiting Coach, get a better understanding of your talent to kick off your college search.



Compare your favorites.

By now, you should have at least 30 schools on [your NCSA Favorites](#). Start considering how they're similar or different from one another, whether it's [by division level](#), [size and location](#), or [general rankings](#).



Keep track of important dates:

- Regularly check the [D1 and D2 recruiting calendars](#).
- Learn more about how the [NCAA Recruiting Rules and Updates](#) affect underclassmen.