

Use all forms of resources to prepare for researching the college of choice.

1. Use all forms of resources to prepare for researching the college of choice.
 - NCAA - Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
 - Web Site: <http://www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa>
 - Mail Address:
P.O. Box 4044
Iowa City, IA 52243-4044
(319) 337-1492
(800) 638-3731
 - NAIA - A Guide for the College-Bound Student
 - Web Site: <http://www.naia.org>
 - Mail Address:
6120 South Yale Avenue, Suite 1450
Tulsa, OK 74136
(918) 494-8828
 - Internet web sites have a wealth of information

2. Determine your desired list of colleges.
 - NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association (D-I, D-II, D-III)
 - NAIA - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (Smaller Schools)
 - NJCAA - National Junior College Athletic Association
 - Schools should match your academic as well as athletic requirements

3. Take the [ACT](#) and [SAT](#) college tests.
 - Typically taken during your junior year
 - May be taken more than once
 - Required for applying to the NCAA clearinghouse
 - National testing replacing the ACT required for D-I and D-II athletes
 - Given in April during school
 - Administered to high school juniors

4. Make a video tape
 - Use a field in good condition
 - Use a pitching machine or an accurate pitcher
 - Dress neatly, a uniform if possible
 - Have a plan, tape should be no longer than 6-10 minutes
 - Offensive strengths, hitting and bunting (left and right if capable)
 - Defensive positions
 - Do an introduction to start your tape
 - Base running for speed and technique

5. Develop a cover letter
 - Be sure to use the coaches name, title and correct address
 - Do not say you are looking for a softball scholarship in your letter
 - Never send a Xerox copy
 - Develop a template to work from
 - Personalize each letter from the template

6. Develop a resume
 - Personal information
 - Name, address, phone number
 - Birth date
 - Height and weight
 - Parents names
 - Social security number
 - Academic achievements
 - Name and address of your school
 - Counselors name
 - Current grade
 - Year of graduation
 - GPA, class rank, ACT/SAT scores
 - Courses your are currently taking
 - Anticipated college major
 - Athletic achievements
 - Primary and secondary positions
 - Hit left, right or both
 - Hand you throw with
 - Speed home to first, home to home
 - High school softball experience
 - Summer softball experience
 - Coaches names and phone numbers
 - Statistics
 - Catchers should give details on runners caught stealing
 - Pitchers should include, speed, types of pitches, innings pitched, strikeouts, walks, ERA.
 - School league or conference
 - Athletic awards earned, all conference, all area
 - NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse certification
 - Miscellaneous Information
 - Strengths
 - Weaknesses
 - Video tape availability
 - Community service
 - Other achievements

7. Start writing to coaches for information about their teams at the end of your junior year of high school or during your freshman year of junior college.
 - Personalized cover letter
 - Current resume
 - High school or junior college transcripts
 - Schedule of your upcoming games for high school
 - Schedule of your Summer tournaments
 - Letters or recommendation

8. Be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (D-I and D-II Only)
 - o Web Site: <http://www.ncaa.org/mailbox/clearinghouse.html>
 - o Mail Address: NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse

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10. Begin looking and applying for financial aid.

- Web Sites:

<http://www.smartmoney.com>
<http://www.finand.org>
www.fastweb.com
www.college-scholarships.com
www.scholarships.com
www.scholarstuff.com
www.educaid.com
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students/sfa.html>

11. Visit colleges you are truly interested in.

- o Must present and ACT/SAT or PSAT/PACT test scores
- o High school or junior college transcripts

12. Understand the recruiting process. Listed here are some NCAA guidelines. Check the above publications and web sites for specific associations' guidelines.

- o The NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA all have different guidelines for recruiting. It is the players and parents responsibility to be familiar with the guidelines for the respective schools they are interested in.
- o Coaches at D-I and D-II NCAA member colleges may not contact prospective recruits before players start their junior year in high school.
- o D-I and D-II coaches may not contact you in person or by phone before July 1 following your junior year in high school and are limited to three off-campus in-person contacts.
- o D-III coaches may not contact you off campus until after junior year, but they have not limits on the total number of contacts.
- o Coaches may not talk to prospective senior recruits in person at games or tournaments until after a player's team has been eliminated. May talk to senior recruits' family.
- o Coaches may only call prospective senior recruits once a week.
- o Coaches at D-I schools may not have any in-person contact, on or off campus, during a dead period. Current dead periods include the 48 hours before and after the initial Letter of Intent signing day; Tuesday before and up to the D-I national championships; and the period of the National Fastpitch Coaches Convention and the period from Thanksgiving until January 1 each year.
- o D-II coaches must observe a dead period for the 48 hours prior to the Letter of Intent signing day.
- o D-III schools are different so you must review the Guide for the Student-Bound Athlete to ensure you are familiar with these guidelines.
- o For campus visits you may not make an official visit until after schools starts in your senior year.