WHAT NCAA ACTUALLY REQUIRES ACADEMICALLY FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

NCAA Cares About 3 Things

1. **Approved core courses:** Athletes must complete 16 specific "core" credits in subjects like English, Math, and Science that meet the NCAA's strict college-preparatory standards. For homeschoolers, this often requires submitting detailed "Core Course Worksheets" to prove that parent-led classes provide the same rigor as traditional school offerings.
2. **Grade point average:** The NCAA calculates a specific "Core GPA" using only the grades from those 16 required subjects, requiring a minimum 2.3 for Division I and 2.2 for Division II. This means an athlete's success in elective classes won't help their eligibility—they must perform well in the specific academic areas the NCAA tracks.
3. **On-time graduation:** Student-athletes are expected to complete their high school education in exactly four years (eight semesters) starting from the day they begin 9th grade. For Division I, athletes must also hit the "10/7 rule," completing 10 of their core courses—with seven in English, Math, or Science—before their senior year begins.

Common Homeschool Pitfalls

- **Non-approved courses**: Many popular homeschool curricula are not recognized by the NCAA Eligibility Center. If an athlete takes these, they may find themselves scrambling to retake entire subjects during their final year.
- **Missing documentation:** The NCAA requires specific "Core Course Worksheets" for non-traditional schooling that detail the syllabus and grading methods. Failing to keep these records from the start can lead to major delays in the recruiting process.
- **Late eligibility checks:** Waiting until senior year to register with the NCAA is a common mistake that can scare off recruiters. Starting the process in 9th or 10th grade ensures any academic issues can be fixed well before signing day.
- **Unclear transcripts:** A transcript that doesn't clearly list course titles, credits earned, and a 4.0-scale GPA can be rejected. Standardized, professional formatting is essential to prove your student-athlete is ready for the next level.

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What Works Best

- **NCAA-approved online courses:** Using an online provider that is already "cleared" by the NCAA removes the guesswork and the need for parents to fill out complex core course worksheets. This provides an immediate, verified record of rigor that college coaches and the Eligibility Center trust.
- **Early planning (8th–9th grade):** Mapping out all 16 core courses before high school even begins ensures that the athlete stays on the "10/7" track for Division I eligibility. Early planning prevents the need for "credit recovery" or last-minute summer school sessions during the busy recruiting years.
- **Clear academic oversight:** Having a third-party school or an academic advisor review your progress each semester ensures that you are following the most current NCAA regulations. This layer of oversight acts as an insurance policy for your athlete's future collegiate career.
- **Consistent grading standards:** Using a standard 100-point or 4.0 scale throughout high school makes it easy for the NCAA to calculate a Core GPA without confusion. Consistency in grading proves to recruiters that your student's academic achievements are reliable and comparable to other prospects nationwide.

Texas Sports Academy Online is a virtual private school where you can learn for
Texas Sports Academy Online is a virtual private school not a homeschooling program

Important Note
NCAA does not favor public school athletes — they favor clean paperwork.