

A Compliance Administrator's Academic Tips for the Top 5 Most Recruited Countries

Australia:

1. The calendar year runs from February through December.
2. Student's graduate in December.
3. Upper secondary education consists of four years (nine–12).
4. All students are expected to graduate in four years (eight semesters) from the initial start of year nine.
5. The grade-point average (GPA) for all students who graduate from Australia, is based solely on the core exams listed on their leaving certificate. For specific information on each state in Australia, and leaving certificate names per state, please see the NCAA's [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#).
6. Semester-by-semester transcripts for year nine through 12 are required. The 16 core-course distribution must be met in the first eight semesters from the initial start of year nine. Each core course is worth one-half credit per semester.
7. If a student attends year nine or higher in Australia and then moves to the United States and graduates, the student's expected graduation date will remain December (eight consecutive semesters from the initial start of year nine). **(Most students who transfer to a U.S. high school from Australia have a delay due to the differing academic calendar years)**. Courses taken after the expected date of graduation cannot be used for NCAA initial eligibility.

Brazil:

1. The NCAA Eligibility Center must always have official school-stamped copies of both the Ensino Fundamental (primary school record) and the Ensino Medio (secondary school record/proof of graduation).
2. Brazil is transitioning from an 8+3 system (eight years of primary school, three years of secondary school) to a 9+3 (nine years of primary school, three years of secondary school).
3. The NCAA Eligibility Center expects the Ensino Medio (proof of high school graduation) to be completed three years after completion of the Ensino Fundamental (primary school completion).
4. The academic calendar year typically runs from February through December.
5. Students graduate in December.
6. Make sure the Ensino Medio has the course hours listed on the document (hours per course per year). Per the NCAA's [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#), the hours determine the amount of weighting to apply when calculating the student's GPA.
7. If a student leaves Brazil's educational system and attends school in another country's system, but then returns to Brazil and earns the Ensino Medio on time (on time is determined by the initial start of year nine), then the NCAA Eligibility Center would still consider the Ensino Medio to be a Category One proof of graduation (meaning the core distribution of initial eligibility has been met). A core GPA would be calculated using *only* core courses posted on the Ensino Medio.

8. If a student attends year nine or higher in Brazil and then moves to the United States and graduates, the student's expected graduation date will remain December (eight consecutive semesters from the initial start of year nine). **(Most students who transfer to a U.S. high school from Brazil have a delay due to the differing academic calendar years.)** Courses taken after the expected date of graduation cannot be used forward NCAA initial eligibility.

Canada:

1. All students must meet the 16 core-course requirement for Division I.
2. Each province of Canada has an established List of NCAA Courses. These lists can be viewed via the NCAA Eligibility Center's High School Portal Resources page.
3. Each province has a six-digit CEEB code: Quebec (998001), Saskatchewan (998002), Ontario (998003), Alberta (998004), British Columbia (998005), Manitoba (998006), Newfoundland & Labrador (998007), Prince Edward Island (998008), Nova Scotia (998009), New Brunswick (998010), Yukon Territory (998011), Northwest Territory (998012), and Nunavut (998013).
4. For more information on course codes and crediting policies specific to each province, please see each provincial entry in the NCAA's [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#) under Canada.
5. Quebec:
 - a. Year nine is called secondary three in Quebec.
 - b. All documents are in French. A line-by-line English translation is required.
 - c. Students from Quebec complete high school at the end of year 11. On-time graduation is six semesters (three years) from the initial start of year nine. Proof of graduation is called the DES Diploma.
 - d. The amount of credit per course is based on the number of units award by the Ministry of Education on the transcript (for more information see the Quebec provincial entry in the NCAA's [Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility](#)).
 - e. After year 11 graduation, students may then go on to CEGEP or a pre-university year 12 program.
 - f. If the student graduates on time with the Pre-University Grade 12 Certificate, the graduation date will be advanced one year from the date of the Diplôme d'Études Secondaires/DES.
 - g. CEGEP is a second tier of high school in Quebec.
 - h. Most CEGEP programs are two years (year 12 and year 13).
 - i. Graduating from CEGEP will advance the graduation date two years beyond the on-time completion of year 11 graduation in Quebec.
 - j. If a student graduates on time from CEGEP, then all coursework from years nine through 13 can be used to meet the 16 core-course requirement.
 - k. If a student does not graduate from CEGEP, he/she must pass 14 courses within the first academic year of CEGEP in order for the graduation date to advance one

year beyond graduation from year 11 and for all coursework to be used toward the 16 core-course requirement.

- l. For a student who graduates from year 11 on time, does not graduate from CEGEP and does not pass 14 courses in the first year of CEGEP, only one additional core course taken after year 11 graduation (completed within one academic year) can be used toward the 16 core courses. This means only three years of coursework is being used and the student could possibly be short core. The graduation date will remain as the date the student completed year 11 on time.
- m. For students who complete year 11 in Quebec and then attend school in the United States, once completing graduation from the U.S. high school, the graduation date will only advance one year beyond year 11.
- n. If the student graduated on time from Quebec at the end of year 11, and then attended a U.S. high school, only one core course, completed within one academic year from graduation, can be used toward the 16 core-course requirement.

Germany:

1. Germany is transitioning from a 13 year educational system to a 12 year educational system. This is being done state-by-state in Germany and is expected to be completed by 2016. The expected timeline for graduation depends on the state in Germany the student attended school (either five years from the initial start of year nine or four years from the initial start of year nine).
2. Year nine is referred to as “klasse 9” in Germany.
3. Student’s typically graduate in June or July.

Great Britain/United Kingdom:

1. Year nine is commonly referred to as “form three” or “key stage three.”
2. The United Kingdom system is a tiered system. There are up to three points of graduation.
3. GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams are the first point of graduation.
4. On-time completion of GCSE’s is three years from the initial start of year nine. This would be at the end of year 11 (form 5).
5. Students must have five GCSE’s to satisfy proof of graduation for NCAA initial-eligibility purposes.
6. Students in the United Kingdom system often lack a social science exam. This is still required for NCAA initial eligibility.
7. Social science exams include (but are not limited to) History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Modern Studies, Classical Civilization.
8. If a core exam is missing in any of the five core areas, additional documents will be requested (e.g., year nine marks will be needed) to look for missing core. Students

- typically have Geography and/or History on their year nine marks and each of these courses are normally worth one-half credit.
9. Exam results for GCSE, AS- (Advanced Subsidiary) and A- (Advanced) Levels are not released by the exam board until mid-August.
 10. If the student is missing core, or delayed taking any exams, the NCAA Eligibility Center may have to wait for future exams or coursework to be completed in order to complete an academic certification.
 11. A student must pass two or more AS-Level exams in order for the graduation date to be advanced one year beyond the on-time completion date of the GCSE's.
 12. A student must pass two or more A-Level exams in order for the graduation date to advance two years beyond the on-time completion date of the GCSE's.
 13. If taken on time, AS- and A-Level exams can be used to meet the core requirements.
 14. A Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) Level 3 Diploma advances a graduation date one year beyond the on-time completion date of the GCSE's.
 15. A BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma advances the graduation date two years beyond the on-time completion date of the GCSE's.
 16. No other BTECs impact the graduation date.
 17. A National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 advances the graduation date two years beyond the on-time completion date of the GCSEs.
 18. The most a graduation date can ever advance is two years beyond the expected date of the GCSEs. If a student takes longer to graduate than the expected date, this is considered a delay.

***Please note that the FAQ section on the NCAA Eligibility Center registration website provides a country-by-country list of documents that students are required to submit.**