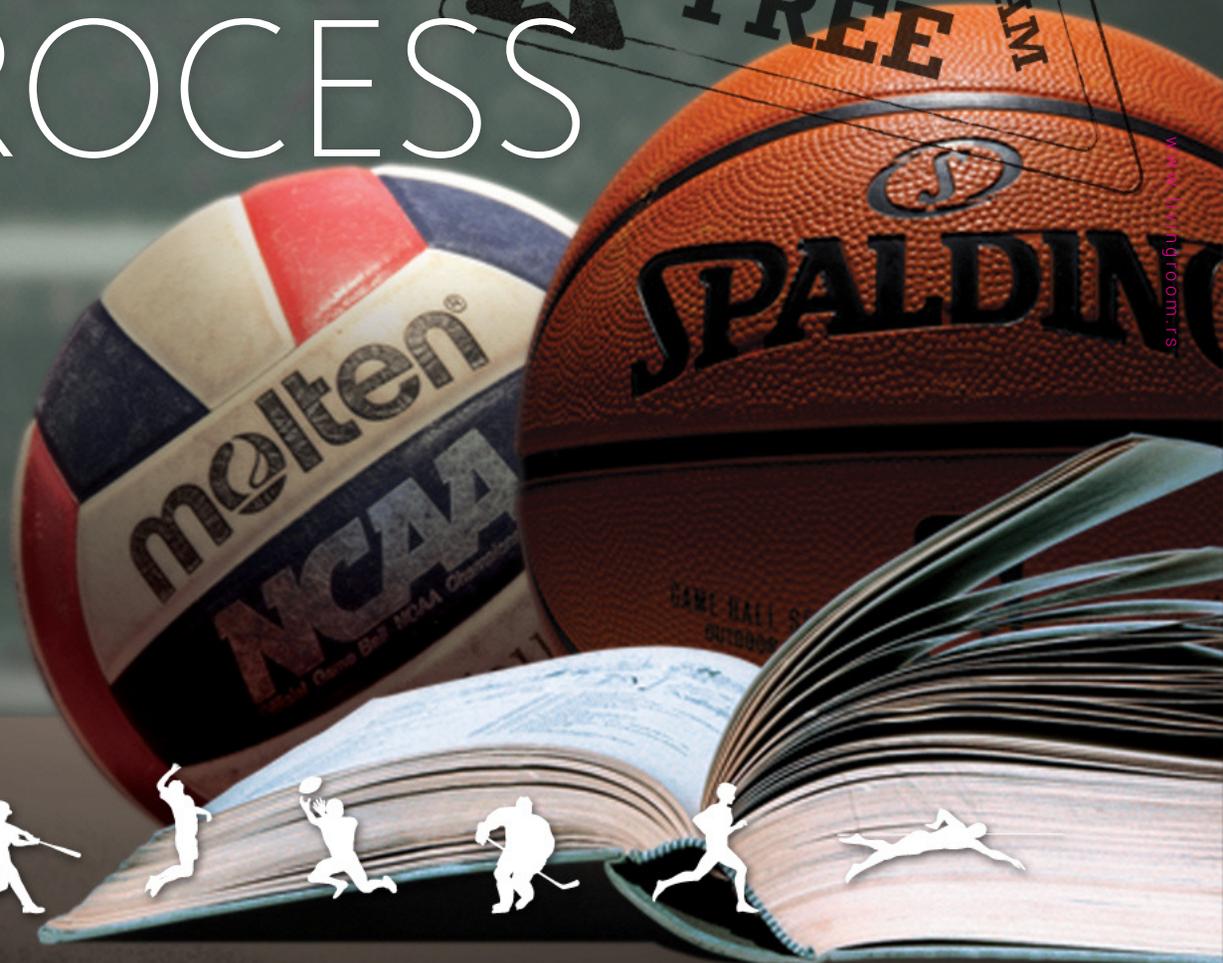




PRO FUTURO SPORTS

# COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES 9 STEP PROCESS



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## SAT

SAT® Reasoning Test is a standardized test necessary for college and university admissions in the USA.

### What is the SAT® test composed of?

The SAT® test takes three hours and forty-five minutes and consists of three major sections, each of which receives a score on a scale of 200 to 800 points. The sections are mathematics, critical reading and writing. Most of the questions are multiple-choice, except for the essay and the ten grid-in math responses.

### When and where can I take the SAT® test?

The SAT is offered six times a year outside the USA. Score reports are published approximately four to six weeks after test administration.

### How do I apply for the SAT® test?

You can apply via Internet by registering online and paying the tax with your credit card. The website is [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) – – you have to register and create an account on the website.

## TOEFL® iBT (Internet-based Test)

### What is TOEFL®?

TOEFL® (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standardized test which evaluates the ability of a non-native English speaker to use and understand English. It is often an admission requirement for foreign students for colleges and universities in the USA.

The test measures 4 basic language skills necessary for effective communication: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

### Who the test looks like?

Task	No. of questions	Approximate Time
Reading	36-70 questions	60–100 minutes
Listening	34-51 questions	60–90 minutes
<b>BREAK</b> -----		<b>10 minuta</b>
Speaking	6 task	20 minutes
Writing	2 task	50 minutes

The test is scored on a scale of 0-120 points. Each of the four sections receives a scaled score from 0-30 points.

### **How to apply for the test?**

- You can apply for TOEFL® iBT via website: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org). All you have to do is create a free account at the website that you will later use to apply for the test and get results. To finish your application you will need a credit card in order to confirm the application and reserve a seat. Make sure to apply in time, the number of test seats is limited!

### **Which league is played at universities?**

Unlike the sports and clubs in Europe, the amateur sports in the USA is practiced exclusively in the university leagues. There are two major organizations for university sports and each of them is divided into several divisions:

- NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association ( [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) )
- NAIA: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ( [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org) )

Universities are divided into five divisions (3 NCAA and 2 NAIA) according to various criteria, such as the size of university, the number of sports offered and similar factors, and not according to the quality of teams like it is in Europe. That is why the best teams in the NCAA 2nd division can be significantly better than teams of middle or low rankings in the NCAA 1st division.

There is also a head organization of junior colleges where student-athletes can also compete and get sports scholarships. That is:

- NJCAA: "National Junior College Athletic Association" ( [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org) ).

Sometimes the best choice is to enroll in a junior college first, because it's easy to transfer to other colleges and universities later.

**In order to compete in the NCAA and NAIA I and II divisions, you must apply on-line and get a sports license for competition.**

### **What are the characteristics and advantages of the educational system in the USA?**

The educational system in the USA is significantly different from the European one. Besides organized sports competitions and the possibility of getting a sports scholarship, there are other differences regarding sports and education.

#### **a) Flexibility**

If they want to, students can pick a specific subject they want to study 2 years after starting the studies. During those 2 years, they can mark their major as "undecided". That can be changed at any point and, until that, students can attend some general subjects they choose in order to explore their own interests. If you are not sure what you want to study, this is an ideal option for you.

## **b) Semesters and Trimesters**

Academic year can comprise 2 semesters or 3 trimesters depending on the policies of individual universities. If the school year is divided into semesters (which is the case at most universities), the first semester lasts from September to December and the second from January to May. There are also summer schools, i.e. an optional third semester. If the school year is divided into trimesters, it is divided into three intervals during the same period in the year, from August to May.

## **c) Credit system**

In order to graduate, every student has to achieve approximately 120 credits. That is from 15 to 20 credits per semester (two semesters per year). Every course has approximately 3-4 credits. Students choose courses at the beginning of the school year. This system is extremely important for student-athletes, because they can devote themselves to daily practice sessions without it affecting their course of studies.

## **d) Grading (GPA)**

The grading system differs from many systems in Europe. The grades go from A to F:

A = 4 points

B = 3 points

C = 2 points

D = 1 point (lowest passing grade),

F = Fail (denoting insufficient knowledge).

In order to get a Bachelor's Degree, it is required to have at least a 2.0 grade point average. You must maintain this average because having a lower one disqualifies you from all sports competitions and threatens the chances of renewing the sports scholarship next year.

In order to get a Master Degree you need a B average or 3.0 GPA.

## **e) Semesters and Trimesters**

Academic year can comprise 2 semesters or 3 trimesters depending on the policies of individual universities. If the school year is divided into semesters (which is the case at most universities), the first semester lasts from September to December and the second from January to May. There are also summer schools, i.e. an optional third semester. If the school year is divided into trimesters, it is divided into three intervals during the same period in the year, from August to May.

### **What are the admission requirements for studying at universities in the USA?**

Admission requirements for universities that offer sports scholarships are equal for all students without exceptions. You need to complete 12 years of education to study in the USA, except for some junior colleges in some states that allow admission after graduating from a 3-year high school. If you are already a university student, there is a possibility that semesters you have finished are acknowledged in the USA. In this case, there are complex regulations regarding the age limit for athletes, which are different in every division and organization.

### **What is the difference between college and university?**

The difference between college and university is mostly nominal. There are also differences in size and other similar criteria. The important thing for you is that both colleges and universities give a valid Bachelor's Degree.

### **Where will I be accommodated during studies?**

The accommodation depends on the university you attend. There are two options – “on campus” and “off campus”. Usually people opt for living on the student campus and we also recommend it at the beginning of your studies because it helps you meet other students and get used to the student way of living. Campuses can be like small cities in their size, because some universities have about 20.000- 30.000 students. Some universities don't have their own campus, so students live in apartments, but the newcomers usually get help from their teammates to adapt easier.

### **Where will I eat?**

There are canteens on campuses where all students eat, including student-athletes. If students decide to live off-campus, they prepare their own food by themselves or with their roommates.

### **What is the value of scholarship?**

The amount of the scholarship you get depends solely on the coach giving it to you, i.e. on his assessment of how valuable you are for him. The best option is getting the full scholarship that covers all expenses (tuition, accommodation and food). Students don't get money, instead they get a scholarship along with the tuition bill. Usually the scholarship covers from 70% to 100% of the entire expenses.

### **Which expenses do I finance on my own?**

- **Test applications:**
  1. SAT application
  2. TOEFL application
  3. 3. Mailing of official results of tests to particular schools
- **Applying for NCAA Clearing house**

*NOTE: Test application (SAT and TOEFL) and applying for NCAA Clearinghouse is paid exclusively with credit cards for internet payments. It would be the best if you had a Master Card, VISA, American Express or Diners Club credit card.*
- **Possible expenses for enrollment application – you must own a credit card (Master Card, VISA, American Express)**
- **Expenses at the Embassy**
  1. Visa acquisition taxes – paid via Internet
  2. SEVIS (a program for monitoring students) - paid via Internet exclusively by credit cards (American Express, Diners club, Mater Card, VISA)
- **Plane ticket fare**
- **Additional expenses can include health insurance expenses and book purchase. In most cases these are covered by the scholarship**

### **Is it possible to work in the USA with the student F-1 visa while studying?**

We should mention here that you will certainly need an initial financial help during the first few months of your stay in the USA. All students can work at the campus (any job) from the beginning of their studies, while working outside the campus is legal only after a some time spent in the **USA**.

**For how many years can I get the scholarship?**

Sports scholarships can be given for one, two, three or four years. There is an unwritten rule among coaches that students don't get smaller scholarships, i.e. students automatically get minimum the same amount of scholarship the next year. In case of an injury that prevents you from competing, the coaches always follow the moral code.

**Can I lose the scholarship?**

You can lose sports scholarship if your performance in sports isn't satisfactory or you don't follow the rules of life in campus or if your academic results are below 2.0 GPA.



**PRO FUTURO SPORTS**

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