



U.S. COLLEGE RECRUITING GUIDE

TENNIS
CANADA



FOR CANADIAN TENNIS PLAYERS





Acknowledgements

The Tennis Canada United States College Recruiting Guide was created by Tennis Canada. This resource will help athletes, parents and junior coaches acquire valuable knowledge and plan for a US college tennis career.

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Overview



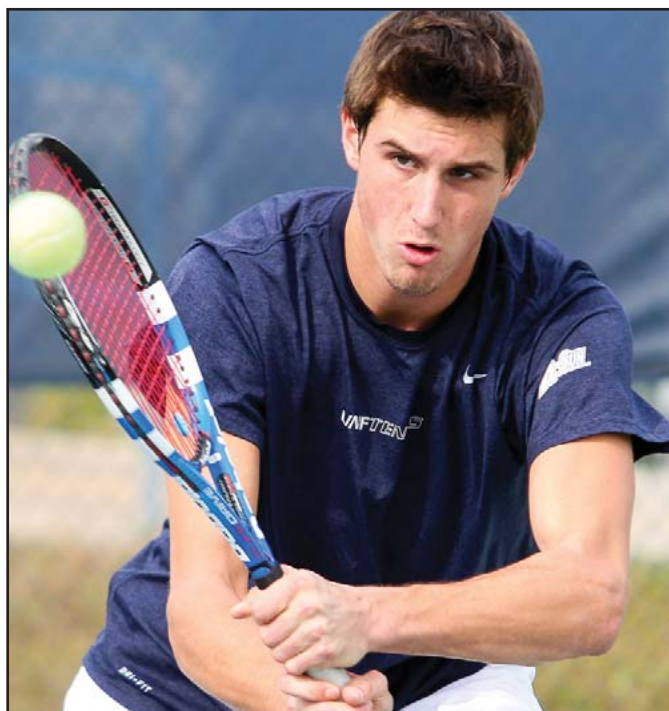
Introduction

The pathway to US college tennis and the potential to receive an athletic scholarship is an incredible opportunity. Not only is US college tennis a great athletic and academic opportunity for a young aspiring tennis player and has a tremendous financial value, but there are many intangible benefits from pursuing this worthy pathway.

Overview

The US College Tennis Pathway

Parents might be wondering and/or worrying why they are investing so much into their U10, U12 son or daughter's tennis development, but the fact is that it is an investment and like any other investment you are putting money into something with a goal of short-term and/or long-term gain. The US college tennis pathway starts with U10 and U12 players testing their skills at summer community clubs, then joining year-round competitive tennis programs and competing at local, provincial, national and potentially international events from U10 to U18 age groups.



Julien Belair, University of North Florida

After graduating from U18 junior tennis and High School, these youngsters are ready to pursue a US tennis scholarship. This pathway is a way to continue to play the game that many young athletes love and be a part of a team working together towards common goals all while enjoying the camaraderie with teammates and developing life-long friendships and relationships.

Tangible Benefits of College Tennis

The value of earning a college degree at world class universities like Stanford, Harvard, Michigan and Yale will help build a foundation for a young athlete to succeed in many future endeavours. "Education is among the highest values in our life; a wonderful type of personal socialization will take place in an "educational" environment, different from that which transpires in the "professional" tennis world. Studies have shown that on average, possessing a college degree versus a high school degree is valued at over one million dollars across the lifetime of a wage earner; and, this does not take into account those who continue their education and gain a graduate or additional professional degree." (The case for NCAA College Tennis, Tim Donovan.)

Non-Tangible Benefits of College Tennis

The non-tangible benefits of playing college tennis are as important, although not as clearly defined. Having a college degree, especially from a first rate institution, greatly improves one's chances of getting a good job after graduation. Plus the maturity, independence and teamwork skills give players the tools to succeed in their post-tennis careers. Getting a college degree is also the most effective route to graduate school. Even those hoping to succeed on the pro tour have something of great value to fall back on should they not succeed.

- * **Note:** Although many athletes start playing and competing early in their junior careers, it is important to know that it is quite possible to pick up a racquet at a later age and attain an athletic scholarship to a US college.
- * **The average value of an athletic scholarship PER YEAR for an international student attending a US college can range from \$40,000.00 - \$100,000.00. This amounts to \$160,000 to \$400,000 for that athlete to attain a four-year undergraduate degree while travelling the United States playing collegiate tennis.**



Current Canadian Players Participating in College Tennis

Here are some examples of Canadian tennis players who started playing as a junior, decided to continue their tennis careers and schooling at a US college and after graduating will have the option to continue their pro tennis careers or become a successful professional in the working world.



Current Canadian Players Participating in College Tennis

Carol Zhao (Richmond Hill, ON) **Signed with Stanford University**

- WTA career-high singles ranking of 555, 353 in doubles, Quarter-finalist in WTA \$50,000 event, ITF Jr. Ranking #9

Roman Trkulja (Toronto, ON) **Signed with Penn State University**

- Two-time Canadian national champion in singles and doubles, Captured three provincial titles in singles play and four provincial titles in doubles action

Samuel Monette (Montreal, QC) **Signed with Indiana University**

- Ranked #1 in Canada U18, ITF Jr. Ranking #269

Tania Rice (Burlington, ON) **Signed with Pepperdine University**

- Top 3 Junior U18, Member of Jr. Fed Cup team

Sarah Lotto (Toronto, ON) **Signed with Penn State University**

- Top 10 Junior U18

Petra Januskova (Ottawa, ON) **Signed with Penn State University**

- Top 5 Junior U18

Riaan Du Toit (Abbotsford, BC) **Signed with University of New Mexico**

- ITF Jr. Ranking #251, Placed 5th at U14 Nationals

Kimberley-Ann Surin (Montreal, QC) **Signed with the University of Arkansas**

- ITF Jr. Ranking #159, Multi-time National Junior Champion

Other Success Stories

There are many examples of college tennis players who have had success on the pro tour in recent years, to include: James Blake, John Isner, Mike and Bob Bryan, Lisa Raymond, Jill Craybas and Vanessa Webb. The more impressive story, however, is the success that a long list of former US college tennis players have had in their chosen fields after graduation. In the 1980's, Al Parker from Atlanta, Georgia was the most decorated junior tennis player in the history of American junior tennis with more junior national titles than anyone, including Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. He attended college in his home state at the University of Georgia and graduated before starting the pro tour. A back injury and inconsistent results led to a short and unsuccessful pro career. He went on to graduate from Harvard Business School and has been extraordinarily successful in the financial world. There are also prominent politicians, judges, countless doctors and many successful business executives who all played US college tennis.

Making this Dream a Reality

Attaining a scholarship as a Canadian student-athlete in the sport of tennis can pose many questions that may leave you confused. This guide will answer those questions and give you, the prospective student-athlete, a more knowledgeable background of intercollegiate athletics in the United States as an international athlete. The following eight components will serve as your guide.

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Making this Dream a Reality

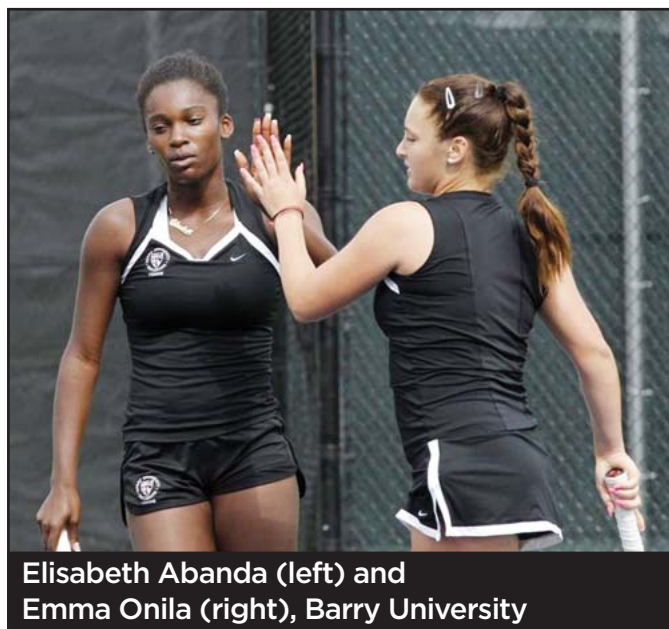


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1. Getting Started
2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship
3. Academics and Eligibility
4. Intercollegiate Athletics
5. Recruiting Process
6. Being an International Student-Athlete
7. Resources and References



* If you do not receive athletic scholarship aid, some student-athletes are offered a position on their school's tennis team and receive an academic scholarship (depending on their SAT grades and high school transcripts).



Getting Started

Each component of this guide will be divided up into sub-categories that will explain the main topics in that field. In addition, there are websites that will assist in answering any questions you have or additional information you require.



1. Getting Started

Why College Tennis?

The requirements of a student-athlete will range from attending classes, studying, daily tennis practice and conditioning, rehabilitation of injuries and travel for competition. Intercollegiate athletics is a great stepping stone for athletes who want to physically and mentally develop their tennis game before entering the professional tour or to give you a unique experience and opportunity to compete and further your education. As a student-athlete, you will be provided with personalized coaching, conditioning and match practice within a team environment that will bring the essence of your game up to its optimal level.

There is a tremendous financial value in aiming for an athletic scholarship.

Financial Considerations:

Depending on the scholarship percentage their school has to offer, athletes can receive amounts varying from paying for school books to a “full ride” covering the entire cost of college, tuition, room, board, books and equipment.

If you do not receive athletic scholarship aid, some student-athletes are offered a position on their school’s tennis team and receive an academic scholarship (depending on their SAT grades and high school transcripts). Other student athletes may be offered a part academic scholarship and part athletic scholarship. Even if you do not receive any type of scholarship, college athletes may collect other significant benefits.

Examples:

- Priority in scheduling classes
- Help with note taking when a class is missed
- Streamlined registration for courses
- Tutoring help



Akhil Mehta, University of Buffalo

✱ There is a tremendous financial value for aiming for an athletic scholarship.

The monetary value of a US College Tennis Scholarship:
<http://assets.usta.com/assets/1/15/Appendix%20A.pdf>



Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

A graphic of a yellow tennis ball with a shadow, set against a background of orange curved lines.

How to Design Your Resume

As a prospective student-athlete it is important your recruitment resume is professional, short and dynamic. The United States tertiary education system is a fantastic opportunity to compete at an extremely high level, earn an accredited degree and travel the United States. This section will provide you with ideas on what collegiate coaches look for in regards to a resume and other information that will broaden your chances of attaining an athletic scholarship.

2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

Resume Content

The content of your collegiate recruitment resume has to be informative but precise. The five most critical elements that will make up your recruitment resume are presented below:

1. Personal Information
2. Education
3. Ambition
4. Game Development
5. References

Personal Information

Like any professional resume you have to provide general information. This will include your name, contact information and personal details. This information has to be clear and easy to read. For example:

Contact Information

Jackie Smith
489 John Road
Ottawa, ON J5B 4H6
Canada

Ph: 613-987-7777
Email: jackiesmith@hotmail.com

Personal Information:
Date of Birth: 29th July 1991
Height: 6-0 ft / 180 cm
Weight: 165 lbs / 72 kg

Education

When compiling your educational background the information must be concise. Ensure you include your high school's name and the date that you are anticipating to graduate. If you have already graduated, enter your graduation date and the accreditation that you earned (for example, High School Diploma). It is a good idea to list the subjects that you completed in your final two years of high school.

Ambition

There is nothing more impressive than a player who can set and work directly towards accomplishing goals. Display your strengths in character and personality, and how you can contribute to their team. Present your academic and athletic goals and demonstrate why you will be an asset to their team. This is an excellent way to grab the attention of each coach who reads your recruitment resume.

Game Development

This is the most important part of your resume. Display your accomplishments as an athlete and ensure that you rank them in an order of relevance (see below):

- ATP or WTA ranking (without accepting prize money)
- ITF Junior ranking
- National Junior ranking
- Provincial Junior ranking
- Major tennis achievements

Diversity is also important as you can acknowledge your achievements in other sports. For example, if you were a member of your school's cross-country team that made it to provincial finals.

*** There is nothing more impressive than a player who can set and work directly towards accomplishing goals. Display your strengths in character and personality, and how you can contribute to their team.**



2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

References

As an international recruit you want to provide your prospective coach with contact references. Three references are recommended as it gives the coach a wide variety of people to contact. You can have each person provide a written reference that you send with each package or at the end of your resume provide the contact details of each reference so they can be contacted.

Below is an example of how to provide the contact details of a personal reference:

Mike Willox
Head Tennis Coach
Elite Tennis Club
135 Smith Road
Ottawa, ON K8F 5K9
Canada

elitetenniscoaching@hotmail.com
Telephone: 613-595-5555
Mobile: 613-595-5556

Presentation

The presentation of your recruitment resume is essential. It needs to include the critical factors of correct grammar, an easy to read format (font style and size) and have a professional look. These are formalities but there is also plenty of room to show your creativity. You want your resume to stand out. It has to be explosive so it sets you apart from every other resume that your prospective coach has received.

This might be adding in pictures of yourself playing tennis or receiving an award, or a media page where you have received acknowledgment throughout your community. This shows creativity and flair. Remember that you are competing against the rest of the world for this collegiate scholarship and displaying what separates you from everyone else is vital.



Melissa McQueen, Fresno State University

* Remember to make your recruitment resume creative, professional, short and dynamic. There are over 250 male and 300 female Division I Collegiate tennis programs so keep looking!

2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

Additional Recommendations

There are a few other minor points that you have to remember to add into your resume:

- If you have taken or plan to take the ACT. or SAT exam let the coach know. Give them your score or the date when you are going to sit your exam. As a player, it would be best to



Victor Hoang, University of Arkansas

take your standardized tests mid-way through grade 11, that way you will have the opportunity to retake the SAT or ACT by the end of grade 11. While most commitments happen in the fall of grade 12, there is a trend happening at the top schools toward commitments during the second half of grade 11.

- Players should also know that some of the top academic schools require SAT subject tests in addition to the SAT (or ACT). There are about 25 colleges that require them, most of which require two subject tests and a few require three.
- Make sure that you follow up your resume with the coach. This can be a simple e-mail or phone call to see if they have received your resume and if they are interested. Coaches are busy for 12 months of the year so being proactive and following things up will display a sense of eagerness and passion.
- There is a good chance that you post 65 resume packages and only hear replies from 10 programs. It is important not to get deterred by this. Some coaches might already have their athlete roster finalized, or don't have any seniors graduating and therefore don't have any spots available (you should look at their roster first and see how many seniors they have graduating), or maybe you might not be strong enough for their program.
- Also, it is important to note why coaches don't always respond, so you know not to be deterred. Coaches receive hundreds of prospects contacting them and can't always keep up, and some may not have the best communication skills! As a player, you should not assume that a lack of response means a lack of interest. In this case, make sure you follow up with a second or

*** Make sure that you follow up your resume with the coach. This can be a simple e-mail or phone call to see if they have received your resume and if they are interested.**

2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

even third e-mail in the months after the initial outreach in case your resume was lost in the shuffle, and/or to remind the coach who you are.

Scholarships

It is important to note that the number of scholarships at each division varies; also the number of scholarships at each school in a certain division varies too. It is important to note that just because a school is D1, or D2, it does not mean that they will have the full compliment of scholarships, or that they'll have any at all. For instance, some of the most recognized schools in D1 (Ivy League) such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Georgetown, Bucknell etc... don't offer any scholarships for tennis.

*Please see a more detailed outlined of the scholarship opportunities at each division on page 20.

If your athletic and academic ability is suitable for a university or college, they can offer you an athletic scholarship to assist in offsetting your educational expenses. The contract of this scholarship is called the National Letter of Intent. A National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a contract signed between the prospective student-athlete and the institution. The prospective student-athlete must be eligible for athletic financial aid and eligible to enroll in the institution in accordance with the NCAA rules. The NLI is valid for however many years the coach initially wants to sign you for. It may be a one-year contract, or it may be a multi-year contract. One-year contracts are usually renewed each year unless there are academic or disciplinary problems with the player. Once a player has signed, the student-athlete is bound to that institution for the academic year(s) (duration) outlined

in the contract. Student-athletes cannot be actively recruited by another institution or coach unless provided permission by the student athlete's current institution.



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2. Achieving an Athletic Scholarship

A full scholarship as ruled by the official guidelines will include all of but not exceeding the following components:

- Full coverage of tuition and fees.
- Full coverage of required textbooks only.
- Full coverage of room and board in an institution's dormitory or an equivalent stipend cheque for student-athletes who live off campus.
- On-campus meal plan that can be utilized on campus or an equivalent stipend cheque for student-athletes who live off campus.

It is recommended that you research your scholarship options to ensure the institution has an undergraduate academic program, suitable athletic program and appropriate financial payment options. Listed below are key points in choosing a college or university:

- List priorities (academics, athletes, financial cost, accessibility and environment).
- Ensure the institution fits your priority list.
- Tuition and fees can vary; ensure you compare your options.
- If institution A costs \$10,000 per year and institution B costs \$18,000 per year, you have to consider the type of scholarship each institution offers.

This is the maximum allowance that an institution can allocate for a student-athlete in one academic year. Any additional benefits allocated by the institution may be determined as a violation and constitute an NCAA investigation.



Sandra Dynka, Texas Tech University

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Academics and Eligibility



Academics

The United States tertiary education system is based on a philosophy to develop and enhance the education of all students in a variety of areas. This philosophy provides the student with a wide base of education rather than focusing on one specific subject. This system provides students with the opportunity to pursue their undergraduate degree with the possibility of continuing their education to earn a Masters degree followed by a Doctorate/PhD.

3. Academics and Eligibility

Pre-University - High School

To be admitted to a United States College or University, you must have graduated from an accredited high school in your respective country. The average high school graduate in the United States is 18 years of age. Upon being admitted to a College or University, you must provide evidence of your high school graduation and official grade transcripts. If you graduated from a foreign high school, an English translation must accompany each official high school document.

NCAA Eligibility Center

The following documents must be provided to the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure timely registration:

- i) Standardized testing scores (SAT or ACT)
- ii) Official high school grade transcripts
- iii) High school graduation certificate

Academic Entrance Exams

As a Canadian citizen, you will be required to take the SAT exam. Your score on the SAT will determine your tertiary enrollment and athletic eligibility:

- i) SAT: Standardized test for high school graduates
- ii) TOEFL: If English is not your native language, this must be taken in addition with an SAT exam.

To find out more information regarding these entrance exams, please refer to the following websites:

<http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

www.act.org

<http://www.ets.org/toefl>

Eligibility

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) have different eligibility requirements for international athletes looking to attend a college or university in the United States. Please note: the standards required to be eligible for competition will become stricter in 2016 as there will be a distinction between the combined GPA and test scores required to be eligible for aid and to practice and the combined GPA and test scores required to compete. In simple terms, the standards will be changing in 2016 and will require players to have higher GPA's and test scores in order to be eligible to compete in NCAA college tennis. *

United States Tertiary Education System

Public vs. Private Institutions

The United States tertiary education system is divided into public and private institutions. A public institution is funded by the state or federal government. Private institutions are funded by the income and revenue they generate from enrolled students. Most private institutions tend to be more expensive and usually specialize in certain educational areas. Public institutions will offer a wide variety of degrees and areas of study.

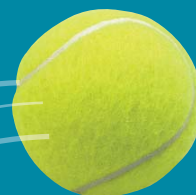
Admissions

Each academic institution has a minimum number of academic requirements that have to be met before you are admitted. These requirements will range from an acceptable SAT/ACT and TOEFL (if required) score, completion of acceptable high school subjects and graduation and certification of financial funds. It is recommended that you contact your prospective institution regarding their minimum academic requirements.

*** Please visit the link below to learn about the NCAA eligibility rules and requirements:**
<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/eligibility/index.html>

NCAA International Standards (2012-2013) Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility:
<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/IS13.pdf>

Please visit the link below to learn about the NAIA eligibility rules and requirements:
<http://www.playnaia.org/>



3. Academic Eligibility Requirements

Yearly Curriculum

The yearly curriculum at an academic institution is divided into either semesters or trimesters. A semester is when the academic year is divided into two periods, a fall and a spring session. A trimester is divided into three academic periods. The academic year is conducted from the middle of August until the start of May with a break for the Christmas period. Most academic institutions offer summer classes to their students.

Minimum Requirements

The National Collegiate Athletic Association requires each student-athlete to complete a minimum number of academic classes each semester/trimester to remain eligible to compete. If your institution is divided into semesters you will be required to pass approximately four classes per semester. If your institution is divided into trimesters you will be required to pass approximately three classes per trimester. Most institutions offer summer classes which can assist student-athletes in completing their minimum academic requirements. If a student-athlete fails to meet the academic requirements set by the NCAA they can be susceptible to probation, thus losing the opportunity to travel and compete for a semester or trimester. Student-athletes are required to maintain a minimum grade-point average to remain eligible to compete (usually a 2.0 or "C" average).

Academic Advisors

To assist each student-athlete with their academic progress, the athletic department will provide an academic adviser. Below are some of the responsibilities held by the academic adviser:

- Ensure all student-athletes have completed the necessary academic requirements to stay eligible.

- Assist student-athletes in designing their class schedule.
- Assist student-athletes in registering for classes.
- Provide student-athletes with class tutors.

Study Hall

The majority of institutions require student-athletes to attend regular study hall hours. This ensures that student-athletes keep up to date with their academic work. Study hall hours are supervised to maintain the good study habits of student-athletes.



Emma Onila, Barry University

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Intercollegiate Athletics

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The NCAA endorses three divisions of collegiate tennis within the United States. On the next page you will find a description of each division and the current number of institutions that sponsor a tennis program. Please keep in mind that there is not a lot of interaction between the divisions (they rarely compete against one another).



4. National Collegiate Athletic Association

Division I:

- Often described as the “strongest tennis division”.
- Institutions sponsor at least seven male and seven female intercollegiate sports.
- Institutions are bound by maximum financial allowances for athletes.
- 4.5 full scholarships available for men (can be divided partially).
- 8.0 full scholarships available for women.
- Currently sponsor 264 male and 310 female tennis programs.

Division II

- Institutions sponsor at least four male and four female intercollegiate sports.
- Institutions are bound by maximum financial allowances for athletes.
- 4.5 full scholarships available for men (can be partially divided).
- 6.0 full scholarships available for women.
- Currently sponsor 170 male and 213 female tennis programs.

Division III

- Institutions sponsor at least five male and five female intercollegiate sports.
- No financial aid allocated to athletes.
- Mainly smaller universities or colleges.
- Currently 311 male and 360 female tennis programs.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

The NAIA endorses one division of collegiate tennis within the United States. Below is a description of the institutions that are governed by the NAIA:

- Large variety in athletic and educational standards.
- Students do not require a SAT score to be admitted.

- Institutions are bound by maximum financial allowances for athletes.
- 4.0 full scholarships available for men (can be divided partially).
- 4.0 full scholarships available for women (can be divided partially).
- Currently sponsor 113 male and 133 female tennis programs.

National Junior College Athletics Association

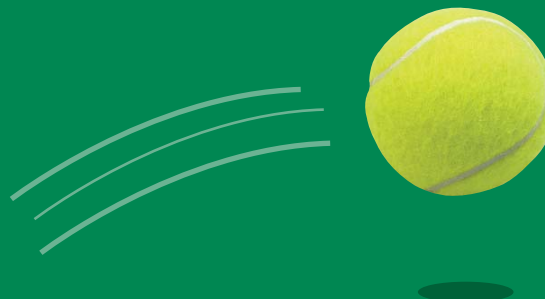
The NJCAA endorses two divisions of collegiate tennis. Below is a description of the institutions that are governed by the NJCAA.

- Athletes at NJCAA institutions predominantly compete for two years while completing their academic requirements.
- After completion of an Associate Degree athletes can transfer to an NCAA Division if they have successfully completed all the academic requirements.
- NJCAA institutions are relatively inexpensive.
- Institutions are bound by maximum financial allowances for athletes.
- 8.0 full scholarships available for men (can be divided partially).
- 8.0 full scholarships available for women (can be divided partially).
- Students do not require an SAT score to be admitted.
- Currently sponsor 50 Division I and 36 Division III men’s tennis programs.
- Currently sponsor 64 Division I and 31 Division III women’s programs.

Rankings

The NCAA publishes and releases singles, doubles and team rankings throughout the year. Rankings are initially processed by a panel of coaches and will then be determined by a computer-based ranking system. Each region also publishes and releases singles, doubles and team rankings after the fall semester. These rankings influence the individual national rankings.

* The top ranked D3 schools offer a very strong level of play, some equal to many of the D1 programs.





Recruiting Process

Recruiting Process

As a prospective student-athlete it is important that your recruitment resume is professional, short and dynamic. The United States tertiary education system is a fantastic opportunity to compete at an extremely high level, earn an accredited degree and travel the United States. This section will provide you with ideas on what collegiate coaches look for in regards to a resume and other information that will broaden your chances of attaining an athletic scholarship.

5. Recruiting Process

Preparation for a Telephone Call with a College Coach

Below are some questions to consider having answers ready for before you get on the telephone with a coach. Coaches understand that teenagers may be nervous to get on the telephone and speak with them, but an effortless, smooth telephone conversation shows the coach that you are mature, prepared, relaxed and confident. It also shows that you have done your homework and are being proactive in your recruiting process.

Questions to Have Answers to

- Why are you interested in this institution?
- Is there an academic program that you are most interested in?
- Do you think you are prepared to compete at the Division I, II, III, NAIA or NJCAA level? And why?
- What type of classes are you taking this year?
- How have you balanced your athletic and academic obligations to date?
- When do you plan on taking the SATs/ACTs?
- Are you comfortable attending a school far away from home?
- Do you play any other sports?
- Are you involved with anything in the community?
- Why did you decide to focus on tennis?
- What do you do in your free time?
- Do you work well in a team environment?
- What are your athletic goals?
- What is the strongest part of your game? Why? What is the weakest part of your game? Why?

The coach will also ask you if you have any questions for him/her and it is important to ask questions as that shows that you are interested, focused and prepared.

Questions to Ask a College/University Coach

- What is the off-season training regimen/schedule?
- How many tournaments do you play in the fall?
- Have you had a chance to see me play? And/or watch my recruiting DVD?
- How do your players balance school and tennis?
- What type of academic support is available for athletes? Study hall? Tutors? Advisors?
- What suggestions do you have for me to become a better candidate for your team and institution?
- What are a few things you look for in recruits?
- What are the goals of your team?
- What is your coaching style? And what are things you put emphasis on?

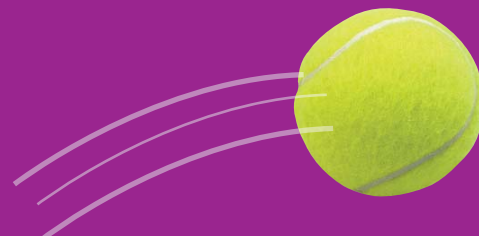
Keep in mind that coaches are also allowed to contact athletes and prospective athletes. When and if a coach is interested they might invite you for an unofficial visit. An unofficial visit by definition is before your senior (final) year of high school.

Things to Consider During an Unofficial or Official Visit

- Take a tour of the campus and the team's practice/competition facility.
- Go to class with one of the players and get a feel of what a college/university class/lecture is like.
- See where the players eat their meals, do they socialize with other athletes and/or the rest of the student body.
- Attend a tennis practice. Are there mandatory strength and conditioning practices? Does the team have a captain? Get a feel for how the coaching staff runs a practice.
- Go out with a teammate on a Friday night and see what campus

* Unofficial Visits

- The athlete will be required to pay all travel expenses associated with the visit.
- The athlete can stay on campus with a member of the team or another student.
- The athlete can take as many unofficial visits as he/she wants to any number of colleges at a time.
- The athlete can meet with the coaching staff while on campus and that coach can assist with the coordinating of the athlete's NCAA unofficial visit.



5. Recruiting Process

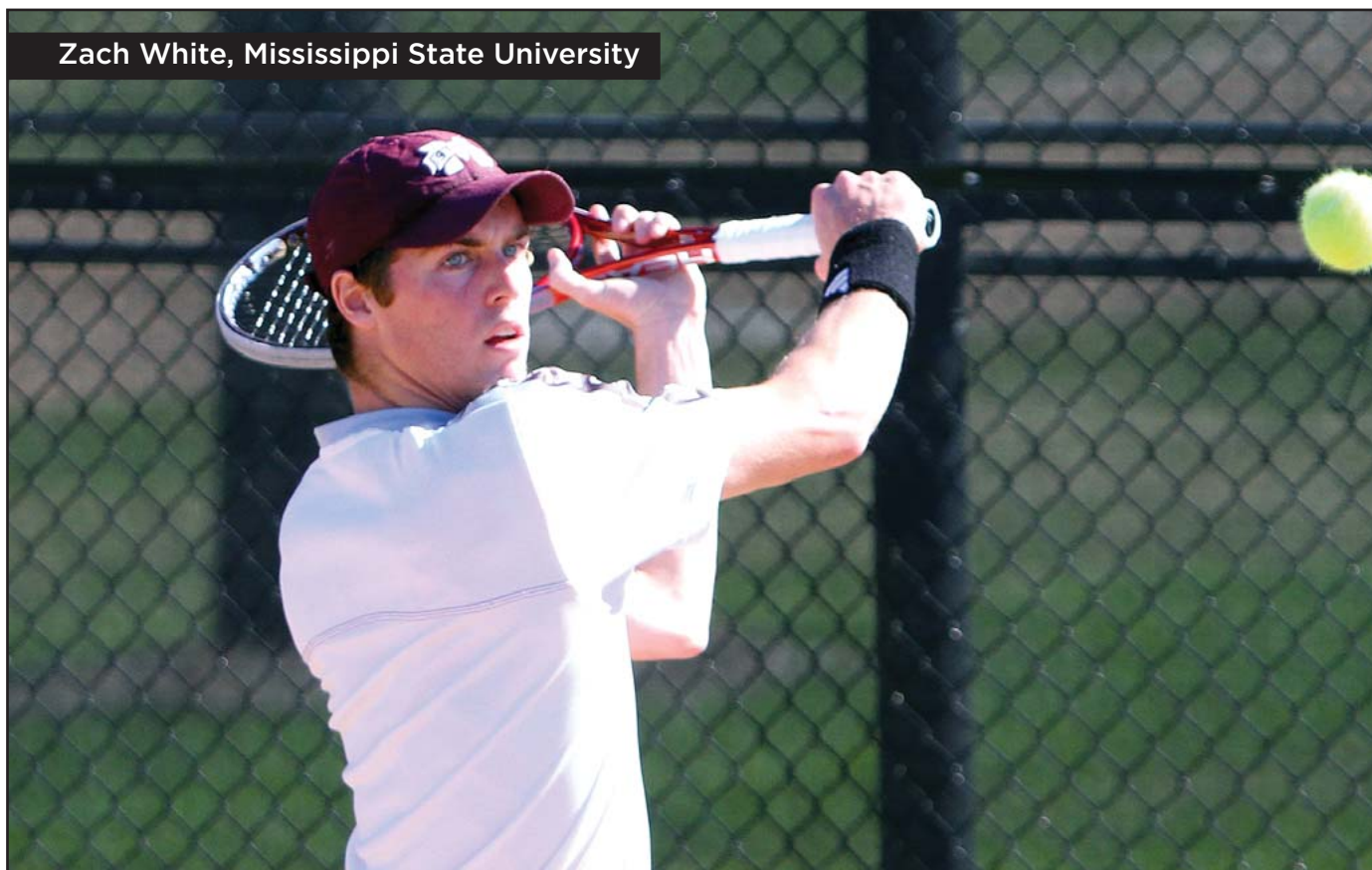
life is like. Are there campus activities run? Does the team go to other athletic events? Do they go into a nearby town or city?

- Stay in a teammate's dorms/apartment. Do they live on campus? Can you see yourself sharing a common space with 2 or 3 others? Are the dorms coed? Is the housing close to campus and amenities?

Finding the Right College Athletic Recruiting Service

While the resources on the Tennis Canada web page are free, there are excellent paid recruiting services that can really make the difference when searching for a tennis scholarship. Going through the recruiting process alone doesn't work for everyone, and paid services can provide the extra boost when looking for a college athletic scholarship.

Zach White, Mississippi State University




* Official Visits

- The athlete is only allowed one official visit to any given college.
- The athlete can only make official visits during their senior (final) year of high school.
- The athlete can make no more than 5 total official visits (each to a different school).
- The official visit can only last 48 hours in length.
- The college/university team can pay for your travel and lodging (this is the main difference between an official and unofficial visit).



Being an International Student-Athlete



No one can prepare you to play college sports and you will have a unique college experience. Remember that you are not alone as your teammates will be going through the same experience you are, and you will have the support of your coaching staff, Athletic Department and the International Student Department.

6. Being an International Student-Athlete

Below you will find information pertaining to a student visa, the NCAA clearing house and employment opportunities for students while they attend school in the United States.

As an international student-athlete in the United States you will have all of the academic and athletic opportunities that the institution offers within your visa regulations. Each institution will have an International Student Department that will be able to assist you with any questions or concerns regarding your visa and government documents.

Visa information

If you have been successfully accepted into an institution you will receive the paperwork for an F-1 student visa that allows you to attend that institution with working restrictions. Take these documents to the United States Consulate within your

country to receive your student visa. It is important when you arrive in the United States you bring all your visa information (ie. F-1 visa, I-20, passport, I-94 and United States visa) so you can be successfully admitted. Failure to provide these documents at your first port of entry in the United States may lead to legal implications.

NCAA Clearinghouse

As a prospective student-athlete from a foreign country it is important you send your high school documentation to the NCAA Clearinghouse as early as possible. Please follow the guidelines set out in the area titled Academics. It is essential that all documentation you send to the NCAA Clearinghouse is in English or has an English translation. For further information please refer to the NCAA Clearinghouse website at www.naaclearinghouse.org.



* As an international student-athlete in the United States you will have all of the academic and athletic opportunities that the institution offers within your visa regulations.

6. Being an International Student-Athlete

Employment

Employment as an international student is restricted to the institution that is signed on your I-20. You are allowed to legally work a maximum of 20 hours per week. These and other regulations can be attained through the international student department at your institution. They will have updated information for on-campus employment and immigration regulations.

Yearly Calendar

This section will give you an idea of a yearly calendar for tennis players as well as competition structure, tournaments, team environment, practice guidelines and what a daily schedule would look like for a student-athlete.

Tennis is one of only a few sports that compete throughout the yearly academic calendar. The tennis season is divided up into a fall and spring schedule. Below is a general breakdown of how each team will play its calendar year. For more information about a team's schedule, you should access their athletic page directly.

Fall:

National tournaments:

- All American Championships
- National Indoor Championships

Regional Tournaments:

- ITA Regional Tournament

Institution Tournaments:

- Many institutions hold fall tournaments (these could also be exhibition tournaments)

Spring:

National Tournaments:

- National Team Indoor Championships
- NCAA National Team Championships
- NCAA Singles and Double Championships

Dual Matches:

- Conducted from January through to the middle of April
- Conference Tournament is conducted at the end of April with the winning team gaining an automatic bid to the National Team Championships

NCAA Dual Match Protocol:

One of the most exciting aspects of college tennis in the United States is the ability to compete as a team. The spring season is devoted to dual matches where institutions will compete against each other with the goal to win a national or conference championship.

Below is a brief explanation of the current dual match protocol in D1 tennis:

- Dual matches aren't completed until a team has won the best of seven points.
- Three doubles matches are played in order of merit. Each doubles match is one pro set (8 games). The team who wins at least two of the three doubles matches will receive one point.
- Six singles matches are played after the doubles. Each singles match is the best of three sets with each match earning one point for their team.
- Service 'let's' have been removed from the men's competition of D1 college tennis.



Team Environment:

With hundreds of men's and women's programs throughout the United States there is a good chance that the programs are all conducted differently. When you arrive at your institution in the fall or spring you will enter a team that will have certain goals, coaching styles, facilities and staff associated with it.



6. Being an International Student-Athlete

In D2, D3 and NAIA dual matches the only different to D1 tennis is that these divisions have a total of 9 points (all three doubles matches count as 1 point each). With the exception of the NCAA tournament and a few other extenuating circumstances, all matches are played to conclusion and not stopped after the team winner has been determined. However, if a team has already won the match they may decide to play a super-tie-break for the third set instead of playing it out in full.

Summer Tournaments:

During the summer the Intercollegiate Tennis Association conducts tournaments throughout the United States. Check your institution or on the ITA website, www.itatennis.com

for tournament schedules. There are also many Futures and Challenger events located throughout the United States during the summer (May through August). For more information contact the United States Tennis Association at www.usta.org.

Coaches/Players/Support Staff:

Coaches:

Each institution will have a head coach that is responsible for the daily improvement and well being of the team. Their responsibilities will range from player development, conducting practice sessions, scheduling matches, budget management and recruiting. Some institutions will have an assistant coach, graduate assistant or volunteer assistant coach who will assist in these areas.



* The spring season is devoted to dual matches where institutions will compete against each other with the goal to win a conference or national championship.



6. Being an International Student-Athlete

Players:

College teams predominately have 8-12 players on their competitive roster. The benefit of this is that you can always find someone to practice with and there will be a variety of playing styles to learn from and plenty of new friends to make. Some institutions will have international athletes so you will have the ability to experience other cultures within the one place.

Trainer:

All institutions with an athletic program will have a training room

and a certified athletic trainer. The athletic trainer will assist with injuries, rehabilitation and referrals for medical concerns.

Other Staff:

Depending on the institution, you may encounter any of the following staff members who will assist with your tennis program.

- Administrative Assistant
- Team Stringer
- Team Manager



* Some institutions will have international athletes so you will have the ability to experience other cultures within the one place.



6. Being an International Student-Athlete

Practice:

Within the guidelines of the NCAA, each tennis program can officially practice for a maximum of 20 hours per week and this includes all on-court official coaching, conditioning programs and private lessons with at least one day off per seven-day period. You can practice voluntarily outside these hours and most institutional coaches will encourage extra hitting with teammates.

Below you can find a sample day of a student-athlete at a top D1 program. Please note that this is an example of a demanding schedule and that the average day can vary drastically depending on the school you choose.

7:00 am - 7:30 am	Wake up, breakfast
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Attend classes
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Lunch
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Private lesson or extra practice
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Scheduled team practice
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Physical conditioning
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Rehabilitation, dinner
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Study, relax, catch up with friends
11:00 pm - 11:30 pm	Bed



*** In any given week student-athletes may also travel for competition, be required to participate in extra practice sessions on the weekend or attend some of the institution's other athletic events.**



7. Resources and References

Links:

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

www.ncaa.org

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

www.naia.org

Tennis Recruiting Network

www.tennisrecruiting.net

Universal Tennis Ratings

www.universaltennis.com

NCAA International Standards (2012-2013) Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/IS13.pdf>

Tennis Recruiting – Creating a Tennis Recruiting Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ej5caevXGjg&playnext=1&list=PLB4B6D0D374578C6C&feature=results_main

Tennis Recruiting – Athletic Scholarships

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpwNygIL8hg&list=PLB4B6D0D374578C6C>

Explaining Financial Aid in Recruiting

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1DbjLE_-wA

Importance of Academics in the Recruiting Process

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llsyMHLzpSA&NR=1&feature=endscreen>

The Parent's Role in the Recruiting Process

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTAJb3wtfHg>

How to Contact College Coaches

<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/how-to-contact-college-coaches.htm>

Can You Handle the Life of a College Athlete?

<http://www.athleticscholarships.net/2012/09/20/can-you-handle-life-college-athlete.htm>



Credits

Tennis Canada would like to give special credit to Mark Edney and Tennis Australia for their cooperation and research in assisting to develop this guide for Canadian athletes looking to pursue an athletic scholarship to the United States.



www.tenniscanada.com/uscolleges