



Finding the Right College for Your Paralympic Swimmers

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Primary Goals

1. Match Academic Rigors with Aptitudes
2. Match Athletic ability with Division/Conference/Team
3. Match Campus Environment with SA wants/needs
4. Match Team Culture/Coaching Style
5. Match Training Environment
6. Spread the “Wealth”
7. Cultivate Professional Coaches working with Para-Swimmers
8. Increase Awareness and Institutional Inclusion
9. Facilitate Relationships through all Swimming Organizations
10. Provide Resources to Support Performance Excellence





Helping Stakeholders

Top 3 Initiatives to Help all Stakeholders

1. Working directly with NCAA, CSCAA, ASCA, NFHS, USA Swimming, and YMCA Swimming.
2. Creating a database of athletes, collegiate institutions/programs and coaches previously or currently working with or expressed interest in working with para-swimmers.
3. Providing assistance to Emerging level U.S. Paralympic Swimmers in connecting with collegiate programs.





Collegiate Sport Governing Bodies

Main Collegiate Sport Governing Bodies

NCAA



NAIA



NJCAA





Division I

Division I schools, on average, enroll the most students, manage the largest athletics budgets, offer a wide array of academic programs and provide the most athletics scholarships.

- **PARTICIPATION** • 179,200 student-athletes • 351 colleges and universities
- **ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS** 59 percent of all student-athletes receive some level of athletics aid
- **ACADEMICS 2017** Graduation Success Rate: 87 percent
- **OTHER STATS**
 - Median Undergraduate Enrollment: 9,629
 - Average Number of Teams per School: 19 Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports: 4 percent
 - Division I National Championships: 26





Division II

Division II provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, high-level athletics competition and community engagement. Many participants are first-generation college students.

- **PARTICIPATION** • 121,900 student-athletes • 308 colleges and universities
- **ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS** 62 percent of all student-athletes receive some level of athletics aid
- **ACADEMICS** 2017 Academic Success Rate: 72 percent
- **OTHER STATS**
 - Median Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,485
 - Average Number of Teams per School: 16
 - Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports: 9 percent
 - Division II National Championships: 25





Division III

The Division III experience provides an integrated environment that focuses on academic success while offering competitive athletics and meaningful nonathletic opportunities.

- **PARTICIPATION** • 190,900 student-athletes • 443 colleges and universities
- **FINANCIAL AID** 80 percent of all student-athletes receive some form of academic grant or need-based scholarship; institutional gift aid totals \$17,000 on average
- **ACADEMICS** 2017 Academic Success Rate: 87 percent
- **OTHER STATS**
 - Median Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,748
 - Average Number of Teams per School: 18
 - Average Percentage of Student Body Participating in Sports: 26 percent Division III
 - National Championships: 28





Primary Steps in Finding the Right College



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Questions to Ask

Student Athletes (SA) Should Ask Themselves:

- Does the institution offer the #1 & #2 academic areas of interest?
- Does the institution offer varsity swimming?
- What is the campus environment like?
- If accommodations are needed, are they offered?
- What type of experience is the SA looking for in a college?
- What type of team experience is the SA looking for?
- Competitively, does the SA's performance times fit within the team's ranges? The conference ranges?
- What is the size of the team?
- If swimming was not available, would this institution still be the right fit?



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Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask regarding Schools Disability Services Office:

- Ask if the school has ever worked with someone with your impairment,
 - If Visual impairment, be certain to clarify if they use Windows instead of Mac
 - Be able to which platforms if needed and ask if they have any new technology that may be introduced
- As you narrow your list, work more closely with the disability offices
 - Provide documentation from your doctor of your disability and how it effects your academic performance
- Request a list of accommodations you will be offered
 - Interpretations of ADA may differ so the answers may vary
- Ask each school, “What skills do I need to be successful here”?





Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask regarding Academics:

- How many school days do the swimmers miss traveling to competitions?
- How do the swimmers balance the rigors of academics and swimming?
- What is the Team GPA?
- Are study tables required?
- How do professors work with student-athletes when they miss a class or classes to attend competitions
- What is the team policy regarding an extenuating circumstance that I may need to miss a workout due to academic restraints?





Steps to Follow

Basic Steps to Follow:

- Create a SA one-page highlight profile snapshot or resume
 - Include a section on Academics, Athletics, Volunteer/Work, etc.
- Research the Institutions that fit the SA Academic & Athletic needs
 - Create 3 lists of 3-4 schools:
 - IE → 3-4 Dream Schools; 3-4 Realistic Schools; 3-4 Backup Schools
- Talk with high school guidance counselors/coaches/teachers
- Take ACT and/or SAT as early and often as feasible
- Maintain a successful GPA and focus on academic standings
- Register with NCAA Eligibility if considering DI or DII institutions





Steps to Follow

Basic Steps to Follow:

- Fill out online recruiting questionnaires at each institution on your list
- Email the Coach your profile to introduce yourself
- Set up a campus visit through the Admissions Office; be sure to request time for a direct meeting with the coach
- Attend a camp or clinic at the institutions on your final list
- Attend an over-night visit with the team if possible





Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask a Collegiate Coach:

- What do you look for in a SA?
- What is your training philosophy?
- What does a typical week of practice look like?
- How would you describe your training volume?
- Do you separate your team into specific training groups?
- Describe your team rules, expectations and culture?





Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask a Collegiate Coach:

- Would I have a spot on your roster?
- What meets would I get to swim?
- What challenges do you feel we may encounter?
- How do you see my situation working for you, your staff and your team?
- How do you feel about working with me on my full seasonal plan for training and big meets that include collegiate and for U.S. Paralympics?





Resources

Additional Resources:

<http://www.ncaa.com>

<http://www.naia.org>

<http://www.njcaa.org>

<http://www.usms.org>

Contact Information:

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Thank You!!



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