




# Your Winter Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.



## December

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**Continue applying to schools.**  
 Keeping up with [admissions standards and deadlines can be tough](#)—by now, you should know which of the schools on your target list offer rolling admissions vs. set admissions deadlines and whether they [use the Common App](#).
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**Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center.**  
 Are you applying to NAIA programs? Every student-athlete has to [create an account with PlayNAIA.org](#) in order to play sports at an NAIA college or university.
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**Compare college offers.**  
 From knowing the difference between [verbal offers and commitments](#) to [preferred and recruited walk-on offers](#), review these terms now so you have a better understanding of the offers you may receive.

## December 4

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**D1 football early signing period**  
 Football recruits can sign with D1 schools between December 4-6, 2024 ahead of the regular signing period beginning February 5, 2025.


## January

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**Complete your FAFSA ASAP.**  
 If you haven't submitted your FAFSA, now is the time. [Financial aid](#) is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. This form determines your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study funds. The Department of Education announced that the FAFSA would have a soft launch on October 1, 2024 to allow for testing and error correction, and then gradually allow more users until the full launch on December 1, 2024.
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**Become a master negotiator.**  
 What happens if you receive multiple scholarship offers? Not all offers are the same, so it's a good idea to [learn how to negotiate](#) to maximize your total financial aid packages.

## February 1

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**D1 and D2 football regular signing period begins**  
 This is just the first (not the only!) day in the regular period football student-athletes can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. This period ends on April 1 (D1) and August 1 (D2).

## February

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**Complete your amateurism questionnaire.**  
 Whether you're signing with an NCAA D1 or D2 college or still narrowing down your options, make sure you've [completed your amateurism questionnaire](#) within your NCAA Certification Account.