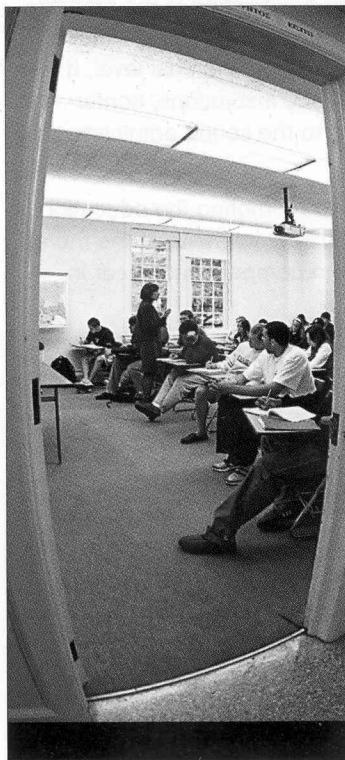


What is Division II?



NCAA member institutions choose from among three classification levels — Divisions I, II and III — based on their institutional mission and their athletics philosophy.

Each division has criteria for membership. The most prominent of those pertain to sports-sponsorship requirements and the amount of athletically related financial aid that may be provided to student-athletes. Division II believes that its member institutions should sponsor at least 10 varsity sports and that they should provide at least a minimal amount of financial aid for their student-athletes. Those standards distinguish Division II from Division I (which requires a larger financial aid commitment and

the sponsorship of more sports) and Division III (which prohibits the provision of athletically related financial aid).

Division II institutions typically have smaller undergraduate enrollment than their Division I counterparts, although about 40 percent of Divisions I and II member institutions have between 2,500 and 7,500 undergraduate students.

Division II Philosophy

The Division II Philosophy Statement requires a Division II member institution to believe, among other things, in offering as many participation opportunities as possible, in the value of regional competition against other Division II members and in offering athletically related financial aid to student-athletes.

Here is the complete Division II philosophy statement:

“Members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational welfare of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

“Members support the following principles in the belief that these objectives assist in defining the division and the possible differences between it and other divisions of the Association. This statement shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the division and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences. A member of Division II:

- (a) Believes in promoting the academic success of its student-athletes, measured in part by an institution’s student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution’s student body; (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (b) Believes that participation in intercollegiate athletics benefits the educational experience of its student-athletes and the entire campus community; (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (c) Believes in offering opportunities for intercollegiate athletics participation consistent with the institution’s mission and philosophy; (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (d) Believes in preparing student-athletes to be good citizens, leaders and contributors in their communities; (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (e) Believes in striving for equitable participation and competitive excellence, encouraging sportsmanship and ethical conduct, enhancing diversity and developing positive societal attitudes in all of its athletics endeavors; (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (f) Believes in scheduling the majority of its athletics competition with other members of Division II, insofar as regional qualification, geographical location and traditional or conference scheduling patterns permit;
- (g) Recognizes the need to “balance” the role of the athletics program to serve both the campus (participants, student body, faculty-staff) and the general public (community, area, state); (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (h) Believes in offering opportunity for participation in intercollegiate athletics by awarding athletically related financial aid to its student-athletes;
- (i) Believes that institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the educational mission of a Division II institution and assumes presidential involvement and commitment. All funds supporting athletics should be controlled by the institution. The emphasis for an athletics department should be to operate within an institutionally approved budget and compliance with and self enforcement of NCAA regulations is an expectation of membership; and (revised January 2004, effective August 1, 2004)
- (j) Believes that all members of Division II should commit themselves to this philosophy and to the regulations and programs of Division II.”

