

## **THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**

1. For those of you that have already determined an undergraduate major make sure the universities and/or colleges in which you have interest offer that major. However it is very normal to be undeclared and not to have chosen a major or area of study.
2. Look into the admissions requirements and / or standards. Find out what GPA, SAT and / or ACT scores you will need to have in order to be competitive in the admission's process for the universities and / or colleges in which you are interested.
3. Size and location of the university and / or college. The faculty to student ratio. Quarter vs. Semester system. Public vs. Private.
4. The availability of academic assistance for the student athletes. The graduation rate for the athletic department, and specifically the soccer team.
5. Choose the appropriate competitive level (Division 1, 2, 3, NAIA, or Junior College) for your ability.
6. Athletic / academic scholarships and / or financial aid assistance that is available.
7. Will you be happy at the university if for some reason things don't work out for you in the soccer program?
8. Many students end up living and working near the area where they went to college.
9. Apply to the NCAA clearinghouse to gain initial eligibility. Send official transcripts and test scores to the NCAA and the schools that you are interested in.
10. Apply for financial aid as soon as possible.

## **THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING AT THE SOCCER PROGRAM AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT – ATHLETE**

1. Write to the coach and request general information on the university, and specific information on the soccer program.
2. Visit the universities, officially or unofficially per NCAA.
3. Watch the teams play to determine the level and style of play.
4. Arrange to talk to the coach, current and former players, general student body, and to any faculty or administrators.
5. Does the program have a tryout or must you be recruited to play on the team.

6. How many seniors will be graduating from the university's team versus how many high school seniors the coach is recruiting? Also, how do you compare with the other players competing for your position?
7. Financial support for the soccer program from the university, (i.e. budgets for travel, equipment, scholarships).
8. Student body support of the Soccer Program.
9. Find out what type of off-season and spring-season requirements the coach has for the team. Does this fit your lifestyle?

### **An AU\*Capital SC COLLEGE TIMELINE for prospective student-athletes**

#### U15

Begin an Academic path that will satisfy NCAA rules and challenge you.  
 Grasp the Academic path to AP/IB classes for Junior and Senior years.  
 Meet with your Guidance Counselor to discuss long-term goals.  
 Participate in community service and other activities away from school.  
 Log on to NCAA.com for information.

#### U16

Continue with the above points of emphasis.  
 Check for PSAT registration.  
 Compile a list of 8-12 schools of interest. Build/send resume and cover letter to college coaches. Also contact Admissions/Financial aid offices to get on their mailing lists.  
 Email coach of the colleges before each major event you attend. Be sure to include your player bio, accomplishments, the schedule for the event and your uniform number.  
 After an event follow up with an email and ask for feedback on your play.  
 Fall – Visit/watch games at two schools of interest. Ask if coaches are available to meet.  
 Spring – Visit two different schools.  
 Summer – Consider soccer camp at school of interest. Visit school that you are interested in and schools that have shown an interest in you.

#### U17

Continue with the above points of emphasis.  
 Narrow your college choices to 8 or less.  
 Attend college fairs – research academic, social and soccer offerings at colleges.  
 Excel in class. Junior year is critical. Take AP/IB courses if possible.  
 Register with NCAA Clearing house at the end of junior year.  
 Evaluate your senior year classes – take the best and most challenging options.  
 Make unofficial visits to colleges or attend “junior day” events. Take campus tours; continue to seek admissions/financial aid info.  
 Meet with coaches; attend summer camp of top choices.

#### U18

Complete applications, ideally in the fall. Finalize essays and recommendations for apps.  
 Take SAT again if need be.  
 Research colleges extensively, arrange for college visits. Get tax forms for financial aid.  
 Narrow list to 5 schools or less, go the distance with your classes.  
**Colleges – You pursue them. They do not pursue you!**