

• I WISH I'D KNOWN FOR ATHLETES

• Before reviewing these checklists here are some points student-athletes reported wishing they had known before starting college as freshmen:

- The competition, academically and athletically, was going to be tough.
- How to handle my time better.
- Some teachers would not be concerned about me personally.
- Some of my teachers would be graduate students.
- College teachers are not trained the same as high school teachers. Consequently, some of them know the stuff they teach, but they don't know how to teach it very well.
- For some classes, no one gave me individual attention unless I asked for it.
- I could choose a "quiet" dorm and avoid the late night parties.
- Some of my classes have 200 or more students.
- I get two tests in the semester to establish my grade.
- The odds of making a living in professional athletics are poor. Getting an education has to come first.
- It takes many athletes five years to graduate.
- I must get to know about many special services such as financial aid, counseling, career planning, placement, and the learning resources center.
- If I'm not careful, I could really believe some of the kids who think I'm big time because I'm a jock.
- What to do if my roommate and I are not compatible.

• THE CHECKLIST

• These checklists and who to ask are suggestions. You may want to add or delete questions and ask several people the same question. There are no right or wrong answers. For instance, some students like the idea of attending a small campus where students and staff know one another. Other students prefer the anonymity of a large campus. Each has its advantages and disadvantages.

• *High school counselor, college catalogs:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ How do my College Board scores compare with those of other students entering the college?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have I taken the appropriate college entrance examinations?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I understand NCAA Rule #48? Rule #48 requires:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2.0 GPA at the end of the sixth, seventh and eighth semesters;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 700+ board score (or 1,500+ on ACT);
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 11 units including at least 3 in English, 2 in natural science (1 in lab), 2 in math, 2 in social science; and 2 more in any of the above.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the school have the academic program I am interested in pursuing?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What are the job opportunities after graduation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I have the academic background to handle this program?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What financial aid am I eligible to receive?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of standing does the college have in my field of interest?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I have the qualities required to move away from home and handle independence?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do I have the self-discipline to handle this program?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How large is the college?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have I arranged to make a college visit? Suggestions: When ready to make a visit, plan to meet with a counselor, a financial aid officer, coaches, department chairpersons, and teammates. Many students report that speaking with non-athletes can be a useful strategy. Take the time to visit residence halls.

*High school coach:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the college coach known for caring about his or her athletes? (i.e. that they get their degrees, receive attention if in difficulty).

\_\_\_\_\_ If a college coach decides to visit my home school, who should coordinate the visit? Are these visits legal? Will I take part in the visit?

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*College counselor:*

\_\_\_\_\_ What are the employment trends in my field of interest?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I have to declare an academic major when I enter?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the college placement service like? Is there a fee? Will they help find me a job?

\_\_\_\_\_ What hours is the library open?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the tutorial program like? Are there required hours?

\_\_\_\_\_ What grade point average must I maintain to stay in school?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are there special work-study opportunities?

\_\_\_\_\_ (If applicable) How much of the total cost of college would a scholarship cover?

\_\_\_\_\_ What grade point average must I maintain to stay in school?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the total yearly cost for attendance?

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• *College coach:*

\_\_\_\_\_ What percentage of athletes in my sport graduate in 4 years? 5 years?

\_\_\_\_\_ Will I live with regular students or with athletes?

\_\_\_\_\_ If eligible for a scholarship, under which circumstances might I lose it? Injury? Academics? Playing performance?

\_\_\_\_\_ What kind of special insurance coverage do athletes get?

\_\_\_\_\_ What grade point average must I maintain to keep my scholarship?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can I engage in more than one sport?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the health program like on campus?

\_\_\_\_\_ What are off-campus health centers and services like?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the procedure for dealing with injuries? Does the school dictate to whom I can go?

\_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ What are my chances of making the team?

\_\_\_\_\_ Am I eligible for an athletic scholarship?

\_\_\_\_\_ How many hours a day are required for the athletic program? (Include taping, warm-ups, and so forth). Suggestion: Ask about off-seasons. Will you be expected to work out daily?

\_\_\_\_\_ How many classes am I likely to miss each semester in travel and other activities? Do professors allow make-up tests?

• \_\_\_\_\_ How many students live in each dorm room?

*Teammates:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Will my social life revolve around other athletes?

\_\_\_\_\_ Will a lot of other students know I'm an athlete? Is it awkward when people find out I'm a jock?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the attitude of professors in my prospective department toward athletes?

• \_\_\_\_\_ How many hours will I need to study each night?