

FCX College Night

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First Things First

1. Pick a school for the academics
2. Find a school that fits your needs
3. Be completely honest with yourself about the level that you can/want to play at. Talk to your coach (both FCX and high school). They can give you an honest evaluation of the level that you are at.

Recruiting Timeline and Checklist

Freshman year

- Establish a strong GPA
- Train hard
- Start to make a list of schools that INTEREST you

Sophomore Year

- Improve on your GPA
- Train hard
- Start to gather more information on colleges of interest
- Start to contact coaches to let them know about showcase events/MRL events/etc.

Recruiting Timeline and Checklist

Junior Year (Begin the recruiting process)

- ACT/SAT registration
- Narrow down list of potential schools
- Begin contacting coaches via email or phone calls
- Go to college camps
- Register with NCAA/NAIA Clearinghouse

Senior Year

- Coaches may finally contact you via telephone
- Arrange official visits
- Apply to potential schools
- Sign National letter of Intent (NLI)

How to Choose a School

- Major/Academic Interest(s)
- College Size
- Location
- College Environment
- Cost

Use this list and identify which ones meet your **ACADEMIC** needs first.

After this consider the soccer aspect

- Division 1, 2, 3, NAIA, JUCO

How To Get In Touch With Coaches

Different divisions have different rules so try to become aware.

- Email- Be aware that in certain circumstances coaches cannot email back until you are a certain age
- Phone Call- Coaches may not be able to call back until you are a certain age. However, you can call them and they can talk
- In person- You can visit schools anytime you would like

How to Get Noticed by College Coaches

1. Write the coach!
2. Attend the programs soccer camp or ID camp
3. Contact the coach(s) prior to MRL or showcase events
4. Participate in ODP, ID2, etc. as another way to get noticed

College Camps

Summer Camps- Generally for players of all ages. Will use camps to help find prospective student-athletes

Winter Camps- Same.

ID Camps- High school aged students that are interested in the school and who may have already been identified by the coaching staff.

* Schools may not offer discounts to prospective student-athletes

Questions to Ask the Coach

- Do your research on the college first so you ask the right questions
- About the college:
 - Degree program of interest
 - Popular majors
 - Student-Athlete housing
 - Semesters, quarters, trimesters
- About the soccer program
 - Schedule
 - Roster size
 - Practice schedule in season
 - Offseason schedule
 - Facilities

Questions to Ask the Coach

- Coaches needs
 - How many seniors are graduating
 - How many red shirt players there are
 - Where do YOU see ME fitting in
- How to go forward:
 - When can you watch me play (or play again)
 - Set up official/unofficial visit
 - Copy of resume, references, tournament schedule

Official vs. Unofficial Visit

Official Visit

- Not until your senior year of high school
- Can take an unlimited amount of official visits BUT only ONE per institution
- Many times you will need transcripts, test scores, etc. before you can get an official visit
- Understand that soccer budgets are not the same as football or basketball budgets and sometimes this may not be possible.
- Will meet with admissions and compliance offices

Unofficial Visit

- Anytime
- Can go on campus and talk to coach
- Try to arrange this by calling the coach (or emailing first) letting him/her know when you will be on campus
- Still may need to meet with admissions and compliance

Scholarships

NCAA Division I:

- Men- 9.9 scholarships
- Women- 14 scholarship

NCAA Division II:

- Men- 9 scholarships
- Women- 9.9 scholarships

NCAA Division III:

- Does not award athletic aid

NAIA:

- Men and Women- 12 max

JUCO:

- Division I- 18 scholarships
- Division III- none

Differences Between DI, DII, DIII, and NAIA

- Amount of athletic aid able to offer
- Amount of time spent in and out of season on soccer related activities
 - DI will spend the most while DIII will spend the least
 - NAIA is based off of yearly calendar so it can vary from program to program
- Recruiting rules
- Program budgets
- Travel
- Time away from class

NCAA Clearinghouse and NAIA Eligibility Center

- Register and pay fee
- Allows schools/compliance offices to monitor academics
- Allows schools to check up on amateurism
- NCAA Clearinghouse
 - www.ncaa.org
 - Top right to "Member Login"
- NAIA Eligibility Center
 - www.playnaia.org
 - Click "register to play"

What a College Coach is Looking For

- Psychological
 - Dealing with adversity
 - How you treat teammates, coaches, officials, opponents
- Physical
 - Speed
 - Strength
 - Agility
- Technical
 - Ability to receive, pass, dribble, shoot, etc under pressure is vital
- Tactical
 - Decision making on and off the ball under pressure
 - The decision that will help your team the most
 - The decision that will hurt the other team the most

Conclusion and Reminders

- a.) Make a list of schools that are interested based on type of school (size, location, major)
- b.) Attend Camps, email coaches, try to have them see you
- c.) Regular follow up with coaches via email and schedule trips to the school to meet the coaching staff on the campus.
- d.) Narrow down list based on school preferences and how important playing is