

UNIVERSITIES AND SOCCER SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES

Soccer, a growing sport in the United States

Soccer has begun to gain momentum in the United States, and American coaches believe the lifestyle of a college player is similar to that of a professional player, as they train in excellent facilities and compete against high quality soccer players from all over the world.

Training in USA for high level athletes

The United States is the best option for many top soccer players that drop out of the lower categories of professional teams and want to continue competing at a high level.

Soccer can give them this opportunity to receive a university education, offering them an international experience and allowing them to continue with the sport, at least until they are 23 years old.

LaLiga Academy supports the education of its young soccer players

In LaLiga Academy we want be part of the development of our athletes, helping them to receive this training in United States thanks to the scholarships that the American universities provide. We have partnered with AGM Education, the biggest athletic recruiting company in Europe, with 15 years of experience helping international athletes in finding universities and scholarships in the US. Together we can provide opportunities, thanks to soccer, to dozens of players from the Academy.

Universities in the USA with soccer teams that offer scholarships

In the United States, there are more than 1,600 universities with soccer programs that offer scholarships to student-athletes. In the following table, you can see how many universities provide scholarships and the number of awards offered per team, according to the organization to which they belong.

Organization	Number of Universities	Maximum Number of Scholarships Offered per Team	
		Female	Male
NCAA I	331	14	9.9
NCAA II	257	9.9	9
NCAA III	446	–	–
NAIA	204	12	12
NJCAA	236	18	18
OTHER	193	–	–

REQUIREMENTS & KEY FACTORS

1- High athletic level

The athletic level of the student is essential in receiving a soccer scholarship; the options vary according to your level. For example, there are some players who belong to lower categories of professional clubs such as Barça or Real Madrid, or others who play in lower categories of their neighborhood or school teams. The possibilities of obtaining a full or nearly full scholarships are greater in the first case. But even if your case is the latter, you still have the opportunity to earn a scholarship. However, you will need a family budget that allows you to cover part of the expenses.

2- Academic requirements

It is necessary to graduate from high school and take the SAT exam and the TOEFL exam if English is a second language.

To be eligible for athletic scholarships in the United States, students have to take two admission exams for the universities. On one hand, the SAT is similar to the Spanish *Selectividad* that consists of a reading comprehension and mathematical test in English. The TOEFL is a test that measures a student's level of English. We recommend that you start preparing for the tests early. Keep in mind that there are few dates to take the exams, especially in the case of the SAT, which only has four sittings per academic year. Therefore, you must register well in advance to secure your spot. Plan ahead: it's advisable to take these two exams in your second to last year of high school.

3- Do not play professionally

The better a soccer player's athletic level, the greater the coaches' interest will be in having that athlete on their team. Therefore, the number of scholarship offers and the scholarship amount will increase according to the level of the player.

However, keep in mind that you cannot have ever played at a professional level in your youth career. To qualify for an athletic scholarship, it is important that you are considered an amateur soccer player. These scholarships are not awarded to players who have earned money for playing football, nor for those who have signed a professional contract with a club.

4- The recruiting video: key to increase your options

It's recommendable to prepare an athletic resume where you can compile all of your statistics and most relevant results. Also, you should include the teams you have played on and your greatest athletic & academic achievements. This resume is your cover letter, take good care of it and make sure it portrays a positive image. You will also need to include videos.

Each Case is different, and to assess the possibilities of each player, key factors such as athletic level, academic level and family budget will be considered.