

POSITIONING STATEMENT

FOLLOW YOUR PASSIONS AND DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL.

The college experience is a time of learning and growth — a chance to follow passions and develop potential. For student-athletes in Division III, all of this happens most importantly in the classroom and through earning an academic degree. The Division III experience provides for passionate participation in a competitive athletic environment, in which student-athletes push themselves to excellence and build upon their academic success with new challenges and life skills. And student-athletes are encouraged to pursue their full passions and find their potential through a comprehensive educational experience.

THE THREE D'S

DISCOVER

Division III student-athletes are encouraged to pursue their interests and passions beyond the classroom and field of play...to discover themselves.

DEVELOP

Division III institutions provide an environment that encourages student-athletes to develop into well-rounded adults. Small class sizes, the ability to participate in more than one sport, and an emphasis on participating in activities outside of the classroom are all hallmarks of the Division III experience.

DEDICATE

Division III institutions expect student-athletes to dedicate themselves to achieving their potential. Student-athletes must manage their busy schedules, keep up with class work and face the same challenges as the rest of the student-body.

WHAT DOES DIVISION III ATHLETICS HAVE TO OFFER?

- Division III athletics provides a well-rounded collegiate experience that involves a balance of rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and the opportunity to pursue the multitude of other co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities offered on Division III campuses.
- Division III playing season and eligibility standards minimize conflicts between athletics and academics, allowing student-athletes to focus on their academic programs and the achievement of a degree.
- Division III offers an intense and competitive athletics environment for student-athletes who play for the love of the game, without the obligation of an athletics scholarship.
- Division III athletics departments place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators. The student-athlete's experience is of paramount concern.
- Division III athletics departments are dedicated to offering broad-based programs with a high number and wide range of athletics participation opportunities for both men and women.
- Division III places primary emphasis on regional in-season and conference competition, while also offering 36 national championships annually.
- Division III affords student-athletes the opportunity to discover valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, perseverance and leadership, which in turn make student-athletes better students and responsible citizens.
- Division III features student-athletes who are subject to the same admission standards, academic standards, housing and support services as the general student body. The integration of athletics with the larger institution enables student-athletes to experience all aspects of campus life.

MEMBERSHIP

Source: September 2013 Membership Report

- **450** Total Members (438 Active with 11 Provisional and 1 Reclassifying).
- **Division III is the NCAA's largest division (approximately 40% of total membership).**
- Eighty-one percent (356) of active Division III institutions are private, while 19 percent (82) of institutions are public.
- **43** Division III voting conferences.

STUDENT-ATHLETE COMPOSITION

Source: 2013 NCAA Financial Reporting System

- On average, student-athletes comprise **21 percent** of the student body at Division III institutions. (This percentage ranges from one to more than 50 percent.)
 - 281 = median number of student-athletes at schools that don't sponsor football.
 - 531 = median number of student-athletes at schools that sponsor football.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

Source: 2013 EADA Reporting System

	LOWEST	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
Overall	348	2,717	21,247

DIII-SPONSORED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Source: 2013-14 Division III Manual

Men Championship Sports (14)

Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

Women Championship Sports (14)

Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball

National Collegiate Championships (8)

Men - Gymnastics, Water Polo; Women - Bowling, Gymnastics, Water Polo; Men and Women - Fencing, Rifle, Skiing

DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Report participating in club sports and intramural sports at greater rates than non athletes.
- Report active academic engagement and participation in academic "extras," such as research with faculty, study abroad opportunities and capstone/senior thesis projects.
- Are more likely to report "leadership potential" as an important consideration in choosing a career.
- Report significantly greater gains in time management when compared with non-athletes.
- Report greater involvement in volunteering.
- Are more likely to report that they see themselves as part of the campus community.
- Have equal opportunity and access to financial aid as the general student body - but are not awarded aid based on athletics leadership, ability, performance or participation. Three-quarters of all student-athletes in Division III receive some form of grant or non-athletics scholarship.

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION (including emerging sports)

Source: 2013-14 Participation and Sponsorship Report

- Approximately **39 percent** of NCAA student-athletes compete at Division III institutions.

	Division III	NCAA Overall
Men	109,048 (58%)	271,055 (40%)
Women	77,953 (42%)	207,814 (38%)
Total	187,001	478,869

AVERAGE TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES PER INSTITUTION

Source: 2013 EADA Reporting System

WITH FOOTBALL

\$3,699,012

WITHOUT FOOTBALL

\$2,120,184

SPORTS SPONSORED PER INSTITUTION

Source: 2013-14 Participation and Sponsorship Report

- 18 = average number of sports that Division III schools sponsor.

NCAA BUDGET ALLOCATION

Source: NCAA Financial Statements

- **3.18 percent** of the NCAA operating budget, which equals approximately \$28.5 million in 2014-15.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Source: NCAA Division III Strategic Plan

- Clarify the values of Division III athletics.
- Appropriately leverage presidential and athletic direct reports' leadership in the Division III governance structure.
- Ensure the division is effectively managing equity and inclusion issues.
- Enhance the well-being of prospects, student-athletes and staff.
- Promote the Division III philosophical principle that the academic performance of student-athletes should be consistent with the general student body.
- Enhance formal accountability of the governance structure.