

ENROLLING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Their admissions and adjustment experience

RESEARCH FROM THE FRONT PORCH

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- The international student-athlete population tripled from 2004-13, comprising 8% of NAIA, 7% of NCAA Division II and 11% of Division I.
- The NCAA and NAIA have seen the highest increases from Canada, United Kingdom, Brazil, Germany, Australia, and Spain. Many attend American high schools before enrolling in US colleges and universities.
- The most important college choice factors for international student-athletes are: athletic scholarship, head coach personality, degree reputation and job placement, competition level, and academic reputation (Popp, Pierce & Hums, 2011).
- International student-athletes adjust to college as well as their domestic counterparts, but may experience different sport stresses (Rodriguez, 2014) given their differing perspectives on the role of sports (Popp, Hums, Greenwell, 2009).

International student-athletes are a growing population, with unique needs in admissions, eligibility, & campus life.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What characteristics need to be emphasized for international athletes at my institution?
2. Do disparities exist between international and domestic student-athletes in the adjustment to college life at my institution?
3. What practices can our department implement for coaches and international athletes that enhances the transition to college and the campus experience at my institution?

Cited resources:

- [*Do international student-athletes view the purpose of sport differently than United States student-athletes at NCAA Division I universities?*](#)
- [*A comparison of the college selection process for international and domestic student-athletes at NCAA Division I universities.*](#)
- [*International Student-Athletes and Stress: Implications for American Universities' Administrators.*](#)



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