



Play Collegiate Golf

"creating academic and athletic success"

W. J. Bruce Fleming, EdD

Founder/Consultant

1725 Babington Way

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

T: 843.609.6201

E: bruce@playcollegiategolf.com

W: playcollegiategolf.com

Recruiting Terms and Definitions for NCAA Collegiate Golf

Understanding the myriad of terms during the search for the "best fit" golf program is beneficial information.

As you work through the recruiting process, you will come across various recruiting terms and definitions that are important to understand. Knowing what these terms mean will certainly enhance your research and allow for a stronger understanding of the timelines discussed in the January 2009 article "[*NCAA Division I and II Recruiting Timelines for Junior Golfers*](#)." Terms such as "National Letter of Intent," "Official Visit," and "Unofficial Visit" are only some of the key words you will encounter during the recruiting process.

Understanding these terms will help a junior golfer properly place him or herself in an advantageous position throughout the recruiting process. For example, a prospective student-athlete is allowed a maximum of five "Official Visits" which may only be taken during the senior year in high school. These visits are often financed (most or in part) by the school and can be no longer than 48 hours in duration. Prior to their final year in high school, however, prospective student-athletes may complete an "Unofficial Visit" financed 100% by the family. Combine tournament travel and an "Unofficial Visit" into one trip to make the most of available time dedicated to golf. Seeing the institution, its surroundings, and meeting with the golf coach early on in the recruiting process should give you enough information to determine whether or not an institution should be further researched. Some of the more common terms are noted below, however, parents and junior golfers are urged to visit naaa.org for additional recruiting information.

Contact – A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any face-to-face encounter that is prearranged by a member of the institution or that takes place on the prospect's educational institution or at the site of an organized competition or practice involving the prospect is considered a contact. "Unofficial Visits" *are not* deemed a "contact" because they *are not* prearranged by the golf coach or staff member of the athletic institution. The player and family must arrange any meetings with members of the golf coaching staff.

National Letter of Intent – The NLI is a voluntary program administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center. By signing a NLI with an institution, the prospective student-athlete is bound to attend that institution for one academic year. In exchange, the institution must provide athletic financial aid for one academic year. Restrictions and the level of athletic financial aid are contained in the NLI. Read it carefully before signing.

Official Visit – Defined as any visit by a prospective student athlete paid for by the institution. Prior to the visit, you must provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript (Division I only) and SAT, ACT or PLAN score and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. During your official visit, the institution may pay for all or some of the following items:

- a. transportation to and from the college;
- b. room and meals (three per day) while you are visiting the college;
- c. reasonable entertainment expenses, including three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest.

Prospective Student-Athlete – A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until the individual officially registers and enrolls in a full-time program at a four-year institution (excluding a summer term) and/or the individual participates in a regular-squad practice or competition at a four-year institution.

Signing Period – A specified date when prospective student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent with institutions, binding them to one year commitments. Golf signing periods are early November and early April.

Unofficial Visit – Defined as a visit by a prospective student-athlete paid for by the student or family. The institution may provide three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. Prospective student-athletes may make as many unofficial visits as desired. During these visits, prospective student-athletes may talk with coaches unless the visit is during a dead period.

Verbal Commitment – This phrase indicates a college-bound student-athlete's commitment to a particular school prior to signing the National Letter of Intent. Verbal commitments may be announced at any time. Verbal commitments are NOT binding for either the college-bound student-athlete or the institution. Only the signing of the National Letter of Intent accompanied by a financial aid agreement is binding on both parties.

As always, understanding the recruiting process will greater serve your ultimate goal: receiving a collegiate golf scholarship. Review the recruiting information specific to the association deemed most appropriate for the junior golfers' pre-determined academic, athletic, and personal goals. Create a recruiting plan from this point. Combining these goals with the knowledge about the recruiting process will allow for an encompassing and enjoyable college experience.

Good Luck.

Dr. Fleming

Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal goals.

For more information please visit playcollegiategolf.com

Preparing for a College Exam

Preparing for a college exam will take a consistent effort of ongoing studying and preparation.

College Survival Tip



1. *Design an Exam Plan*

- What material will be covered? What type of exam will be used? How many questions?
- How will you study for the exam? How many study sessions are needed?

2. *Form a Study Group*

- Find classmates that complement your academic strengths and weaknesses in the course.
- Assign each member a portion of the materials to learn and teach to other group members.
- Have each member come up with several potential questions for a test bank.

3. *Sharpen Your Memory*

- Use flash cards to review the materials that are being tested and to help with memorization.