



"creating academic and athletic success"

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## **Defining the Various College Golf Scholarships and Answering FAQs**

*Knowing about the college golf scholarship process will put you in a strong recruiting position.*

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There are over 2100 two and four year schools in the United States and Canada that offer some level of athletic support to compete in the college golf environment. With a little bit of personal research and dedication along with an understanding of how the college recruitment process works junior golfers should be able to best position themselves to find some scholarship money. Additionally, there are also academic scholarships available that can be added to athletic scholarships, increasing the level of economic support towards tuition and fees.

Most colleges and universities that sponsor sports programs belong to one of the three major athletic associations: The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA); the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The NCAA is divided into three divisions with Division I offering 4.5 scholarships for men and 6 scholarships for women; Division II offers 3.6 and 5.4 respectively. No athletic scholarships are offered at the Division III level. Similarly, the NAIA is also divided into three divisions with Division I schools offering more sports scholarships than Division II and III schools. The NJCAA is comprised of junior colleges and community colleges which offer two year programs for transfer to a four year institution. NJCAA Division I programs offer full athletic scholarships while Division II programs offer partial scholarships that cover tuition, fees, and books. Division III programs do not offer any scholarships.

Having defined the various places to compete, it is important to review some of the "Frequently Asked Questions" about scholarships for college golf. The following questions more often than not come up in conversations with junior golfers and their families during the recruiting process.

*What do scholarships cover and how are they processed?*

Full scholarships will cover tuition, board, class fees, and books. Partial scholarships often cover only tuition (or some portion of it) and books. Though many believe scholarships are guaranteed for four years, they are actually only one year agreements between the institution and the player. They are generally renewed, and normally increased, each year based on such factors as academic standing and eligibility, athletic performance, and general behavior as a team member.

*Do coaches award scholarships on a percentage basis or a per dollar value?*

Coaches have the option of doing either. Sometimes a coach will draft a National Letter of Intent and offer a scholarship as a percentage of the actual cost of education. The benefit of this is that as inflation increases and tuition costs, book costs, and cost of board rise the scholarship meets these increases because it is a percentage of the cost of the different educational components. Other coaches may award only a fixed dollar amount which, when tuition increases, is not reflective of the change, leaving the player and his or her family to make up the deficit. Programs not fully funded are more apt to dole out their scholarships in this manner. Therefore, an important question when meeting with a coach is always to ask what the structure of his or her scholarship philosophy is for each student-athlete. The answer to this question may potentially direct you to one program's offer over another.



## Play Collegiate Golf

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*How many scholarships can be received from an institution?*

It is recommended that a student-athlete apply for every scholarship available. However, in some cases academic scholarships offered through the institution may have to be declined if they count against the NCAA allowable limit because the golf program has already reached the maximum allowed. Non-institutional awards such as the South Carolina and Georgia lottery assisted scholarships are allowed to be applied to education costs. Such scholarships are "non-countable" toward the NCAA maximum team limit. If in doubt, make sure you ask both an Admissions' Counselor and the golf coach!

*Does every program offer the full allotment of scholarships?*

The answer to this statement is specific to the institution and the level of play. Some NCAA DI programs provide little to no athletic funding due to budget constraints or institutional philosophy. Though the NCAA allows a specific amount of scholarships for each Men's program, not all institutions are able to provide this amount of money or do annually. Often times this is specifically due to budget constraints within the program. Women's golf, however, is different mainly due to it being an undersubscribed sport. Therefore, it is much more common that these programs are able to offer the full compliment of scholarships allowable. For both NAIA and NJCAA it is important to note that the response to the above question is institution specific. It is truly an integral part of the recruiting process to ask each coach you meet about scholarship opportunities for incoming players when you are researching both NAIA and NJCAA playing opportunities because of the wide variances from program to program.

There are lots of scholarship types and most junior golfers will find that they will receive some combination of both academic and athletic money. It is important to strive for the highest possible grades in the classroom and the best accomplishments on the golf course as *both* of these environments lead to college golf scholarships!

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](http://playcollegiategolf.com)*

### Four Things Successful Students Do At College

#### College Survival Tip



1. **Be Organized** - Keep a daily planner. Mark all important dates (tests, papers, practice, tournaments). Refer to it regularly so you know what is coming up in your academic and athletic schedules.
2. **Be Familiar** - Become familiar with your campus and the various resources available to you. Location, hours, and what each office does can be important information when you need help!
3. **Set Goals** - Establish goals that are specific, realistic, and measurable. Write them down and post them where you see them daily. Evaluate your progress towards your goals at mid-term and revise them as necessary. Reward yourself for accomplishing your goals.
4. **Be Prepared** - Prepare before you go to class. Read your textbooks so that you can relate to what is being taught to you during class. Turn work in on time. Keep up with your studies because falling behind can be overwhelming, especially if you are trying to maintain a successful athletic career.