



**NIKE  
SOCCER**



**#WeAreVSA**

**College Guidance**

**2018-2019**

# Trust the process

Is there a College for you? YES — However, fitting you with the right college and playing environment is crucial!

- The transfer rate / quit rate at the college level is astronomical
- Don't be a statistic, be EDUCATED in your recruiting process

If you are wanting to play at the next level, then the process starts now. The more focus you put into it, the more you will get out of it!

- This is YOUR recruiting process, not your parent's
- This is YOUR journey, so you have to make the right choice



# Timeline Of Events

**Boys:** \*These are broad guidelines, there are many paths to the College level — this is the most effective

## Freshman/Sophomore year

- Focus on your grades
- Start to develop list of schools/types of schools you are interested in
- Build database with Dir. College Prep
- Go on College visits with VSA
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Sophomore year

- Focus on your grades
- Start emailing to build rapport with colleges prior to Showcases
- Build three tier list with Dir. College Prep (tiers — lowest level, good level, highest level)
- Take your PSAT / any prep test
- Go on College visits with VSA
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Junior year

- Focus on your grades
- Narrow down the schools you are communicating with
- Start to take your Official / Unofficial visits
- Take your SAT / ACT (if you do not score as high, TAKE IT AGAIN)
- 1 on 1 meeting with Dir. College Prep

## Senior year

- Commit and start the preparation of playing at the Collegiate level
- Complete NCAA Clearinghouse / NAIA Clearinghouse

**Girls:** \*These are broad guidelines, there are many paths to the College level — this is the most effective

## Freshman year —

- Focus on your grades
- Start to develop list of schools/types of schools you are interested in
- Build database with Dir. College Prep
- Go on College visits with VSA
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Sophomore year —

- Focus on your grades
- Start emailing to build rapport with colleges prior to Showcases
- Build three tier list with Dir. College Prep (tiers — lowest level, good level, highest level)
- Take your PSAT / any prep test
- Go on College visits with VSA
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Junior year —

- Focus on your grades
- Narrow down the schools you are communicating with
- Start to take your Official / Unofficial visits
- Take your SAT / ACT (if you do not score as high, TAKE IT AGAIN)
- 1 on 1 meeting with Dir. College Prep

## Junior spring season (\*or senior year) —

- Commit and start the preparation of playing at the Collegiate level
- Complete NCAA Clearinghouse / NAIA Clearinghouse



# Do's & Don'ts



## Do's

- Have a vision and create a plan of action
- Have a list of different levels of schools that you are interested in
- DO YOUR RESERCH
- Communicate early and often with the coaching staff
- Get accepted ASAP
- Know your GPA, raise your scores, and VOLUNTEER!
- Be an ELITE teammate and player
- Character is evaluated HIGHLY
  - Social media presence is KEY character evaluation
  - PLAN on college coaches seeing what you put on the internet



## Don'ts

- Have your parents write your emails
- Have your parents communicate with your coach and college coaches
- Only have your eyes set on 1 school, or 1 level of school
- Expect scholarship money — plan on paying
- Wait until your Senior year
- Let your grades slip
- Only take your SAT/ACT once
- Show poor team work, uncommitted to your club coach/team, and lack of communication with Dir. College Prep
- Low Character
  - Vulgar, nasty, or explicit social media presence



# Division / League Breakdown — Men's Soccer



## Division I

- 206 Men's Teams
- 9.9 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment

## Division II

- 207 Men's Teams
- 9 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- MID/HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment

## Division III

- 408 Men's Teams
- NO athletic Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment



## NAIA — Men's

- 199 Men's Teams
- 12 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment Top Tier
- MID — Level/Commitment Lower Tier



## NCCAA — Div I

- Falls under other governing bodies
- Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- MID/HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most Play in NCAA Div II or NAIA

## NCCAA — Div II

- Falls under other governing bodies
- NO athletic Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most Play in NCAA Div III or NAIA



## NJCAA — Junior College

- 2 year schools
- 18 Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most built to help you raise your grades or develop as a player to go onto next level



# Division / League Breakdown — Women's Soccer



## Division I

- 310 Women's Teams
- 14 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment

## Division II

- 325 Women's Teams
- 9.9 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- MID/HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment

## Division III

- 424 Women's Teams
- NO athletic Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment



## NAIA — Women

- 198 Women's Teams
- 12 Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment Top Tier
- MID — Level/Commitment Lower Tier



## NCCAA — Div I

- Falls under other governing bodies
- Scholarships \*School determines actual #
- MID/HIGH Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most Play in NCAA Div II or NAIA

## NCCAA — Div II

- Falls under other governing bodies
- NO athletic Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most Play in NCAA Div III or NAIA



## NJCAA — Junior College

- 2 year schools
- 18 Scholarships
- MID Demand - Level/Commitment
- Most built to help you raise your grades or develop as a player to go onto next level



# Determining Levels of Play

% at Academy Age \*based on ability

Level of Play

1%

Top 25  
NCAA DIV I



24%

MID/LOW NCAA DIV I  
Top 30 NCAA Div II  
Top 25 NAIA  
\*Top NCCAA  
\*Top 15 NCAA Div III



43%

LOW NCAA Div II  
MID NAIA  
Top 50 Div III  
Top 25 NJCAA



32%

NCAA Div III  
NAIA  
NCCAA  
NJCAA



# Scholarship — Quick Facts

- According to NCAA facts — Only 2% of college athletes receive any athletic scholarship money
- Even though Divisions have allotted scholarships allowed (i.e. 14 full for Div I women), the school decides the program's budget.
  - Thus a Div I women's program many only have 1.5 scholarships
  - It is important to know that athletic scholarships are a bonus and fluctuate based on school
- The number of scholarships equals a lump sum of money, NOT slots for certain players. Meaning a coach can decided however much of their lump they deem a player is worth.
  - It can be as little as the cost of books, and up to a full ride
  - The better a player you are, the more you may get. However, there are many factors — Family Earned Income Estimate, Talent, Positional need, and Fit
- The best schools are the ones that allow you to stack your athletic and academic scholarships.
  - Academic scholarships are completely controlled by how hard YOU work on your grades and test. The better you score, the more money you get.
  - Schools that let you stack allow you to take a \$10,000 academic scholarship and stack on top of a \$10,000 athletic scholarship. Giving you \$20,000 per year, and coaches love this! They can spend less on you and reward you more!



College  
Scholarships



# Scholarship

## Quick Facts — Continued

- DO your homework!! — There is money out there to help you pay for your school
- Do not rely on athletic scholarships, as they are rare
- There are many scholarships that the schools offer
  - Academic
  - Home based (Earned Family Income)
  - Ethnic, Religious, and Other
- There are many scholarships and grants to apply for as well
  - Peterson's Rated #1 by College USA — [HERE](#)
  - Unigo is a full College Databae — [HERE](#)

## FORMER PLAYER'S EXAMPLE:

- Offered 3<sup>rd</sup> string GK position at top 10 NAIA school
- Offered only \$1,000 athletic scholarship
- Had 3.96 GPA (honors program)
- SAT — 2150 (3 attempts)
- ACT — 30
- Received \$15,000 academic scholarship
- Wrote essay to school to apply for their minority scholarship - \$5,000 received
- Applied for 80 other grants/scholarships through websites. Smallest was \$50 and largest was \$1,000 = \$10,000
- Full tuition (included everything) = \$36,000
- Total scholarships received = \$31,000
- Total scholarship received 86%
- Amount paid for school per year = \$5,000

So when you hear that a player is getting an 86% ride to play, this is the most common example.

Also this is a perfect example of a player taking their experience in their own hands!



# Process of Interacting with Coaches

## Freshman year

- Start building your college list and knowledge of the colleges
- Start filling in your VSA player resume
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Sophomore year

- Start emailing Coaches (VSA Player Email template)
- \*NCAA Div I cannot interact back until Junior year
- Emailing showcase schedules, big events, and player resume
- Unofficial visits and school tours with VSA
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Junior year

- Hone in on top choices of schools
- Emails, phone calls & texts with coaching staffs at colleges
- VSA player & team resumes sent prior to all events & showcases
- Attending Official and Unofficial visits
- 1 on 1 meetings with Dir. College Prep in regards to communication with colleges
- If ready, commit to college and start the application/clearinghouse process
- Attend College Education at VSA

## Junior spring season / Senior Year

- Commit to college
- Keep college updated on how you are growing and team events
- Start implementing and preparing for playing at the next level
- Receive their summer packets and summer requirements
- Knockout general elective classes at local community college \*if able
- 1 on 1 meetings with Dir. College Prep



# FAQ

- **What is the difference between Official & Unofficial visits?** Official visits involve being invited, in writing, to visit a campus and learn about their athletic program. Most Official visits occur on specific days and often will have the athlete spend the night and include spending time with the coaching staff, other athletes and other current students on campus. An Unofficial visit is sometimes coordinated by the coach or his/her staff, however it is informal. You tour the campus, and can learn about the school in the process. The athlete can set up their own Unofficial visits to schools.
- **What is the Clearinghouse for the NCAA & NAIA?** These are platforms for their specific governing body to declare an athlete eligible. These are done when the athlete is accepted to their college. You also submit your final HS transcripts, test scores, and graduation rank. The deadline for these varies by school and governing body. However, once you commit, you need to START this process.
  - NCAA Clearinghouse — [HERE](#)
  - NAIA Clearinghouse — [HERE](#)
- **Where can I find the player resume, team resume, and player email templates?** These will be sent out to the players, teams and coaches at the College Prep info night. Also these will be materials at College Education meetings.

- More FAQ about the NCAA — [HERE](#)
- More FAQ about the NAIA — [HERE](#)
- More FAQ about Junior College NJCAA - [HERE](#)



# Contact

Everyone's college journey is unique and for questions please contact our Director of College Preparation and Education, Bronson Gambale  
[bgambale@vsaonline.org](mailto:bgambale@vsaonline.org)



**NAME:** BRONSON GAMBALE  
**POSITION:** DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE PREP AND EDUCATION  
**TIME AT VSA:** 4 YEARS

## COACHING LICENSES

-  B LICENSE
-  LEVEL 3 Methodology
-  ACTION ANALYSIS COURSE
-  FOOTBALL TACTICS COURSE

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

-  COACH  
2017-PRESENT
-  DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RECRUITMENT AND ED.  
2015-PRESENT
-  HEAD WOMENS COLLEGE COACH  
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
2013-2015
-  HEAD WOMENS COACH  
COLONIAL FORGE HIGH  
2010-2013
-  COACH  
2010-2013
-  DIRECTOR OF COACHING  
CRUZ AZUL MN ACADEMY  
2007-2009
-  ASST. MENS COLLEGE COACH  
NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
2008

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

-  M.A. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE — P.  
COUNSELING & LIFE COACHING
-  LICENSED LEADERSHIP COACH
-  LICENSED A.C.C. COUNSELOR
-  FORMER NIKE SPARQ INSTRUCTOR  
& PERSONAL TRAINER
-  CRUZ AZUL — ACADEMY COURSES

## PLAYING EXPERIENCE

-  NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY —  
TEAM CAPTAIN

