

The Importance of Grades

By Rob Naddelman, President of the Baseball Factory

To all aspiring high school baseball players:

I want to speak briefly about the importance of you grades and standardized test scores when embarking on the college search process.

As the President of Baseball Factory for the past eleven years, I have had the opportunity to work with thousands of players. Time and time again, the number one limiting factor for a player in his search for a college is his academic achievement. When I ask players where they want to go to school, the most common answer is "anywhere I can play baseball." Unfortunately, if you do not have the grades to be admitted to a school, it is all for naught.

It is important to know that the NCAA will determine your eligibility for college baseball by determining your grade point average in your "core courses." Your core courses consist of history, English, foreign language, math, and science. Unfortunately, your elective classes such as gym, computer science, and art do not count towards your core course GPA.

In addition, your standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) are also a factor. The NCAA uses a "sliding scale" to determine your eligibility. The sliding scale goes up and down as it relates to GPA and SAT/ACT scores. For example, if your GPA is higher, your SAT can be lower. To be NCAA Division I eligible you need a minimum 2.5 GPA or 820 on the SAT. Remember, NCAA eligibility does not ensure that you will be admitted to a particular university because each school has its own academic standards. Here are a few reasons why college coaches like to recruit players with strong grades:

- 1. They have fewer reservations about whether a player will be eligible to play in college.**
- 2. They feel more secure offering a player a scholarship, if he will probably be eligible.**
- 3. They feel that the player will be able to balance his studies and baseball responsibilities while in college.**

The best thing you can do for yourself as you prepare for college baseball is to study and work hard in the classroom. A "full ride" in baseball is next to unheard of. If you can get some academic scholarship money, you will have a better chance to defray the cost of college for you and your parents.

Good luck in your college search process. Best regards

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Baseball Factory President**

For more information, or to have your questions answered, send emails to newsletter@baseballfactory.com, speak to a Baseball Factory Representative at 800.641.4487, or visit our website @ www.baseballfactory.com.