

# Did you know? D3 swimming uncovered

The advantages of being a D3 student athlete is enormous. Let me dispel the notion that it is 'easier' than being D1 or D2. There are many D3 schools that are very competitive and equal to many D1 or D2 school in the water. While the high athletic budgets aren't there, the work ethic is , and they put great effort in to be successful in both the water and the classroom.

#### Academia

Test-optional is still a thing

The NCAA Eligibility Center recently made the decision to waive the testing requirements for athletes entering college during the 2022-2023 school year. This waiver is in addition to the waiver set for 2021-2022 athletes. Although they have waived the testing requirements, not all colleges have done this. You will want to make sure you check with your colleges of interest to ensure you are clear about their testing requirements.

#### **NCAA** News

Official Visit Tips: Before your visit

The NCAA has removed restrictions on official visits beginning June 1. This was called a dead period where coaches are not allowed to meet recruits in person on their campus. The dead period still exists, but only around the beginning of the signing period in November which is the second Wednesday in November for high school seniors.

Here are some recruiting trip tips to maximize your experience and get the coaches to really want you.

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## Did You Know? D3 swimming uncovered (cont....)

D3 schools are very generous with their merit aid, since they don't offer athletic aid. Many D3 schools are small and private, with highly successful research schools. They have the highest graduation rates of all the divisions (although the others are not far behind!) Fourteen of the top 50 academic schools play at the D3 level! A D3 swim schedule stays a bit closer to home (due to smaller budgets) and generally is more generous with breaks and summer training. The season is slightly shorter, giving the athletes more time for studying and being part of the student body. Be sure to add several D3 schools to your recruiting list, as you can not go wrong with them!

By Lori Payne
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## Academia Test-optional is still a thing (cont...)

With that being said, many colleges have also extended their "test-optional" period. In February, Cornell University said it would stay test-optional for another year. Other lvy Leagues such as Columbia, Harvard, and University of Pennsylvania joined the bandwagon. If you do submit scores, it can only help you, but it won't be counted against you if you don't. SAT/ACT scores may also be required for consideration of some scholarships. Keep in mind that test -optional does not mean test-blind. Schools do still consider submitted test scores as important evidence when making admissions decisions.. A test-blind school, such as University of California for Fall of 2021, will not even look at test scores, even if you have a 1600(SAT) or 36(ACT).

By Melynda Nash,

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## NCAANews Official Visit Tips: Before your visit (cont...)

#### Homework before the visit:

Look up the coaches' bio so you can engage them when you meet them. Look up their news articles the coaches posted at the end of the season so you know what they are excited about.

Know what kind of times it takes to score at conference.

Get the coaches' cell number in case you get delayed on your way so you can let them know.

Practice your handshake. Pretty much every coach you will meet will have a lot of self-confidence and many of them develop a first impression with your handshake and eye contact.

Get questions together that are important for you to ask the coaches.

If the visit is considered "official" still ask what it will cost. If a coach buys you a hotdog on a trip it becomes official. You are allowed 5 official visits to D-I schools. All others are unlimited. Many schools will offer to pay for your room and board while you are on campus, but will expect you to pay for your plane ticket so ask.

By Rick Paine, CEO Director of swimming, American College Connection

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