



COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS

Graduation Years 2025 - 2029

(Current High School Seniors - Current 8th Graders)

November 11, 2024



INTRODUCTION



BRANDON RODRIGUEZ

USSF A License

SA United Soccer Club (4 Children Played with SAU)

1/2007 - Present

- U16 ('09) Boys (1st year)
- U15 ('10) Boys (2nd year)

Claremont College ID Camps

4/2024 & 7/2024

Central Catholic High School

10/2014 - 3/2023

- Head JV & Assistant Varsity Coach
- TAPPS Division I State Champions 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

STYSA ODP Coach (Region Camp 2014, 2018 & 2022)

10/2012 - 7/2023

Players Academy of Soccer Skills

01/2015 - 12/2022

OVERVIEW *IT'S A LENGTHY PROCESS...BE PERSISTENT!*



College selection (w/ & w/o soccer)

Divisions (D1, D2, D3, NAIA, JUCO, Club.)

What should one do if interested?

When does one start the process?

Where does one start?

How does one start?

Are academic interests known?

Ownership and Persistence



WHY CONSIDER PLAYING IN COLLEGE?



If you greatly enjoy playing, are always wanting more soccer, are extremely committed, playing soccer is a top priority and are planning on going to college.



Connecting to a program and social influences.



University costs may be reduced.



Each player should find their "Why?".



Players must have the desire to want to play in college.



WHAT SHOULD ONE DO IF INTERESTED?

Scholarships and Financial Considerations – Drive for Academic Excellence. Public vs. Private (individual situations will differ).

How far away from home?

International, Domestic and Regions to think about.

Are climate, city size, and social activities important?

Connecting with Coaches and what to look for? (i.e. Tenure, Staff Size, Roster Size, Graduation by Position, Style of Play, Athletic Profile, Interviewing.)

Social Media self-promotion and warnings. (Necessary but be deliberate.)

Hiring a Recruiter or not? (Costs vs. Benefits)

College ID Camps & Showcases – Timing when offered due to college season.

Individual Player Profile and Registering with the NCAA.

Ownership and Persistence

WHEN SHOULD ONE START?



Ideally and in general,

Some college clinics, ID Events, and Showcases are offered as early as 8th grade. This allows players to get on college coaches' radar. Coaches may not be able to directly communicate with you, but you can with them.

Boys = 9th Grade

Girls = 8th Grade



WHERE DOES ONE START?



OBSERVE LOCAL COLLEGES AND VISIT COLLEGES ON GAME DAY ROAD TRIPS.



SEE WHICH SCHOOL AND CITY SIZE APPEALS TO YOUR INTERESTS.



ATTEND COLLEGE ID CAMPS, COLLEGE GAMES, AND SHOWCASE EVENTS.



COMMUNICATE WITH COLLEGE COACHES AND STAFF.



THINK ABOUT YOUR WILLINGNESS TO STAY CLOSE TO HOME OR GO FURTHER AWAY.



DOES THE COLLEGE HAVE YOUR ACADEMIC DEGREE PLAN AND SOCCER?

HOW DOES ONE START?

- Start by observing what is closest to home and then expand your search area.
- Understand the demands and requirements by Division and Program.
- Formalize your desires and prioritize.
- Create a tracking log to capture communication, follow-up, and if interests change.
- Be persistent. Expect a challenge. Own your future!





ODDS OF PLAYING IN COLLEGE

	NCAA Participants	Overall % HS to NCAA	% HS to NCAA Division I	% HS to NCAA Division II	% HS to NCAA Division III	
High School Participants						
Men						
S o c c e r	450,455	27,284	6.1%	1.4%	1.7%	2.9%
High School Participants						
Women						
S o c c e r	377,838	29,959	7.9%	2.7%	2.2%	3.0%

IT CAN BE DONE!



Class of 2021

15 Seniors
8 College
Players
Angelo State
(D2)

Bethel (D3)

Elmira (D3)

Incarnate Word
(D1)

Ouachita (D2)

Southwestern
(D3)

St. Mary's (D2)

Class on 2022

11 Seniors
6 College
Players
Houston –
Victoria (NAIA)

Oklahoma
Panhandle
(NAIA)

Seaton Hall (D1
- Cross
Country)

Tarleton (D1)

Texas Lutheran
(D3)

UTSA/Texas
Southern (D1)

Class of 2023

15 Seniors
4 College
Players
Incarnate Word
(D1)

Mary Hardin-
Baylor (D3)

Our Lady of the
Lake (NAIA)

Patrick Henry
(Virginia)

Class of 2024

8 Seniors
7 College
Players
Central
Christian
College –
Kansas (NAIA)

Concordia (D3)

Mary Hardin-
Baylor (D3)

Southwestern
University (D3)

Transylvania
(D3)

University of
Colorado -
Colorado
Springs (D3)

Class of 2025

6 Seniors*
2 College
Player
(11/9/24)

Texas Lutheran
University (D3)

Transylvania
(D3)

CONCLUSION

- The Player must be the one who wants to play in college, initiating communication & follow-up, and actively searching for colleges of interest.
- Drive for Excellence in Academics as well as Athletics.
- Expect the process to be lengthy. Be persistent!

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