

# College Swimming

Swimming in college can be a very rewarding experience. Not only may you find financial assistance through athletics, but it provides a support platform for many individuals when they leave home for the first time. Swim team members support each other emotionally, academically, and athletically.

College swimming is not limited to only the fastest or best swimmers. There are many different divisions of swimming.

Division I swimming offers athletic scholarships. DI is typically very fast and the top programs will expect that athletes have Jr. National cuts to be considered for scholarships. There are different levels of D1 programs and some may not require that level.

Division II also offers athletic scholarships. Oddly in the swimming world, there are not as many DII programs as there are DI or DIII. Top DII programs are also quite fast, but not quite as fast as DI. There is also a bigger array of ability levels in DII. Some programs would be interested in 17-18 y/o's that have A times.

Division III has a huge array of talent. The top DIII programs are competitive with DI programs (Kenyon College as an example). DIII also has some programs that have a much more relaxed atmosphere. Any swimmer that comes through club swimming would be able to swim at a DIII school.

There are also some programs in NAIA and Jr. College. Indian River Community College in Florida is considered a prep team for very good D1 programs.

Regardless, there are MANY options to swim in college. Whether you are looking for a very competitive program or simply a place to continue enjoying the sport, there is a place for you.

[www.collegeswimming.com](http://www.collegeswimming.com) is a great resource with listings of the schools that offer swimming. Take some time and do some "homework" on what college swimming has to offer.

I found this questionnaire and thought it might be useful for our swimmers.

## *Questions For Yourself and For The University*

1. Does this university have my major?
2. How many students are at this university?
3. How many kids are on the team?
4. Is the team Co-ed? If so, do women and men train together? If not, what is the relationship between the two? Do they travel together? Are the conference meets together? How many coaches are there, if they are combined?
5. What is the level of training/yardage I am looking for? Find out from coaches what their level is. Ask for a season plan and some sample workouts.
6. What are the coaches' strengths and weaknesses?
7. Of what value is the swim program to the athletic department?
8. If I swim here, will I travel right away? If not, what will it take?
9. Is weight training part of the program or some type of dryland? If so, what kind of dryland do you do? Samples.
10. If I am injured and cannot swim, do you take my scholarship away?
11. Are your scholarships 4 or 5 years? If they are only 4 years and I needed to go an extra year, could I help out on the deck to finish my education for the 5th year?
12. What is the average grade point of the team?
13. What would I mainly swim in dual meets?
14. Do we have Thanksgiving or Christmas off? If so, for how long?
15. Do we take a team travel trip over Christmas?
16. After my last meet (NCAA's or Conference), how much of a break do we have? How serious is the spring training? Summer Expectations?
17. If I'm not on full scholarship, is there room for improvement?
18. Is this university on quarters or semesters? Which do I prefer?
19. Is there a training table for athletes, or do we eat in the cafeteria?
20. If I were having a hard time in my classes, would a tutor be available? (Free or at what cost?)
21. Do you have mandatory study hall for athletes their freshman year?
22. If the coach left, would you stay?
23. Does the college have a solid academic reputation?
24. Would you choose this school if you were not a swimmer?
25. What percent of students get jobs in their field of study upon graduation?

26. In order to gain experience through internships, would something be available in my field of study?
27. What percent of student athletes graduate?
28. Does this university have a graduate program to fit my interest?
29. Are you choosing the appropriate level for yourself as far as athletics and academics are concerned?
30. Do you think the staff and program fits your needs?
31. Do you socially fit in with this group of swimmers?
32. Are you looking for a metropolitan area for your college?
33. Can you afford to travel to and from home for holidays, or is there family around if not?
34. Affordability of school?
35. What kinds of grants, etc. are available and how do you get information on them?