

GARY GILCHRIST
:: GOLF ACADEMY ::
TRAIN LIKE A CHAMPION

College Placement

Applying to College

Checklist for Junior and Senior Year

Junior Year

September

- * Take the SAT, ACT, or TOEFL
- * Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse
- * Make a wish list of colleges
- * Have original transcripts sent to desired schools
- * Have SAT, ACT, or TOEFL scores sent to Clearinghouse
- * Compose your golf resume
- * Write a coaches letter to send with your resume
- * Ask for recommendations from Academic Instructors
- * Ask for recommendations from your Golf Coach
- * Schedule an appointment with a GGGGA college advisor

GGGA

Students

October

- * Retake the SAT, ACT, or TOEFL (if necessary)
- * Begin sending applications to colleges or reactive applications
(Include: test scores, recommendation, resume and transcripts)
- * Email coaches/admissions staff re: scholarships and admissions
- * Update your golf resume with new tournament scores
- * Schedule a visit to your top three to five colleges
- * Know deadline dates for applications and scholarships

November

- * Visit college campuses
- * Prepare your spring tournament schedule and send it to college coaches
- * Continue communications with college coaches
- * Apply for scholarships: some deadlines are December
- * Narrow down your college choices to three schools

December

- * Send all scholarship information to schools
- * Visit campus for a follow-up if necessary
- * Remember some deadlines are December

January

- * Continue talking with the golf coach and admission office
- * Prepare to accept an offer (Verbal Commitment)

Senior Year

November

- * Prepare to sign your National Letter of Intent

Spring Semester Senior Year

The Spring Semester should be a time for you to talk with your admissions counselor and determine when you can register for classes.

Campus Visits and Making Choices

The first step in the college process should be to visit some campuses to get a feel for the size and type of school that suits you. If you can begin visiting campuses in your freshman or sophomore year you will be on a good pace to find the right fit for you by your junior year.

Before the Visit

When you meet or have recruiting visits with a coach, picture yourself playing for him or her for four years. Here are some questions to consider:

- Are your personalities and styles compatible?
- Is his interest in you sincere?
- Is he candid with you?
- Talk to other players on the team. How does he relate to them?
- Would you enjoy playing golf five or six times a week with your prospective teammates? Does the coach emphasize practice or play?
- How does he handle qualifying?
- Does he understand the golf swing or will you be on your own for help?
- (Many players like to keep in contact with their regular golf teacher, but a coach with a good eye who knows your swing can help if you are a long way from home)
- How much time will you be expected to spend each week in play or practice?
- (Generally, as the level of competition increases, the time commitment increases)
- How about exercise and strength training? "The good teams do it", says Georgia Tech Coach Bruce Heppler.
- Does this team play spring golf only, or both fall and spring?
- What is the tournament schedule, and how much school will you miss?
- What is the coach's record in helping players graduate?
- Are tutors available to help with studies? **CAN YOU KEEP YOUR GRADES UP AND GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS?** (Graduation rates for athletes have come under scrutiny the last few years and are being addressed by the NCAA. More is written in the next section of this guide on new NCAA regulations) You might explore the possibility of "red-shirting" (not playing) one year, carrying a moderate course load, keeping your grades up and planning on five years of school right from the start.

During your Visit

Your feelings about a coach, and especially your campus visit, will usually dictate your choice of schools. The NCAA limits your institution-paid visits to five campuses, but there is no limit on the number of campuses or visits if you pay your own expenses. Try to schedule your visit during the year while students are in school. Walk around to get a feel for the size and atmosphere of the campus. Have your questions ready. Try to ask your questions as part of normal conversation – not an interrogation. Remember, you are being observed as well as being an observer.

- Where would you be living?
- Where is the cafeteria?
- The Library?
- The student Center?
- How about transportation?
- How far is it to the golf course?
- To the practice area?
- Where do you play or practice in bad weather?
- Writing down your thoughts and perceptions can help you sort out your priorities.

Scholarships

Ask about your scholarship. Scholarships at NCAA schools are given only on a year-to-year basis. What are the conditions for renewal? Can you lose your scholarship due to low grades or poor play?

You should be aware that the NCAA limits the number of golf scholarships each school can give. In NCAA Division I, men's golf programs may award 4.5 scholarships each year compared to 6.0 scholarships allowed for women. In NCAA Division II, the limits are 3.6 for men and 5.4 for women. NCAA Division III institutions may not award financial aid (scholarships) based on athletic ability.

The NCAA lists golf in the "equivalency sport" category that means scholarships may be divided among the team members. Football and basketball are not equivalency sports, and all scholarship players on those teams receive full scholarships (tuition, fees, books, plus room and board). However, not every athletic department has enough money in its budget to be "fully funded" (able to give the maximum allowable of scholarships) in all sports. Very few golfers get "full rides", and the scholarships are usually divided among team members according to ability and performance. You may start with 25% or 50% of a full scholarship and play your way into a bigger piece of the pie.

The reasoning behind women's teams have a greater number of allowable scholarships at NCAA schools comes from gender equity rulings. Institutions are required to equitably balance roster numbers and scholarships between men and women within each athletics department. Men's and women's golf teams each have approximately the same number of players, as does men's and women's basketball, soccer and baseball (softball for women). However, women's volleyball is the corresponding sport to football where NCAA Division I allows 85 full scholarships. Thus the men's teams in other sports are allowed fewer scholarships than the women in an attempt to achieve gender equity.

NAIA schools may give 5.0 golf scholarships per year per team to both men and women, and the dollars are generally divided among the players as partial scholarships. The NAIA defines a full scholarship as tuition fees, fees, books, room and board plus mandatory supplies (institution required supplies). The NAIA allows institutions renew athletic scholarships annually or guarantee the aid for additional years.

NJCAA (2 year) schools may give eight scholarships per men's and women's golf team in NJCAA Divisions I & II. Division I schools may offer full athletic scholarships and Division II colleges are limited to awarding tuition, fees and books. NJCAA Division III institutions may provide no athletically related financial assistance. However, NJCAA colleges that don't offer athletic aid may choose to participate at the Division I or II level.

Men's NJCAA golfers compete in all three divisions, but all women's NJCAA teams compete at the Division I level.

Allowable Number of Golf Scholarships

<u>Association.</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
NCAA Division I	4.5 scholarships	6.0 scholarships
NCAA Division II	3.6 scholarships	5.4 scholarships
NCAA Division III	No Athletic scholarships	No Athletic scholarships
NAIA	5 scholarships	5 scholarships
NJCAA Division I	8 full scholarships	8 full scholarships*
NJCAA Division II	8 partial scholarships	8 partial scholarships*
NJCAA Division III	No athletic scholarship	No athletic scholarship*

*All women's NJCAA teams compete at Division I

Questions to Ask

Visiting Schools is a very fun and important trip. Make sure to take in all the things you see and compare all the schools you visit weighing the pros and cons of each school. It is very easy to get excited and want to attend the first school you visit. Below is a list of questions to weigh each school by and to ask the coach and players while you are there.

The Coach

- What is the coaching philosophy?
- What is the coaching style?
- How does he communicate with the players?
- Do you emphasize practice or play?
- How does qualifying work?
- How does he pick the team?
- Are they a certified instructor?
- How do they feel about you working with your current swing coach while in the program?
- What is the fitness program?
- Does the team work with a sport psychologist?
- How does your tournament schedule rank?
- Can you lose/increase your scholarship?
- What Academic degrees do most of the players seek?

The Players.

- What do you enjoy most about the program?
- How are the dorms?
- Do you live with other golfers?
- What do you do on the weekends?
- How does qualifying work?
- Do you attend mandatory study hall?
- What are the team rules?
- What golf courses do you have access to?
- Do you have access to tutors?

Yourself

- Do you like the coach's personality?
- Do you agree with the coach's philosophy?
- Do you like the climate?
- Will you be happy with the golf courses and practice facility of the team?
- Do you see yourself fitting in with the other team members?
- What is the communication from the coach to the players and from the players to other players like?
- Is there a degree program that fits your plan?
- What is the school spirit like?
- Do you like the practice structure?
- Will you make the traveling team?
- Do you like the dorms?
- Does the size of the school fit you?
- How far is the school from home?

COLLEGE PLACEMENT
IMPORTANT WEB SITES AND NUMBERS

SAT www.collegeboard.com

Visit this site to set up your own personal account. You can take a practice test, sign up for the SAT, check test scores, and much more.

ACT www.act.org

The ACT site will allow you to sign up for the test on line, check your scores, and research colleges.

TOEFL www.toefl.com

International students should plan to take the TOEFL if they are not taking the SAT. NCAA requires student athletes to take the SAT in order to be eligible.

NCAA Clearinghouse www.clearinghouse.net or www.eligibilitycenter.org

All students must register for the Clearinghouse. Visit the site to register on-line and to read more about the rules of the NCAA.

FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid may qualify students for scholarships, grants and loans.

The Ping Guide www.collegegolf.com

The Ping Guide gives you a brief description of the rules for college recruiting and also lists every college in the US that offers a golf program.

The Prep Report www.golfstat.com

The Prep Report allows you to search schools by what their current players are shooting. It is interactive and you can search by State, Division and Scores. There is a small fee for this service but it is a great tool.

Good Web-Sites to Know

Golf Information Sites:

- * Golf Stat www.golfstat.com
- * Golfweek www.golfweek.com
- * Ping Guide www.collegegolf.com
- * NCAA www.ncaa.org
- * NCAA Sports www.ncaasports.com
- * College Golf Central www.thegolfchannel.com
- * College Sports www.collegesports.com

Tournament Information Sites:

- * Junior Golf Scoreboard www.njga.com
 - * American Junior Golf Association www.ajga.org
 - * International Junior Golf Tour www.ijgt.com
 - * Hurricane Junior Golf Tour www.hjgt.org
 - * Future Collegians World Tour www.fcwtgolf.com
 - * United States Golf Association www.usga.org
- * Championships
 - * Amateur Golf Competitions
 - * Competitions Calendar