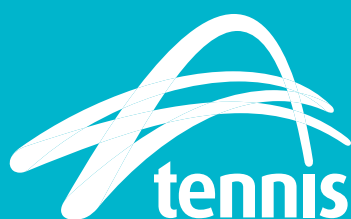


US College and Australian Universities



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

When choosing a US College or Australian University there are numerous things to consider. They typically fall into three categories: tennis, academic and college lifestyle.

The following information and questions can be used to guide your decision-making process. Importantly, your final decision should be reflective of your goals and future pursuits (both tennis and academic related).

2023 US College Seasons and Approximate Dates

- Fall (Off season) Late August to Mid-December
- Summer (Summer season) June to August
- Spring (In season) Mid to late January to Late May

Years Explained

- 1st Year - Freshman
- 2nd Year - Sophomore
- 3rd Year - Junior
- 4th Year - Senior

Tournament rules:

You can play 25 competitions (dates) where your College/Institution funds your trip (no expenses for athlete and per diem).

There are two types of competitions:

1. Individual Events - All American, Regionals, USTA Pro Circuit events
2. Dual Matches - Team vs Team during Spring (Jan - May)

Within those 25 competitions, only 7 individual competitions can be paid for by the College/Institution.

NCAA's and Big 12 (Conference tournaments) do not count towards these 25 competitions. If more than 4 athletes from the same College participate in a competition even at different venues, this must count towards one of the dates (one of the 25 competitions).

Outside of these 25 competitions, an athlete can play an unlimited number of tournaments at their own expense.

The power 5 conferences are:

1. Big 12
2. Big 10
3. ACC
4. SEC
5. Pac 12

The Power 5 conferences (ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, SEC and Pac-12) must guarantee the full cost of attendance for scholarship student-athletes. In addition to a tuition free education, student-athletes will now receive yearly stipends of \$2,000 to \$4,000 intended to cover cost-of-living expenses.

Start in Aug or Jan

Some athletes prefer to start in the Fall to get to know team, doubles, training, line up vs starting straight into match play in January. You must start College in either Jan or August, and if you fall outside of these first two opportunities to start you will be ineligible to play dual competition for the spring period.

E.g. In NSW, the school year finishes in Nov 2023. The first opportunity to go (when your clock starts) is Jan 2024. If you wait until August 2024 that is ok.

Men's Championship Divisions

- [NCAA Division I Men's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NCAA Division II Men's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NCAA Division III Men's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NAIA Men's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [Junior College Men's Conferences & Teams](#)

Women's Championship Divisions

- [NCAA Division I Women's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NCAA Division II Women's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NCAA Division III Women's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [NAIA Women's Conferences & Teams](#)
- [Junior College Women's Conferences & Teams](#)

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

- How much importance do you place on academic achievement?
- Do the College/University entrance requirements reflect my academic level, and will I be able to manage the workload with my athletic commitments?
- Which Colleges/Universities are strong in my study interests?
- Is summer school available? This could be a good option as it can take pressure off in your Senior Years.
- Does the College/University provide academic support programs for athletes?
- Will I perform better in a College/University with < 5,000 students or a College/University with 5,000 - 15,000 students, or a College/University with > 15,000 students?
- Is the student/teacher ratio suitable?
- Will I qualify for athlete or academic scholarships? Not all scholarships are the same and can come with different financial benefits/stipends.

TENNIS CONSIDERATIONS

- Does the tennis program have a great development philosophy?
- How does the College/University develop players holistically? Who have they previously developed?
- Where would I sit in the team line-up and how much would I get to play?
- Expect positions to vary with new recruits and match ups – no one will 'own' their position.
- What is the coaching team's background, philosophy and previous success?
- What does the in-season practice schedule comprise of in both frequency and length? - Both for tournament and training loads.
- Will there be individual development plans and accountability for the coaching team or is it more of a team focus and self-driven environment?
- What are the off-season practice requirements?
- Is the coach supportive of the academic needs of team players?
- Are my developmental goals aligned to the coach and assistant coach? i.e., Turning Pro
- Would I still want to attend this school if the tennis coach (or assistant coach) were to leave during my time there?
- What are the current players on the team like, and would I be compatible with them?
- What is the overall quality of the tennis facilities? Indoor and outdoor courts? How many?
- Is there a strength and conditioning program?
- Does the athletic department provide sports psychology and nutritional counselling services?
- Will I be supported by the coaching team to play in professional events?
- Will the coaching team travel with me to pro tournaments?
- Will the coaches be willing to assist with my tournament goals in the off season/Fall. Sometimes Colleges/ Universities will pay for travel. Speak to the coaches during recruitment.

CAMPUS LIFE CONSIDERATIONS

- Do you have a preference regarding where the school is geographically – north, south, east or west?
- Is the weather or climate a factor for you?
- Do the schools have the facilities to manage the weather.
- Do you want to attend college/university in an urban city (big or small?) or a college/university in a smaller town or rural area?
- What do I want accommodation to look like? Dorms or off-campus? Private or community bathrooms?
- What is the distance from my housing to classes and the tennis facilities?
- Is there an athlete dining hall?



WHICH DIVISION IS RIGHT FOR ME? AND WHICH CONFERENCE?

- While each conference has its own unique characteristics, it is important to focus on the school itself more than the conference.
- Factors like campus size and location, importance of academics vs tennis at different Colleges/Universities should be considered.
- Variance can occur within each division; for example a high Division III can be competitive with a weaker Division I school.

GENERALLY:

Division I

- Is known for the depth of talent within their team. Expect a consistently high level from positions 1 to 6.
- The longer in-season tends to promote more developmental opportunities allowing athletes more time to compete and practice.
- Scholarships are available at the DI level, and for aspiring and elite players, there may be an opportunity to travel to ITF events with coaches.

Division II

- Provides a mix of academics and tennis, while also providing scholarships.

Division III

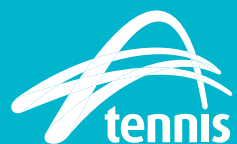
- Promotes a focus on academics and internships.
- No athletic scholarships are permitted, however; academic and need-based scholarships are common.

Athletes may also consider **Junior College (2 years and transfer to a Div I College)** or **NAIA (4 years)** levels, where eligibility and other requirements are more relaxed - however the competition can remain at a high level. Levels for JUCO and NAIA are similar to that of D-II.

3 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Moving away from home requires a high level of personal independence. While US College/University can be a big change, focusing on the development of key life skills can assist with the transition.
2. Will your chosen US College degree carry over to Australia (law/psych/exercise science)
3. Will the University assist you with your post college goals? For example, can you use the College or University as base after graduating?





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