



# COLLEGE HOCKEY DIRECTORY

*Find Your Opportunity To Play College Hockey*

## COLLEGE HOCKEY 101

College hockey in the United States is unique in comparison to other college athletics. American Universities field far fewer ice hockey teams at the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) level than most other popular sports.

This is partly due to the high cost incurred by the school to run an NCAA Ice Hockey program with the required facilities and legislation such as Title IX that requires colleges to provide equal opportunity to student athletes based on gender.

As a result the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) was established in 1991 to be a governing body for college hockey programs that are not considered varsity sports at their particular school. ACHA programs are required to fund themselves in most cases.

The ACHA is growing in numbers every year as more schools across the country continue to form hockey programs. NCAA hockey is extremely competitive at all levels and there are only so many roster spots available at these schools. This has led to the growth of the ACHA or "club" hockey in recent years.

The NCAA competes in Men's Division I, II and III and Women's Division I and III.

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Both the NCAA and ACHA are members of USA Hockey.

Scholarships are only offered at the NCAA Division I and II levels for men's hockey and the NCAA Division I level for women. NCAA Division I schools are permitted 18 full scholarships per team and Division II schools are allowed 13.5 full scholarships per team. These "full" scholarships can be divided into partial scholarships and usually are by most schools.

The NCAA does not have a Division II level in women's hockey and only 7 teams compete in Men's NCAA Division II, these teams compete against each other and NCAA Division III teams also. There has not been an NCAA Division II National Championship held since 1999.

Gaining an understanding of this landscape is the first step to playing college hockey. Most players strive to play at the highest level possible, combine that with the amount of hockey players entering college each year from the United States, Canada and Europe and you can see why college hockey has grown both in competitiveness and popularity in recent years. The rise in participation rates in the sport has made all levels of NCAA hockey extremely competitive and created some very strong programs at the ACHA levels.

# COLLEGE HOCKEY 101 (CONT...)

## 2008-2009 College Hockey Breakdown

<u>Men's</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Scholarships</u>			
NCAA D1	58	936*			
NCAA D2	7	94.5			
NCAA D3	71	0			
ACHA D1	53	0			
ACHA D2	162	0			
ACHA D3	140	0			
NJCAA	11	0			
<u>Women's</u>					
NCAA D1	34	504*			
NCAA D3	50	0			
ACHA D1	17	0			
ACHA D2	29	0			
	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Scholarships</u>	<u>NCAA</u>	<u>ACHA</u>	<u>NJCAA</u>
Total Men	502	1030.5	136	355	11
Total Women	130	504	84	46	0
Total	<b>632</b>	<b>1534.5</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>11</b>

\*Ivy League schools do not offer athletic scholarships

The above chart is only a snapshot of the current structure of college hockey in the United States. It helps give you a sense of some of the current realities within the sport such as: how many teams there actually are, how few hockey scholarships are available in relation to the number of teams, and the realization that the majority of college hockey players skate in the ACHA.

There is a lot to learn and many factors to consider if playing college hockey is an important selection criteria. This is compounded by the fact that there are many academic, financial and lifestyle preferences one must also take into account while making this very important choice.

Whichever level you aspire to, remember it is more about the experience you have while in college than the level you play at. Playing four years of a college sport at any level is an accomplishment that helps build habits and characteristics that will benefit you long after graduation.

The goal of the College Hockey Directory is to help prospective college hockey players and their families understand the opportunities available at each level. CHD has made it easier to initiate contact and do the necessary research needed in order to make the best college decision.

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