FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. **What is the NCAA?**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is a semi-voluntary association of 1,281 institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals that organizes the athletic programs of many colleges and universities in the United States. It is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. In August 1973, the current three-division setup of Division I, Division II, and Division III was adopted by the NCAA membership in a special convention. Under NCAA rules, Division I and Division II schools can offer scholarships to athletes for playing a sport. Division III schools may not offer any athletic scholarships. Generally, larger schools compete in Division I and smaller schools in II and III. Division I football was further divided into I-A and I-AA in 1978. Subsequently the term "Division I-AAA" was briefly added to delineate Division I schools which do not field a football program at all, but that term is no longer officially used by the NCAA.[4] In 2006, Divisions I-A and I-AA were respectively renamed the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). [Wikipedia]

UNI is a member of the NCAA in the FCS division.

2. **What does “Cycle 3” mean, and in what areas are we reviewed by the NCAA?**

UNI is currently in “Cycle 3” of the NCAA’s review of collegiate sports (for us this is occurring during 2010-2012). The NCAA reviews programs roughly every ten years, and UNI’s last review (during 2001-2003) was “Cycle 2”—that is the second round of the current NCAA review procedure. UNI is asked to detail our actions and policies in four areas and these are the general categories in which we are judged: academic integrity, governance & commitment to rules compliance, and gender issues, diversity issues, student-athlete well-being.

3. **Will the NCAA review outcome end up forcing UNI to spend more on sports?**

No. The NCAA review is concerned with students’ participation in sports and the academic well-being of student athletes. Funding is a local (UNI) matter. Currently state funding of UNI Athletics is directed by a decision of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, on September 16, 2010. [See the NCAA Review Executive Memo for an overview of the Board’s decision.] State [general-education] funds make up about one-third of the Athletics budget; the remainder comes from student fees and self-generated income.

4. **What are the possible outcomes of the NCAA review?**

UNI could be: Not Certified, Certified with Conditions, or Certified.

*Not Certified* is very unlikely. This would keep UNI athletes from conference championship play, and dry up any revenue from sports broadcasting.

*Certified with Conditions* is possible (this happened in Cycle 2). In this case, the NCAA would require certain conditions to be fulfilled before Certification.
Certification, as an initial review outcome, means that our sports programs are fully compliant with NCAA guidelines.

5. Academically, how do UNI student-athletes compare with the broader UNI student population?

As a group, UNI's student-athletes are similar to the general student population. Some are Presidential Scholars, others hold leadership positions in student organizations like UNI Student Government. Student-athletes’ average GPA is slightly higher than the UNI average GPA. As a whole, UNI student-athletes graduate at a higher percentage than the general student population.

6. Who can I contact if I have questions about the UNI NCAA Self-Study or the review process?

Cliff Chancey (Physics, -32425 and c.chancey@uni.edu) chairs the NCAA Certification Steering Committee.

Jean Berger (Athletics, -32556 and jean.berger@uni.edu) is the UNI liaison to the NCAA.

Lisa Jepsen (Economics, -32592 and lisa.jepsen@uni.edu) is the current Faculty Athletics Representative at UNI.