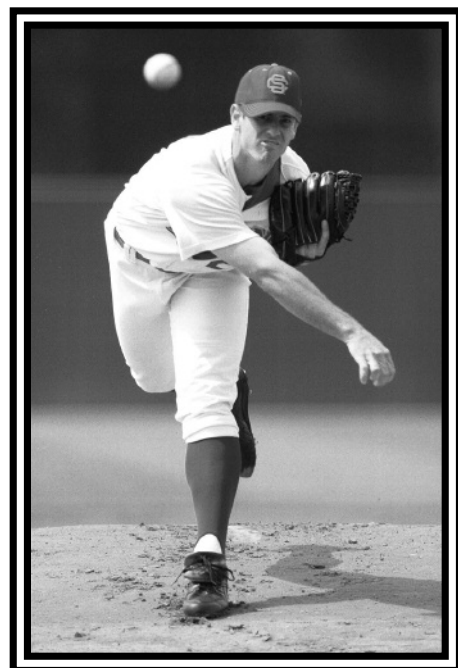


# 1

## *Let Your Athletic Talent Take You to College*

*“Playing a college sport is a reward for all the hard work and dedication you, your parents and your coaches have put in throughout the years. At last, you have the opportunity to apply all that you’ve learned so far.”*

Russ Peterich  
Coach, golf  
Montgomery High School, Santa Rosa, California



# A Solution to Rising College Costs

\* Terms in bold italics are defined in the glossary

The skyrocketing cost of a college education is enough to send parents and students into a panic. With the price of *tuition*\*, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses escalating an estimated 6.5 percent a year, the average four-year degree could cost as much as \$69,700 for a student entering in 2007-08. For private universities this amount could climb to \$141,900, according to the College Board, a non-profit association of 4,500 schools, colleges and universities.

## PROJECTED COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION\*

Year	Public	Private
2006	16,357	33,301
2007	17,420	35,466
2008	18,553	37,771
2009	19,758	40,226
2010	21,043	42,841
2011	22,411	45,625
2012	23,867	48,591

\* Adapted from the College Board's publication "Trends in College Pricing 2006."

Concerns over these spiraling costs can overwhelm parents and students. Some abandon the idea of college altogether, while others begin searching for outside sources of financial assistance. But, for *student-athletes*, a solution may very well be within their own reach.

## Athletic Talent + Good Grades = Sports Scholarship



180,000+ scholarships  
awarded each year

Students with athletic ability and good grades can pay for all or part of their college educations with a sports scholarship. Scholarships are available in 34 sports played at the collegiate level—and not only in *revenue sports*, or *major sports*, such as football or basketball. From archery to badminton, crew to cross country, lacrosse to volleyball, athletic scholarships are available. The best news is that you don't have to be a *super-star* to win a sports scholarship!

If you are a better-than-average athlete and in the top third of your class, you could be eligible for any of over 180,000 athletic scholarships awarded each year by colleges and universities throughout the United States. Many of the scholarships offered are in non-revenue, or *minor*, sports, but there's nothing minor about the scholarship dollars they offer.

According to the *National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)*, the amount of scholarship money awarded each year for all sports in NCAA member *institutions* is over \$1.2 billion. And that figure does not even include scholarships awarded by schools belonging to other athletic associations. For more information on athletic associations, see Chapter 3.

While scholarships are available to both men and women in most sports, some



\$1.2 billion awarded yearly

sports and scholarships are available for men or women only. To find out if a sport is offered at a particular institution, consult one of the college sports guides on pages 164 and 165 in the Resources list. (More on researching colleges is found in Chapter 7.) Or go to the institution’s website for information. A list of sports for which scholarships are awarded is shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1:  
SCHOLARSHIP SPORTS**

Archery	Football	Skiing, downhill
Badminton	Golf	Squash
Baseball	Gymnastics	Soccer
Basketball	Handball	Softball
Bowling	Ice Hockey	Swimming
Cheerleading	Indoor Track	Synchronized Swimming
Cross Country	Riflery	Tennis
Diving	Rodeo	Track & Field
Equestrian	Rowing (Crew)	Volleyball
Fencing	Rugby	Water Polo
Field Hockey	Skiing, cross country	Wrestling

These scholarship sports are only a portion of the competitive athletic programs at the collegiate level. Schools may also recruit athletes in such non-scholarship sports as martial arts, polo, power lifting, racquetball, water skiing, sailing and weight lifting.

At this point, your mind may be filled with questions:

- How do you know which scholarships are offered, and where?
- Do you qualify for one of those scholarships?
- How can you find out?
- Who can you talk to?
- Where do you look?
- When do you begin?

The answers to these and other questions about the process of winning an athletic scholarship are in this book.