

**William Jewell College
NCAA Division II
FAQ**

Background

William Jewell College initiated a strategic planning process in the spring of 2005. As a part of this process, the administration recommended to the Board of Trustees in May 2006 that the College change its athletic affiliation from the NAIA to the NCAA. The decision by the board to move from NAIA membership to NCAA membership was made on the basis of taking advantage of co-branding with both NCAA and the generally higher quality of institutions that are members of NCAA, thus aiding Jewell's position in the higher education marketplace. The President appointed a faculty task force to engage the conversation around divisional and conference affiliation possibilities. The task force issued a report in fall 2007 recommending that the College join Division II and attempt to create a new conference. The President pursued this option for several months but was not successful.

During this same time frame, the College continued to review the possible fit and suitability of NCAA divisions and conferences. The College applied for and received Division III exploratory status in May 2008 for the 2008-2009 academic year. The result of this additional focused study was a decision that the College should pursue Division II membership.

In its January 2009 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to change the College's athletic affiliation to NCAA Division II and seek membership in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Who was on the Athletics Task Force?

Debbie Chasteen (Task Force Chair, Professor of Communication); Jim Redd (Director of Athletics); Rein Staal (Faculty Athletics Representative, Professor of Political Science); Thomas Howell (Professor of History); Kent Huyser (Executive Director of Alumni Relations); and Jeanine Haistings (Assistant Professor of Education).

Now that William Jewell has been accepted to explore the membership process in NCAA Division II, what is the next step?

The timeline will be as follows:

- Candidacy Year 1 (2009-2010) - Continue to compete in the NAIA's Heart of America Athletic Conference and be eligible for NAIA post-season play while completing educational activities as part of the NCAA Division II membership process.
- Candidacy Year 2 (2010-2011) – Continue to compete in the NAIA's Heart of America Athletic Conference and be eligible for NAIA post-season play while completing educational activities as part of the NCAA Division II membership process.
- Provisional Year (2011-2012) - After successful completion of the candidacy period, William Jewell must be invited to enter the provisional year, and Jewell's readiness to become an active member will continue to be evaluated.
- Active Member of NCAA Division II (2012-2013) - Must be invited to active membership.

Is conference affiliation being considered?

William Jewell has explored conference options. Its application to NCAA Division II was endorsed by the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Now that Jewell has been invited to begin the candidacy membership phase in the NCAA, the College plans to make an official application to the Great Lakes Valley Conference this fall.

Why does this process take multiple years?

The NCAA Division II process affords William Jewell the amount of time necessary to make a smooth transition. The three-year process provides an opportunity to strengthen our Athletic Department, evaluate processes and incorporate changes.

What impact will this have on our current student-athletes?

Our current student-athletes will be the foundation of this transition. As long as our current student-athletes are meeting the expectations of their coaches they will continue to participate in our programs.

What impact will this have on future student-athletes?

Prospective students are the future of our program. During this transition we will field competitive teams that will help attract students who are a good fit with the Division II philosophy. The College will also work closely with prospective student-athletes to help them learn about and follow recruiting and eligibility policies as appropriate.

How will this affect the academic performance of our student-athletes?

William Jewell is committed to the academic performance of our student-athletes. While our student-athletes will be competing at a higher level on the playing field/court, the coaching staff is committed to recruiting student-athletes who will continue to excel in the classroom.

Will the existing athletics facilities need to be upgraded?

We are fortunate to have viable on-campus facilities for our sports. The College is continuing to look at ways to enhance and improve our current athletics facilities to provide the optimal competitive opportunities for our student-athletes and to attract quality conference and regional events to the Jewell campus.

What will Jewell's athletic affiliation be during the transitional period?

William Jewell will maintain dual membership in the NAIA and NCAA during the candidacy period.

How will this affect post-season play?

The Cardinals will be eligible for post-season play in the NAIA during the first two candidacy years (2009-2010 and 2010-2011), but not during the final provisional year (2011-2012). The Cardinals will not be eligible for regional and national post-season play in the NCAA until full active membership is granted. A vote following the third year of membership would lead to a full active membership in the association for the 2012-2013 season.

Where can I get additional information about NCAA Division II?

Please access the NCAA Division II web site at <http://www.siue.edu/ATHLETIC/d2/>

Question: What is the best way to stay informed of the transition progress?

Visit the William Jewell College Athletics web site at http://www.jewell.edu/william_jewell/gen/william_and_jewell_generated_pages/Welcome_m76.html

What if I have additional questions?

Ask Dr. Darlene Bailey, Director of Athletics and Chair of the Department of Physical Education, at baileyd@william.jewell.edu

