Questions & Answers

What is D-1 Certification?

In 1989, former NCAA Executive Director Richard Schultz introduced the athletics certification concept. A two-year pilot program of 34 NCAA Division I institutions began in 1990.

Athletics certification was approved by Division I institutions at the 1993 NCAA Convention as a key part of the Association’s reform agenda.

The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, comprised of 15 administrators (presidents/chancellors, faculty athletics representatives, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators, conference commissioners) from the membership, is appointed to administer the program and determine the certification status of each Division I institution.

Athletics certification is meant to ensure the Association’s fundamental commitment to integrity in intercollegiate athletics by:

- Opening the affairs of athletics to the institutional community and the public.
- Setting standards (called operating principles) for the operation of Division I athletics programs. They cover three basic areas: (a) governance and commitment to rules compliance; (b) academic integrity; and (c) equity and student-athlete well-being.
- Putting in place tough sanctions for institutions that fail to conduct a comprehensive self-study or correct problems over a reasonable period of time.

When is the Peer-Review Visit and who will Chair the evaluation team?

On Tuesday, September 30, 2008, UNF will be visited by a 4-member evaluation team which will be chaired by Dr. Milton A. Gordon, President of California State University - Fullerton. The additional members of the visiting team will be identified approximately 4 weeks before the campus visit. They will be individuals from Division I institutions or conferences that have a general knowledge of intercollegiate athletics. These individuals must hold the position of president/chancellor, director of athletics, faculty athletics representative, senior woman administrator or have a recognized expertise in particular areas addressed in the certification program.