Friday, October 10, 2025

Application for NAIA Membership

Application for NAIA Membership 2025-2026

NAIA membership applications are considered two times per year, at the fall and spring meetings of the NAIA Council of Presidents (COP). To be considered, completed applications must be received in the NAIA national office by one of the following deadlines:

Primary Cycle: April 15

Secondary Cycle: October 15

Submit to: NAIA, VP Membership Recruitment and Retention (Nick Davidson) - See instructions on the last page.

*You may save your progress and return to complete the application at any time. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure all required fields are completed. At the end of the form, three separate signatures are required—one each from the President, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and Athletics Director. Each signer will receive an email prompt to review and sign in the correct order. Signatures are collected independently and tracked using designated names and email addresses to ensure proper routing and completion.

Please Note: All fields on this form are **REQUIRED** unless otherwise noted if applicable.

Important Email Guidance:

1. Add membership@naia.org and noreply@jotform.com to your email contacts or safe sender list to avoid emails being marked as spam.
2. If you experience any issues receiving an email, please contact Nick Davidson (ndavidson@naia.org) or Todd Stutzman(tstutzman@naia.org) at for assistance.

General Information

Name of Institution:	Champion Christian College
IPED #:	492069
Year of Establishment:	2005
Physical Address:	600 Garland Ave Hot Springs, Arkansas, 71913
Mailing Address:	600 Garland Ave Hot Springs, Arkansas, 71913

Main Campus Phone Number: (501) 623-2272

Web Address: https://www.champion.edu/

Type of Institution: Private

Application Cycle: Secondary- October 15

Calendar System: Semester

Religous Affiliation: non-denomination

Link to your institution's academic calendar: https://www.champion.edu/student-resources

Does your institution have any programs that allow students to take courses at a different/branch location, but compete at your institution? If so explain:

No.

What year did your institution begin sponsoring varsity intercollegiate athletics for four-year, degree-seeking undergraduates? 2005

Has your institution continued to sponsor varsity athletics for four-year undergraduates since that time? Yes

Under what other circumstances (eg., two-year college) has your institution conducted athletics (include dates)? None

Athletics Affiliation

Athletics Affiliation NAIA Membership Category Desired: Full Membership – Four-year, degree-granting institution that is fully accredited by one of the U.S. accrediting agencies listed in the NAIA Bylaws (for Canadian institutions, commensurate accrediting body).

Was your institution a member of the NAIA previously? No

Current athletic association memberships: NCCAA

Does your institution have a letter of support from an NAIA athletic conference member? Yes

If so, which NAIA conference? AMC

Please upload your NAIA conference letter of Support if applicable



AMC Application.pdf

Athletics Oversight

To whom does the athletics department report? DeAnthony Ellison Athletic Director and Eric Capaci President

Does your institution have an athletics advisory committee? No

Reasons for seeking NAIA membership:

Please explain why you have chosen to apply for NAIA membership, including how you believe NAIA membership will benefit your school and its athletic program. Please be specific.

Champion has competed in the NCCAA D2 level for the last 7 years. We have enjoyed many parts of the association we have been apart of, but have observed a few things that we believe to be holding our sports programs back from the growth that we desire as an institution. Below is a few of our findings:

NCCAA(D2)
NCCAA-37 members schools NAIA-252 member schools
NCCAA-1 member schools in Arkansas (Champion) NAIA-7 member schools in Arkansas
NCCAA-9 member schools in adjacent states NAIA-63 member schools in adjacent states
NCCAA-10 team national tournament NAIA-64 team national tournament
NCCAA-Very little notoriety/tough for recruiting NAIA-2nd most well known league/great for recruiting
NCCAA-No athletic scholarships NAIA-Athletic Scholarships Allowed

What value will your school bring to the NAIA if it becomes a member? Please explain why (geography, competitiveness, academic excellence, etc.).

Champion Christian College is a growing institution, with a vision and excitement that is contagious. Over the course of the last 3 semesters, Champion has seen a significant increase of in enrollment, in large part of our duel language program! From the addition of our online program, to our increasing number of sports programs as well as academic programs, Champion is ready to see continued growth for the foreseeable future. In the Spring of 2026, we have already accepted over 1,200 students, and expect over 2,000 total students for the fall of 2027!

Here is a list of things that Champion Christian College will bring to the NAIA:
- Solid morals and values. (honesty and integrity with any and all compliance rules and regulations)
- High expectations academically. (3.0+ cumulative GPA from multiple sports programs)
- High expectations athletically. (Women's basketball program has made it to 6 national tournaments, along with winning 2 NCCAA national championships in 6 years of having a program. Men's basketball went 17-3 along with 5-1 against NAIA competition in 2023, and also has 2 national tournament appearances, alongside a 2025 Southwest Regional Championship)

- A young, diverse institution, that is passionate about developing the lives of young people of from all walks of life! (Champion is a very diverse college, and will always find a way to continue to love and respect all races, gender, and
socioeconomic status'.)
- Another institution, in a destination location. (Champion is located in beautiful Hot Springs, Arkansas. Hot Springs is the first national park in America's history, and is home to many hotels, restaurants, and fun activities.)

Accreditation

Accrediting agency:	Transnational Association of Christian Schools and College
Current accreditation status:	Fully Accredited
Expiration date of current accreditation:	Saturday, December 31, 2033

Student Enrollment Profile (please submit data from the most recent completed academic year):

*Full Time Enrollment - 12 hours or more / ** Full Time Equivalent

Indicate academic year for which the following data is reported:	2024-2025
Total fall term undergraduate FT enrollment* (traditional students):	145
Total fall term undergraduate FTE (traditional students):**	184.67
Total fall term graduate FT enrollment*:	N/A
Total fall term graduate FTE:**	N/S

For New Enrollees in Fall Term:

# Freshmen:	49
# Transfer students:	24
# Re-admits:	84
Average SAT:	941.62
Average ACT:	17.61

# National Merit finalists:	0
Percent male:	78%
Percent female:	22%
Percent ethnic minorities:	56%

For The Student Body as a Whole:

Average SAT:	907.21
Average ACT:	18.59
# National Merit Finalists:	0
Percent male:	76%
Percent female:	25%
Percent ethnic minorities:	46%

For Student-Athletes (use estimates for the current academic year):

# Total:	96
# Freshmen:	27
# Transfer:	22

Graduation Rate (based on IPED report)

Indicate academic years included in cohort for the following data:	2018-2019-2024-2025
Undergraduate student body six-year graduation rate for this cohort:	1
Student-athlete graduation rate for this cohort:	0

Retention Rate

A measure of the rate at which students persist in their educational program at an institution, expressed as a percentage. For four-year institutions, this is the percentage of first-time bachelor's (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who are again enrolled in the current fall.

Rate: 42%

Indicate academic years: 2024-2025

Administration and Faculty

President/ Chancellor: Eric Capaci

President's Phone: (501) 276-9265

President's Email: eric.capaci@champion.edu

Years served in current position: 20

Prior Position: none

Senior administrator outside athletics with direct oversight of athletics:

Name: Eric Capaci

Title: President

Phone: (501) 276-9265

Email: eric.capaci@champion.edu

Years served in current position: 8

Athletics Director: DeAnthony Ellison

Athletics Director's Phone: (903) 821-2963

Athletics Director's Email: deanthony.ellison@champion.edu

Years served in current position: 7

Prior Position: Coach

Faculty Athletics Representative: Matthias Capaci

Department Title: Men's Basketball Coach

Faculty Athletics Representative's Phone:	(501) 276-6740
Faculty Athletics Representative's Email:	mo.capaci@champion.edu
Years served in current position:	6
Prior Position:	Academic Office Director
Chief Financial Officer:	Marcia Thomas
Phone:	(501) 627-8767
Email:	Marcia.thomas@champion.edu
Years served in current position:	12
Title IX Compliance Officer:	Angel Ellison
Phone:	(602) 405-9078
Email:	Angel.ellison@champion.edu
Years served in current position:	1
Registrar:	Ron Young
Phone:	(501) 773-1494
Email:	ron.young@champion.edu
Years served in current position:	3
Director of Admissions:	Micah Griffeth
Phone:	(501) 282-6737
Email:	Micah.griffeth@champion.edu
Years served in current position:	2
Sports Information Director:	Brendan Hatfield
Phone:	(918) 565-1752
Email:	brendan.hatfield@champion.edu

Years served in current position: 5

Additional Mandatory Information for Submission with Application

All required materials must now be submitted online as part of the NAIA Membership Application process. Please clearly label each file with the document title. Documents must be submitted digitally through the JotForm application portal below. If you have any technical issues please reach out to the NAIA Membership Sales team for assistance at 816-595-8103 or tstutzman@naia.org. File types accepted include: pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, csv, txt, rtf, html, zip, mp3, wma, mpg, flv, avi, jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

1. Please submit the following documents below related to the institution's academic profile.

One copy of the institution's current mission statement

PDF CCC Mission Statement.pdf

One copy of the institution's most recent accreditation review including: Institution's self-study report

PDF Champion SELF-STUDY 2023 (Portal F….pdf

Accreditation team's full response.

DOCX Final Team Report CCC- 2019.docx

Accreditation agency's determination status (including any warnings, corrective actions, conditions and accreditation status.)

PDF CCC Reaffirmation Certificate 2023 (1).pdf

PDF CCC TRACS Accreditation Aprroved L… .pdf

One copy of the institution's current catalog

PDF College Catalog 2025-26.pdf

Athletic Policy Handbook

PDF Athletic Handbook 2025-2026.pdf

2. Please submit below the most recent two years' overall line-item revenues and expenditures for athletics, *including* amounts for personnel, travel, recruiting and athletics grants reported on a *sport-by-sport* basis. Feel free to use this Sample Departmental Financial Report as a guide or template when completing your own.

**If you choose to use the sample report, please download the document from the link, complete and save it, then re-upload it using the Dropbox below.

Most Recent Year

PDF Athletic Expense&Revenue last 2 yrs.pdf

Second Most Recent Year

PDF Athletic Expense&Revenue last 2 yrs_... .pdf

3. Please submit independently audited financial statements including revenues and expenditures and management letter for the institution as a whole for the *two* most recent fiscal years.

Most Recent Year

PDF 2024 Audit(23 school year).pdf

Most Recent Year

PDF 2024 Audit(23 school year).pdf

Second Most Recent Year

PDF 2023 Audit (22 School year).pdf

4. Please submit the institution's strategic plan or business plan for intercollegiate athletics — or other documentation to serve as evidence of institutional planning related to intercollegiate athletics that includes the involvement and support of senior administrators.

Strategic plan or business plan for intercollegiate athletics

DOCX Athletic Strategic Plan (1).docx

Other supporting document, strategic plan, or business plan for athletics

PDF Athletic Strategic Plan.docx (1).pdf

5. Please submit Current Sport Sponsorship: For each varsity sport currently sponsored, list the sport (list each men's and women's sport separately) and provide the following information: SAMPLE Current Sport

Sponsorship

-Number of years the sport has been sponsored at the varsity level

-Number of students participating in the sport

-Location and condition (including age) of practice and game facilities. If facilities are located off campus, describe the location (e.g., high school, private club, usage agreement) and distance from campus

-List each coach for the sport, indicating whether they are head or assistant, full- or part-time, their other responsibilities as outlined in their job description, and the number of years of collegiate coaching experience in the sport

Current Sport Sponsorship

PDF Current Sports Sponsorship.docx (2).pdf

6. Please submit projected sports sponsorship: For each additional sport projected for sponsorship in the future, list the sport (list men's and women's sports separately) and describe:

-Planned dates for initial sponsorship

-Number of student-athletes projected to participate

-Location and condition (including age) of planned practice and game facilities. If facilities are located off-campus, describe the location and distance from campus.

-Coaching staff

Projected Sport Sponsorship

PDF New Sports.pdf

7. Please submit description/pictures of current campus facilities (existing, under construction, or planned). If you do not own facilities, please submit copies of your long-term lease agreements of 3 to 5 years.

Pictures and description of athletic facilities









Application Submission, Approval Flow & Signatures

Here's what to expect as your application moves through the NAIA review and approval process. This workflow ensures that all required institutional representatives review and sign the application in the proper sequence:

1. Designated School Representative (typically the Athletics Director) completes all sections of the form and submits it to initiate the process.

2. The President receives an email prompting them to review and digitally sign the application.

3. Once the President signs, the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is notified via email to review and add their signature.

4. Finally, the Athletics Director receives the completed form, conducts a final review, signs, and officially submits it.

5. Upon final submission, the NAIA Membership team receives the completed application, and all signers receive a confirmation email with a copy of the finalized form.

By signing, each individual certifies that all information provided in this application and any accompanying materials is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Digital Submission Required
All application materials and supplemental documents must be submitted digitally through the official NAIA Membership Application JotForm.

-The JotForm includes a **secure upload feature.**

-Accepted file formats include: **pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, csv, txt, rtf, html, zip, mp3, wma, mpg, flv, avi, jpg, jpeg, png, gif**.

-Signatures are collected digitally within the form, and signatories will receive **email prompts** based on their assigned roles to ensure proper routing and completion.

-Once all signatures are gathered and the form is finalized, click **"Submit"** to send the application to the NAIA Membership team.

-A **confirmation email** will be automatically sent to all signers for their records.

For questions during the submission process, please contact tstutzman@naia.org.

Application Fee

The application fee is $15,000 and is due at the time of application.

- If your institution is denied a campus visit, $10,000 will be refunded.
- If your institution receives a campus visit, no refund will be issued.

A separate invoice will be sent by our Finance Department. Please make checks payable to "National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics" and indicate on the check that it is for the "Application Fee."

Mail to:

NAIA
PO Box 410244
Kansas City, Mo. 64141

Flow Activity History

Actor	Actions	Date
eric.capaci@champion.edu	Approve 	Friday, October 10, 2025
Notification	Approve & Sign Step - Reminder Email sent to mo.capaci@champion.edu	Sunday, October 12, 2025
Notification	Approve & Sign Step - Reminder Email sent to mo.capaci@champion.edu	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
eric.capaci@champion.edu	Approve Eric capaci 	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
mo.capaci@champion.edu	Approve 	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
eric.capaci@champion.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Actor	Actions	Date
mo.capaci@champion.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
deanthony.ellison@champion.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Notification	Email sent. (NAIA Membership Application Form Has Been Submitted & Approved) eric.capaci@champion.edu,deanthony.ellison@champion.edu,mo.capaci@champion.edu,tstutzman@naia.org	Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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