Wednesday, October 15, 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:	Georgia Southern University
IPED #:	139931
Year of Establishment:	1906
Physical Address:	131 College Circle Swainsboro, GA, 30401
Mailing Address:	131 College Circle Swainsboro, GA, 30401

Main Campus Phone Number: (478) 289-2000

Web Address: www.ega.edu

Type of Institution: Public

Application Cycle: Secondary- October 15

Calendar System: Semester

Religous Affiliation: NA

Link to your institution's academic calendar: https://www.ega.edu/academics/files/at-a-glance-fall-2025-sw-st-online-rev072425.pdf

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:

As of October 2025, EGSC is in the process of consolidating with Georgia Southern University, following initial approval by the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents in April 2025. The consolidation is scheduled for final approval in January 2026, pending additional reviews including accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This merger aims to enhance access, student success, and degree pathways while maintaining local service at EGSC's campuses.

Post-consolidation, EGSC students will retain their enrollment and degree progress without interruption, with continued emphasis on affordability. They will gain expanded opportunities to take core or major-related courses not only at the Swainsboro campus but also at GSU's Statesboro campus, fostering greater cross-institutional flexibility. However, students enrolled through EGSC will continue to be tracked by their designated campus code for administrative purposes. Each campus will maintain separate fee and tuition structures, aligned with Board of Regents rates for the 2025-26 academic year, ensuring no immediate changes to financial aid or scholarships. Over time, the consolidated entity will offer enhanced advising, academic support, and program access across all locations.

What year did your institution begin sponsoring varsity intercollegiate athletics for four-year, degree-seeking undergraduates? 2009 (at EGA) 2025 after consolidation

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)? W ehave been apart of the NJCAA sense 2009

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:	NJCAA
Does your institution have a letter of support from an NAIA athletic conference member?	Yes
If so, which NAIA conference?	Southern States and Continental
Please upload your NAIA conference letter of Support if applicable	DOCX Georgia Southern-East Georgia State….docx PDF East Georgia Letter.pdf

Athletics Oversight

To whom does the athletics department report?	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.

Enrollment Strategy

Athletics serves as a critical driver for enrollment at the Swainsboro campus of East Georgia State College (EGSC), where student-athletes occupy over 50% of housing. Current rosters include Baseball (75 players), Women's Basketball (42 players), Men's Basketball (40 players), and Softball (30 players). The transition to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) will further expand enrollment by adding 20 student-athletes through the introduction of cross country, thereby increasing tuition and housing revenue. This NAIA membership enhances EGSC's appeal to students pursuing four-year degrees and seeking diverse competitive opportunities, ultimately supporting the broader goals of consolidation with Georgia Southern University.

Cost Efficiency

The NAIA's regional conference structure will maintain travel costs at flat or slightly increased levels from FY2024 to FY2026, facilitated by competition against Georgia-based NAIA schools, including University System of Georgia (USG) members such as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Dalton State College, Georgia Gwinnett College, and College of Coastal Georgia, as well as non-USG institutions like Reinhardt University, Life University, Point University, Truett McConnell University, Brenau University, Thomas University, Brewton-Parker Christian University, and Savannah College of Art & Design. The addition of cross country involves low startup costs—such as uniforms and a shared coach—while leveraging existing infrastructure to maximize enrollment impact with minimal investment. This transition will be implemented under the existing East Georgia fee structure, with no request for a fee increase at this time.

Alignment with USG and Georgia Institutions

NAIA membership aligns EGSC with fellow USG schools, including Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Dalton State College, Georgia Gwinnett College, and College of Coastal Georgia, as well as non-USG Georgia institutions, fostering in-state rivalries, enhancing competitive opportunities, and simplifying logistics. This strategic positioning supports the consolidation with Georgia Southern University by establishing EGSC as a distinct NAIA program.929ms

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

East Georgia State College (EGSC) would bring substantial value to the NAIA conference by introducing high-quality student-athletes who embody excellence both on the field and in the classroom, fostering a fierce yet respectful competition mindset that elevates the level of play across programs. With robust institutional support, EGSC is committed to expanding its athletics offerings—not only to bolster participation and success on our Swainsboro campus but also to amplify NAIA's national footprint through innovative recruitment, community engagement, and collaborative initiatives that inspire broader growth in collegiate athletics. Our unwavering dedication to NAIA's core values ensures a culture of integrity and holistic development, while we pledge to actively champion and implement the Champions of Character initiative throughout our organization, promoting respect, servant leadership, integrity, sportsmanship, and humility in every aspect of our programs to strengthen the conference's reputation as a leader in character-driven competition.

Accreditation

Accrediting agency:	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
Current accreditation status:	Accreditted
Expiration date of current accreditation:	Wednesday, January 1, 2031

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:	2024-25

Total fall term undergraduate FT enrollment* (traditional students):	1826
Total fall term undergraduate FTE (traditional students):**	1458
Total fall term graduate FT enrollment*:	NA
Total fall term graduate FTE:**	NA

For New Enrollees in Fall Term:

# Freshmen:	706
# Transfer students:	19
# Re-admits:	86
Average SAT:	909
Average ACT:	NA
# National Merit finalists:	NA
Percent male:	45.38
Percent female:	54.62
Percent ethnic minorities:	68.68

For The Student Body as a Whole:

Average SAT:	864
Average ACT:	17
# National Merit Finalists:	NA
Percent male:	41.01
Percent female:	58.99
Percent ethnic minorities:	61.24

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

# Total:	176
# Freshmen:	132
# Transfer:	6

Graduation Rate (based on IPED report)

Indicate academic years included in cohort for the following data:	Fall 2018
Undergraduate student body six-year graduation rate for this cohort:	6-Year Bachelor: 3%; 3-Year Associate:17%
Student-athlete graduation rate for this cohort:	49.5

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:	49.5
Indicate academic years:	Fall 2023

Administration and Faculty

President/ Chancellor:	Kyle Marrero
President's Phone:	(912) 478-5211
President's Email:	president@georgiasouthern.edu
Years served in current position:	7
Prior Position:	President of University West Georgia

Senior administrator outside athletics with direct oversight of athletics:

Name:	Ron Stalnaker
Title:	Vice President of Business and Finance

Phone:	(912) 478-5491
Email:	rstalnaker@georgaisoutherne.du
Years served in current position:	5
Prior Position:	Chief Information Officer
Athletics Director:	Travis Garrett
Athletics Director's Phone:	(229) 380-1277
Athletics Director's Email:	tdgarrett@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	1
Prior Position:	Basketball Coach
Faculty Athletics Representative:	Desmal Purcell
Department Title:	Chair of Dept of Humanities
Faculty Athletics Representative's Email:	dpurcell@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	1
Prior Position:	Faculty
Chief Financial Officer:	Justin Janney
Phone:	(912) 478-5224
Email:	jjjanney@georgiasouthern.edu
Years served in current position:	10
Title IX Compliance Officer:	Georgia Sanders
Phone:	(478) 289-2112
Email:	gmathews@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	1
Registrar:	Lynette Saulsberry
Phone:	(478) 289-2171

Email:	lsaulsberry@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	6
Director of Admissions:	Casey Fountain
Phone:	(478) 289-2193
Email:	cfountain@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	1
Sports Information Director:	NA
Phone:	(000) 000-0000
Email:	na@ega.edu
Years served in current position:	NA

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 2025-Georgia-Southern-Strategic-Acti… .pdf
One copy of the institution's most recent accreditation review including: Institution's self-study report	PDF EGSC Compliance Certification Print V….pdf
Accreditation team's full response.	PDF East Georgia State College Reaffirmat… .pdf

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

East Georgia State College Reaffirmat… .pdf

One copy of the institution's current catalog

04-egsc-catalog.pdf

Athletic Policy Handbook

04-student-athlete-handbook.pdf

Admissions Viewbook

Fast Facts 060625.pdf

Current Sample or Redacted Institution Transcript

20251015075921622_Redacted.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

_Financial Report Athletics.xlsx

Second Most Recent Year

_Financial Report Athletics_7002.xlsx

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

1. EGSC Annual Financial Report_FY2… .pdf

FAD-25-572-ROR FY2025 EGSC.pdf

Most Recent Year

1. EGSC Annual Financial Report_FY2… .pdf

FAD-25-572-ROR FY2025 EGSC.pdf

Second Most Recent Year

FAD-24-572-ROR FY2024 EGSC.pdf

EGSC FY 2024 Annual Repor… .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

Business Case_ Transition of East Ge… .pdf

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

NAIA Transition Business Case (4).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

CurrentSportSponsorship.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

Projected Sport Sponsorship.docx

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

20251015a4ce6c3d22349402165701… .zip

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
president@georgiasouthern.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
dpurcell@ega.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Travis Garrett tdgarrett@ega.edu	Approve 	Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Notification	Email sent. (NAIA Membership Application Form Has Been Submitted & Approved) president@georgiasouthern.edu,tdgarrett@ega.edu,dpurcell@ega.edu,tstutzman@naia.org	Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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