

# Collegiate Skating Program

## What is it?

U.S. Figure Skating offers several programs designed to keep college students skating, while enhancing their college experience and providing them with the invaluable life lessons and friendships that come from participating in intercollegiate sports. We do this under the most important premise: they are student-athletes--students first, skaters second.



## Why skate in college?

- Continue participating in a sport you love in a supportive environment – train and compete with other students in your situation
- Helps adjust to college life. Joining a skating club helps new students to immediately find a group of friends they can relate to. Provides a sense of belonging on a large campus.
- Teaches time management skills. Student athletes are more likely to have better grades and attendance than non-athletes.
- Teaches leadership, organization and responsibility. Clubs are student run and athletes must learn how to run and manage their own teams.

## Collegiate Skating Membership:

U.S. Figure Skating offers a special membership for collegiate skaters. A four-year membership can be purchased through your home club for \$70,\* which is a 66 percent discount from a full membership for four years. It carries the same privileges as a full membership, including a subscription to SKATING magazine, and testing and competition privileges. Figure skating clubs and parents can also gift this membership to graduating high school seniors so that they will stay connected to their home club and U.S. Figure Skating. (\*additional club fees may apply)

## Opportunities to Skate in College:

### Intercollegiate Team Skating

Intercollegiate team skating is a great way to continue competing in skating in a supportive environment. These competitions differ from “traditional” nonqualifying competitions because they also allow them to interact with other figure skaters who share the primary focus of academics.

These competitions are open to skaters of all levels and disciplines. Intercollegiate team competitions are divided into three conferences – East, Midwest and Pacific Coast. This series of competitions is offered exclusively for full-time college students enabling them to represent their schools in singles, solo dance or synchronized skating. The skaters strive towards earning team points for a top five finish. Skaters must be full time college students, eligible to compete at the preliminary level or higher. The top three teams and point accumulators from each section advance to the U.S. Intercollegiate Figure Skating Team Championships.



Don't have a team at your school? That's ok. All it takes is one person from the school to be able to compete in an intercollegiate team competition. You will just need to register through our online form each year at <http://surveys.usfigureskating.org/index.php?sid=99558&lang=en>

### U.S. Collegiate Championships

Started in 1986, the U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships is the longest-running program for collegiate skaters. This competition is generally held in August and is for junior and senior-level skaters who are either enrolled full-time, high school graduates enrolled full-time for the fall semester



or recent college graduates having finished in May. The competition rotates around the United States based on bids received. You do not have to qualify for this event, other than passing your junior or senior free skate test. You do not have to be affiliated with a collegiate club; however, you will represent your college at the competition.

### Synchronized skating

Many colleges and universities offer synchronized skating teams in a variety of outlets. U.S. Figure Skating specifies two levels – collegiate and open collegiate – as teams for full-time college student only. Additionally, some schools choose to also field teams at the senior, junior, and open adult levels. Collegiate and open collegiate levels are offered at the three sectional championships – Eastern, Midwestern and Pacific Coast. The top four teams at the collegiate level move on to participate in the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. Since the inception of the collegiate division in 1997, which featured three teams, collegiate synchronized skating has grown to more than 50 teams across the country with more forming each year.

U.S. Figure Skating requires that all skaters on a team at the collegiate level pass their juvenile moves-in-the-field test. There is no moves-in-the field requirement for the open collegiate division at this time. Other than those requirements, each team has its own standards in terms of skating level. Some are basic, and others require a high level of skating.

## Resources:

To find more information on:

- Starting and managing a collegiate club/team
- Listing of colleges and universities with collegiate skating programs
- Rules and guidelines for intercollegiate skating competitions
- U.S. Collegiate Championships
- Upcoming events

Visit [www.usfigureskating.org](http://www.usfigureskating.org), click “Programs” and then “Collegiate,” or contact Brenda Gildewell, U.S. Figure Skating programs manager, at [bgildewell@usfigureskating.org](mailto:bgildewell@usfigureskating.org) or 719.635.5200 ext. 436.