

assist first-year student athletes to adjust to the demands of BOTH intercollegiate athletics and university academics by communicating with student athletes who have successfully completed their first year.

C. CONFERENCE AFFILIATIONS

Both NCAA Division II and Division III require 10 sports for sponsorship. The NAIA has no minimum for sport sponsorship and the DAC has a minimum of six sport sponsorships.

UMC has three conference and division affiliations possible.

- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC)
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC)
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC)

NAIA Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC)

Advantages:

1. Possibility of being more competitive – depending on sport
2. Staffing seems to be more comparable – Many DAC schools have education or Physical Education as a major. Therefore, part of the coaches salary is allocated from a faculty line and the other part comes from athletics, while spending a majority of their time in athletics
3. DAC dues are less expensive than the NSIC
4. UMC will still have the ability to offer athletic scholarships, but the DAC offers a large amount of waivers
5. NAIA has implemented a Champions of Character program
6. Size of institutions are comparable
7. Could be more in line with scholarship funding
8. Travel distance and expenses are comparable

Mileage Chart: DAC

Jamestown	1812 miles
Valley City	1887 miles
Mayville	2150 miles
Dickinson	2207 miles
Minot	2275 miles
Crookston	2440 miles
Dakota State	2765 miles
Black Hills	2971 miles
SD Tech	3195 miles

Challenges:

1. The DAC sponsors a minimum of six sports which means that we would have to reduce the number of sports we offer, including women's tennis and soccer, hockey and equestrian. The operation of independent sport schedules to maintain current sports would increase costs.
2. Overall support provided by conference in terms of conference staff, sports information positions and student input is limited and marketing strategies could reduce visibility of campus athletic programs and image in general, regionally and nationally, and affect recruitment efforts
3. There is limited compliance (e.g. no drug testing policies); grant and enhancement funds are not available; 80% of the NAIA are private institutions that provide more academic offerings.
4. No reimbursement for the majority of post season play with the exception of football through the NAIA and basketball through the DAC: this is minimal and there is a bid process
5. Countable aid is calculated differently:
 - a. Junior Varsity participants do NOT count
 - b. Dual sport athletes are equally prorated to each sport
 - c. Individuals do NOT count if they have a 3.6 GPA or are in the top 10% of their class
 - d. On ½ of aid to continuing students with a 3.3 – 3.59 GPA or upper 11 – 25% class rank will count against limits
 - e. Aid to entering freshmen will be exempted upon achievement of:
 - f. Minimum SAT/ACT (1053/23 = ½ exemption, 1200/27 = Full Exemption)
 - g. Cumulative high school GPA (3.50 – 3.74 = ½ exemption, 3.75 – 4.0 = Full Exemption)
 - h. High school class rank (Top 11 – 25% = ½ exemption, top 10% = Full Exemption)
6. DAC has the ability to offer minority waivers which UMC does not have access

NCAA Division III Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC)

Advantages:

1. Men's hockey will have a long-term solution to survive and possibly thrive
2. Equestrian could still be an emerging sport to help with gender equity
3. Ability to add men's soccer, as we already have a club team
4. Still be apart of a professional organization – NCAA
5. Opportunity to apply for NCAA Grants
6. Similar size institutions

Challenges:

1. UMAC has a moratorium on membership at least until 2010-11; UMC will not have a conference to compete in
2. Average ACT score is 26 in the UMAC – UMC is at approximately 22
3. Would not have the ability to offer athletic aid; in turn will make recruiting very difficult
4. Other UMAC and Division III members have large endowments that they may utilize i.e. Great football player can receive a leadership scholarship to replace athletic aid
5. Academic profiles of the UMAC institutions are very different from the NSIC; the UMAC institutions has more majors and consists of more Liberal Arts institutions

NCAA Division II Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC)

Advantages:

1. NCAA Division II has brought a lot of great things to this campus and community; some are difficult to measure such as publicity and others that are proven:
 - a. Increase in student-athlete enrollment: 180 Student-Athletes in 1997-98 to nearly 280 student-athletes today
 - b. Division II has brought diversity to the campus; currently 42% of the diverse students are Student-Athletes
2. Grants and enhancement funds received because we are NCAA Division II
 - a. Strategic Alliance Matching Enhancement Grant promotes diversity and gender equity in administration
 - b. Coaching Enhancement Grant promotes diversity in coaching
 - c. Two NCAA Degree Completion Awards
 - i. Women's Basketball and Women's Soccer
 - ii. \$8,500 in Enhancement Funds in 04-05 & 05-06
3. Publicity and image has been excellent; Weekly radio shows, TV shows, web casts, newspapers in areas which our coaches recruit, National championship teams in the NSIC
4. Division II provides a unique balance between athletics and academics: The NCAA and NSIC have a commitment to institutional control, compliance rules and regulations, emphasis on the development of Student-Athletes as leaders and academic excellence is highly recognized
 - a. Graduation rates are emphasized
 - b. Student-athletes have a voice in the conference with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)
5. NSIC Travel: UMC has the fourth best in the league with 2759

Challenges:

1. No NCAA Division II Hockey