

Playing Tennis at the Next Level

For several of our players, college tennis is an option. Although there is no set criteria of a level requirement to play college tennis, suffice it to say, a player should have at least 3 things to realistically play college tennis:

1) Have a ranking / rating that is on par with the school of choice. Simply put: If you are not #1 in Georgia, you may not play for Georgia! All kidding aside, the better the school's program is, the tougher the field to compete against to play for that school.

- Top Division I schools, like the ACC & SEC schools often pull from an international class of juniors and typically have players that have ATP (pro) rankings as well as high ITF (int'l junior) rankings, not to mention high national rankings.
- Good Regional schools, (often referred to as Mid-Major's) like Southern Conference schools (Georgia Southern, Furman, College of Charleston, Samford, etc) pull from the same pool, but will generally have a bias toward good Southern players (top 25 in the South) due to the strength and depth of the Southern section.
- Outside the Top 75 schools, as college tennis teams are usually ranked 1-75, they are always looking for players, but note that these programs usually have strong conferences to compete against and are looking to turn the program around... OR... may not be fully funded and therefore cannot compete due to having fewer scholarships available... OR both!

To have a good chance to play at that college, have a ranking (USTA, ITF, etc) / rating (3, 4 or 5 star) even with or better than the recent recruits of that school.

2) Have a solid academic standing, with your GPA, in your strength of class schedule as well as your SAT & ACT test scores. This not only helps you get into the school of your choice, but also can offset the high cost of tuition. Many schools have financial aid packages, both private (thru the school) and public (thru the government- federal or state) that you may qualify for. This can be added to what the athletic department may offer and may make for a much less costly 4-5 years.

3) Besides a ranking & solid academic scores, have the ability to take your game to the next level.

- If you are a good player without a lot of weapons, develop one! It is the next level of athletics, so don't be surprised to see players at the next level have an answer for your game. Start now, so you can have some level mastery by then.
- If you are a good ball striker, develop some consistency! You must have the ability to make balls at the college level to be successful.
- If you are a good athlete, but not a great athlete, be in the best shape possible! Your endurance and conditioning will play a huge part in both the physical and mental side of the game at the college level.

At Windward Tennis Academy, we offer college recruiting assistance and have helped several players play at the next level. From small colleges and universities like Presbyterian & Emory, to mid-majors like Western Kentucky & UNC-Charlotte to SEC schools like Kentucky & Georgia, we have assisted players to these fine institutions and many levels in between. Let the staff at Windward help you find a college that is a good fit, in both athletics & academics.