

Natalie Coughlin
Olympic Swimmer

Natalie Coughlin experienced great success from an early age in the pool and has been recognized by several prestigious awards committees for her accomplishments. She won the NCAA Swimmer of the Year Award each year from 2001-2003 while a student-athlete at the University of California-Berkeley and three times was selected as a finalist for the James E. Sullivan Memorial Award which recognizes the top amateur athlete in the nation.

Coughlin graduated from the University of California-Berkeley in 2005 and has continued her success in the pool with an incredibly impressive career on the United States National Team. In the 2004 Athens Olympics, she was a two-time gold medalist in the 100m Backstroke and 4x200m Freestyle Relay, two-time silver medalist in the 4x100m Freestyle Relay and 4x100 Medley Relay, and a bronze medalist in the 100m Freestyle.

Returning to the national level at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Coughlin won gold in the 100m Backstroke, silver in the Medley Relay and 4x100m Freestyle Relay, and bronze in the 100m Freestyle, 200m Individual Medley, and 4x200m Freestyle Relay. She also won five medals at both the 2005 and 2007 World Championships, and six medals at the 2002 Pan-Pacific Championships.

Coughlin has won a medal in every single Olympic event she's entered, finishing with a total of 11 medals over two Olympics. She was the first woman in Olympic history to successfully win back-to-back gold medals in the 100m Backstroke. Coughlin is set to compete in the 2012 London Olympics in an attempt to become the most decorated American female swimmer of all time.

Coughlin's charismatic elegance and style have allowed her to remain popular beyond the pool. Aside from winning multiple ESPY Awards in 2003 and 2005, her engaging personality earned her a spot as an on-air commentator for the 2006 Torino Olympic Games and an invite to participate in Season Nine of ABC's hit show *Dancing with the Stars*. Coughlin was also nominated for the Women's Sports Foundation's Female Athlete of the Year after winning the Individual Sportswoman of the Year award from the foundation in 2003.

On a personal level, Coughlin is passionate about photography, cooking, health and fitness, and surfing. Natalie's healthy lifestyle has prompted her to keep a backyard garden in which she grows her own organic fruits and vegetables. As an advocate of child health and fitness, Coughlin has contributed to Right to Play through the Hearts of Gold Program.