2015-16 Guide for Two-Year Transfers

For Student-Athletes at Two-Year Colleges
What Should I Think About Before Transferring?
The introduction provides general information about the transfer process.

Focus on Your Degree
The likelihood of a college athlete becoming a professional athlete is low; see the numbers.

Learn as Much as You Can
Some of the key points and persons in the transfer process are identified.

Transfer Checklist
Track the things you need to do and the questions you need to ask to ensure a successful transfer experience.

How Do the Transfer Rules Apply to Me?
Follow a step-by-step walkthrough of the NCAA transfer process.

When Can I Play?
Review the rules regarding when transfers actually can compete for their new schools.
13 Division I Rules
15 Division II Rules
19 Division III Rules

Transfer Exceptions
Certain exceptions could allow you to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at your new school.

Continuing Eligibility
The length of time you may compete for an NCAA school will be based in part on continuing eligibility rules.

Important Definitions
Learn some key definitions about the transfer process.

Where to Find More Information
Find a list of websites and addresses that will aid you in your transfer process.
What Should I Think About Before Transferring?

Student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and in life is at the heart of the NCAA’s mission. Your college experience should give you the opportunity to receive a quality education and take your place among the student-athletes who have attended college, played sports, received their degrees and gone on to make important contributions to society. NCAA transfer rules are designed to help student-athletes such as you make sensible decisions about the best place to earn a degree and develop athletic skills. The decision to transfer to another school involves important and sometimes difficult choices. Make sure you understand the rules, the options and the potential consequences of your decision. You do not want to risk your education or your chance to play NCAA sports.
FOCUS ON YOUR DEGREE
More than 460,000 student-athletes compete in NCAA sports, but few move on to compete at the professional or Olympic level. For the rest, the experiences of college sports and the life lessons they learn along the way will help them as they pursue careers in other fields.

Professional opportunities are extremely limited and the likelihood of a college athlete becoming a professional athlete is low. The likelihood of an NCAA student-athlete earning a college degree is much greater: graduation success rates are 84 percent in Division I, 72 percent in Division II and 87 percent in Division III.

Percentage of college athletes who become professional athletes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>NCAA Student-Athletes</th>
<th>Approximate No. Draft Eligible</th>
<th>No. Draft Slots</th>
<th>No. Drafted</th>
<th>% NCAA to Major Pro*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>71,291</td>
<td>15,842</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>18,320</td>
<td>4,071</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>16,319</td>
<td>3,626</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>33,431</td>
<td>7,429</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Ice Hockey</td>
<td>3,976</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>23,602</td>
<td>5,245</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Percent NCAA to Major Pro figures are based on the number of available draft slots in the NFL, NBA, WNBA, MLB, NHL and MLS drafts only.

LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
If you decide to transfer, the NCAA wants to help your education and sports participation continue as smoothly as possible. But you have a responsibility as well: to learn as much as you can to protect your eligibility. While staff at the NCAA and its member schools can give you advice, you need to understand how transfer rules apply to you before you decide to move to a new school.

This guide introduces you to the key issues involved in transferring. But before you transfer, you may need more information. Key people, including your coach or compliance officer, can help you successfully work through the process. Take advantage of all the information available to you.

- Visit the NCAA website at [NCAA.org/transfer](http://www.NCAA.org/transfer) for FAQs and printable resources on key topics.
- Talk to people at your current school, including staff in the athletics department or compliance office.
- Call the conference of your new school.
- Call the NCAA at 317-917-6008, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
TRANSFER CHECKLIST

ADMISSIONS

☒ Have you applied to the admissions department at the school you are transferring to?

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

☒ Have you registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center?
  • To play at a Division I or Division II school, you must register with the Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
  • See page 11 for more information.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

☒ Do you have any remaining eligibility to compete in your sport after transferring?
  • Student-athletes have four seasons to compete in each sport.
  • See page 23 for more information.

TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

☒ In most cases, student-athletes who transfer to an NCAA school must sit out of competition for a year.
  • You may be able to compete immediately if you meet a transfer exception.
  • See pages 20 to 22 for more information.

OTHER TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

☒ Do you meet other transfer requirements?
  • Ask the compliance office at your new school if you meet all of its transfer requirements.
  • See pages 12 to 19 for more information.
HOW DO THE TRANSFER RULES APPLY TO ME?
You may be wondering how soon you can compete after you transfer. Before you can answer that question, you need to follow these steps to understand how the transfer rules apply to your situation:

1. Determine if you are a transfer student-athlete
2. Decide where you are going
3. Understand your initial-eligibility status
4. Make sure you have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center, if needed

The rules also depend on whether you currently attend a two-year or a four-year school. For instance, if you attend a two-year school (some people call that a community college or a junior college) and want to transfer to an NCAA Division I or II school, you may need to graduate first from your two-year school before you can compete at your new school. If you transfer before you graduate, you may have to wait a year before you can compete.

1. DETERMINE IF YOU ARE A TRANSFER STUDENT-ATHLETE
To learn which transfer rules apply to your situation, you first need to determine whether your situation meets the common definition of a transfer. It may seem fairly simple, but you need to answer this basic question before you can continue.

How do I know if I am a transfer student-athlete?
Ask yourself if you have met any of the conditions – called transfer triggers – of a typical transfer situation:

1. Have you been a full-time student at a two-year or four-year college during a regular academic term? Classes taken during summer terms do not count.
2. Have you practiced with a college team?
3. Have you practiced or competed while enrolled as a part-time student?
4. Have you received athletically related financial aid from a college while attending summer school?

If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, you are a transfer student-athlete because you have met the conditions of a transfer trigger. Now you need to learn how to meet the transfer rules so you can play your sport at a new NCAA school.

If you answered “no” to all those questions, you probably are not a transfer student-athlete and the transfer rules do not apply to you. You may enroll at a new NCAA school and compete immediately.

CASE STUDY
Brady was recruited to play basketball at Wisteria Lane College. He enrolled in classes as a full-time student and attended class on the first day of the semester.

On the fourth day of class, Brady went to the registrar’s office and dropped from 12 credit hours to nine, making him a part-time student for the rest of the semester.

At the end of the semester, Brady decided that he wanted to go to Marcus University, an NCAA school.

Is Brady a transfer student-athlete?
Yes.

The transfer rules applied to Brady the minute he became a full-time student and went to class on the first day of the semester.
2. DECIDE WHERE YOU ARE GOING
Now that you know whether you are a transfer student-athlete, you need to decide which school you want to attend. As you think about new schools, keep in mind academics are just as important as athletics. Your new school should help you meet all your goals – on the field, in the classroom and in life.

Each NCAA school is part of a division and a conference, and has its own admission policies. Transfer rules are different for each NCAA division and may be more restrictive for some conferences.

Learn more about your new school’s division
As you research schools, take time to learn more about each NCAA division. Schools in Divisions I and II offer athletics scholarships to cover tuition, fees, room and board, and books. Division III schools do not award athletics scholarships but do offer financial aid based on academics or need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division I</th>
<th>Division II</th>
<th>Division III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies, manage the largest athletics budgets and offer the most generous number of scholarships. Schools who are members of Division I commit to maintaining a high academic standard for student-athletes in addition to a wide range of opportunities for athletics participation. With nearly 350 colleges and universities in its membership, Division I schools field more than 6,000 athletic teams, providing opportunities for more than 170,000 student-athletes to compete in NCAA sports each year. Division I is subdivided based on football sponsorship. Schools that participate in bowl games belong to the Football Bowl Subdivision. Those that participate in the NCAA-run football championship belong to the Football Championship Subdivision. A third group doesn’t sponsor football at all. The subdivisions apply only to football; all other sports are considered simply Division I.</td>
<td>Division II is a collection of 307 colleges and universities that provide thousands of student-athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level of scholarship athletics while excelling in the classroom and fully engaging in the broader campus experience. This balance, in which student-athletes are recognized for their academic success, athletics contributions, and campus and community involvement, is at the heart of the Division II philosophy. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning provide Division II student-athletes with a path to graduation while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life after college.</td>
<td>More than 170,000 student-athletes at 450 institutions make up Division III, the largest NCAA division both in number of participants and number of schools. The Division III experience offers participation in a competitive athletic environment that pushes student-athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus. Academics are the primary focus for Division III student-athletes. The division minimizes the conflicts between athletics and academics, and helps student-athletes progress toward graduation through shorter practice and playing seasons and regional competition that reduces time away from academic studies. Participants are integrated on campus and treated like all other members of the student body, keeping them focused on being a student first.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learn more about your new school's conference
In some cases, conference transfer rules can be more restrictive than NCAA rules, so you need to have a clear picture before you make a move. For instance, conferences may differ on how long you must attend a new school before you may compete.

See NCAA Conferences on page 26 for a link to conferences’ websites or visit NCAA.org.

Learn more about your new school's admission policies
Meeting the NCAA transfer rules does not guarantee you will be admitted to a new school. You also need to meet the school’s admission requirements – including academic standards – before you can play NCAA sports.

- Visit NCAA.org for a full list of NCAA schools, sorted by division, sport, and conference. You also will find a database to help you find the names, addresses and phone numbers for athletics contacts at each school.
- Talk to the school you are interested in attending to understand all you need to do to be admitted both academically and athletically. Talk to the staff in the admissions office, athletics department or athletics compliance office.
- Contact the NCAA national office or the appropriate conference office for more information about your specific case.
3. UNDERSTAND YOUR INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STATUS

Once you know whether you are a transfer student-athlete and have identified the school you want to attend, you need to find out what your initial-eligibility status is for your new school.

Why do I need to know my initial-eligibility status?

In part, your initial-eligibility status determines which transfer rules apply to you and how many seasons of competition you may have remaining to play at your new school.

What is initial-eligibility status?

High school student-athletes who want to compete in NCAA sports during their first year at a Division I or II school need to meet certain division-wide academic standards. Your initial-eligibility status indicates whether you meet the academic standards to compete in your first year at a Division I or II school.

The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your initial-eligibility status based on the core courses you took in high school, the grades and number of credits you earned in those courses and your scores on standardized tests. If you do not have an initial-eligibility status, talk to the compliance department at your new school.

There are three possible initial-eligibility statuses: qualifier (Divisions I and II), partial qualifier (Division II only) and nonqualifier (Divisions I and II).

- Qualifiers are eligible to practice, compete and get an athletics scholarship during their first year at a Division I or II school.
- Nonqualifiers are not eligible to practice, compete or get an athletics scholarship during their first year at a Division I or II school.
- Partial qualifiers at Division II schools are eligible in their first year to practice and get an athletics scholarship, but are not eligible to compete. Only Division II schools use the partial-qualifier status.

Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards. If your first college enrollment was at a Division III school, you were not assigned an initial-eligibility status by the Eligibility Center. If you are thinking of transferring to a Division III school, you need to meet the admission requirements of the school you plan to attend.

How do I figure out my initial-eligibility status for my new school?

To determine your initial-eligibility status at your new school, ask yourself if you would have been eligible to compete at your new school had you chosen to go there as a freshman after graduating high school. Use the following academic standards for each division as a guide.
**Division I Qualifier**
You had to meet all the following requirements to be a Division I qualifier, allowing you to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year:

- Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in high school:
  - Four years of English
  - Three years of math (Algebra I or higher)
  - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
  - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in core courses
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances test scores and core-course GPA
- Graduate high school

**Division I Nonqualifier**
If you did not meet the Division I qualifier requirements, you were not eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at a Division I school.
Division II Qualifier
You had to meet all the following requirements to be a Division II qualifier, allowing you to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year:

- Complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in high school:
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra I or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- Graduate high school.

Division II Partial Qualifier
If you graduated high school and met one of the following requirements, you were a Division II partial qualifier, allowing you to practice and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year, but not allowing you to compete:

- Earn a 2.0 GPA in 16 core courses:
  - Three years of English.
  - Two years of math (Algebra I or higher).
  - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
  - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
  - Two years of social science
  - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Earn an SAT combined score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Division II Nonqualifier
If you did not meet the Division II qualifier or partial-qualifier requirements, you were not eligible to practice, receive an athletics scholarship or compete during your first year at a Division II school.

4. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER
By now you should know whether you are a transfer student-athlete, which school you want to attend and what your initial-eligibility status is. If you want to transfer to a Division I or II school and you have never registered with the Eligibility Center, you need to visit eligibilitycenter.org to register before you continue the transfer process.

If you have not registered with the Eligibility Center, your initial-eligibility status is nonqualifier. Schools cannot assume that you would have been a qualifier or partial qualifier.
WHEN CAN I PLAY?

There are several aspects of your college experience that determine when you may compete after transferring. Find the chart on the following pages that applies to you to figure out when you may compete.

Depending on your college experience, you may be able to compete as soon as you transfer or you may need to spend one academic year at your new school as a full-time student before you are eligible to compete. This time is called an academic year in residence and is designed to allow you to become comfortable in your new environment.

Requiring student-athletes to sit out of competition for a year after transferring encourages them to make decisions motivated by academics as well as athletics. Most student-athletes who are not eligible to compete immediately benefit from a year to adjust to their new school and focus on their classes. Student-athletes who must sit out for a year at their new school may practice with their new team and get an athletics scholarship if they were academically eligible when they left their previous school.

For your academic year in residence to count, you must attend classes only at the school where you plan to compete and you must be a full-time student (generally at least 12 credit hours). You cannot meet this requirement by attending your new school part time or by not attending school at all. Each school determines its own full-time status, so check with the compliance department at your new school to find out how many credit hours you need to take.

For a semester or quarter to count toward your academic year in residence, you must enroll before the 12th day of class.

Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, your new school or your new school’s conference may affect when you can play. For more information, talk to staff members in the compliance office at your new school.

If you are an international student and attend a two-year college outside of the United States, use the rules for student-athletes at four-year schools in the Four-Year Transfer Guide.

CASE STUDY
Kyle transferred to CBB College before the beginning of the school year and is sitting out a year. He completed 12 credit hours in the fall term and 12 credit hours in the spring term. At CBB, students who take 12 credit hours are considered full-time students.

Did Kyle complete his academic year in residence?
Yes. Since Kyle completed two full-time semesters (12 + 12), he satisfied the full-time requirement for the year.

CASE STUDY
Megan transferred to Gatsby College and is sitting out a year. At Gatsby, students with 12 credit hours are considered full-time students.

Megan completed 12 hours in the fall term at Gatsby. In the spring, she enrolled for nine hours and was considered a part-time student.

Did Megan complete her academic year in residence?
No. Megan did not complete two semesters as a full-time student. She must still complete a second semester as a full-time student before she has fulfilled her academic year in residence.
At your two-year school, did you:

1. **Complete at least one semester or quarter as a full-time student?** Summer school does not count.
2. **Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours in each term you attended full time?**
3. **Earn a GPA of 2.500 in those transferable credit hours?**

   ► **If YES to all**
   ✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.**

   ► **If NO to any**
   ✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
   ○ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses.

**If you are a baseball or basketball student-athlete who transfers to a new school in the middle of the academic year, you may not compete until the fall term.

At your two-year school, did you:

1. **Graduate from your two-year school?** You must have earned 25 percent of your credit hours at your two-year school.
2. **Complete at least three semesters or four quarters as a full-time student?** Summer school does not count.
3. **Complete 48 transferable credit hours if your school uses semesters or 72 transferable credit hours if your school uses quarters?**
   Your transferable credit hours must include all the following subjects:
   - English: six hours if your school uses semesters or eight hours if your school uses quarters
   - Math: three hours per semester or four hours per quarter
   - Natural/physical science: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters
4. **Earn a GPA of 2.500 in those transferable credit hours?**

   ► **If YES to all**
   ✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.**

   ► **If NO to any and your GPA is 2.00–2.49**
   ✓ You can practice as soon as you transfer if you completed one academic year at all your colleges combined.
   ○ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

   ► **If NO to any and your GPA is below 2.00**
   ○ You cannot practice, get an athletics scholarship or compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses.

**If you are a baseball student-athlete who transfers to a new school in the middle of the academic year, you may not compete until the fall term.
At your two-year school, did you:

1. Attend for more than one calendar year after leaving your four-year school?
2. Graduate from your two-year school?
3. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time?*
4. Earn a GPA of 2.500 in those transferable credit hours?

➤ if YES to all
✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.**

➤ if NO to any
✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
⊗ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses.

**If you are a baseball or basketball student-athlete who transfers to a new school in the middle of the academic year, you may not compete until the fall term.
### At Your Two-Year School, Did You:

1. Complete at least one semester or quarter as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time?*
3. Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?

- **If YES** to all
  - You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.
- **If NO** to any
  - You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

### Planning to Go Division II

#### 2-4 Transfer

- You plan to attend a Division II school before August 1, 2016
- You have never attended a four-year school
- You are a qualifier

#### At Your Two-Year School, Did You:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time?* Your transferable credit hours must include all the following subjects:
   - English: six hours if your school uses semesters or eight hours if your school uses quarters
   - Math: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters

- **If YES** to all
  - You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.
- **If NO** to any
  - You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

### Two-Year Transfer Guide

#### 2-4 Transfer

- You plan to attend a Division II school before August 1, 2016
- You have never attended a four-year school
- You are a partial qualifier

#### At Your Two-Year School, Did You:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time, earning a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours? Your transferable credit hours must include all the following subjects:
   - English: six hours if your school uses semesters or eight hours if your school uses quarters
   - Math: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters

- **If YES** to all
  - You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.
- **If NO** to any
  - You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

### Two-Year Transfer Guide

#### 2-4 Transfer

- You plan to attend a Division II school before August 1, 2016
- You have never attended a four-year school
- You are a nonqualifier

#### At Your Two-Year School, Did You:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time, earning a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours? Your transferable credit hours must include all the following subjects:
   - English: six hours if your school uses semesters or eight hours if your school uses quarters
   - Math: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters

- **If YES** to all
  - You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.
- **If NO** to any
  - You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.
At your two-year school, did you:

1. Complete ONLY one semester or quarter as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time?*
3. Earn a GPA of 2.200 in those transferable credit hours?

**If YES to all**
✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.*

**If NO to any**
✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
○ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses.

**If YES to all**
✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.

**If NO to any**
✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
○ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

**You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses. Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

**You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses. Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement.**
At your two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time, earning a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours.

If YES to all
✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.

If NO to any
✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
◎ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement. Credits earned at your four-year college may be used to satisfy this requirement.
At your two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? Summer school does not count.
2. Complete an average of 12 transferable credit hours for each term you attended full time, earning a GPA of 2.200 in those transferable credit hours.* Your transferable credit hours must include all the following subjects:
   - English: six hours if your school uses semesters or eight hours if your school uses quarters
   - Math: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters
   - Natural/physical science: three hours if your school uses semesters or four hours if your school uses quarters

   ** If YES to all
   ✓ You can practice, get an athletics scholarship and compete as soon as you transfer.

   » If NO to any
   ✓ You can practice and get an athletics scholarship as soon as you transfer.
   ○ You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.

*You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses.

**You may not use more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses to fulfill the transferable degree credit and GPA requirements, unless you are enrolling in a degree program requiring physical education activity courses. Remedial English and math classes may not be used to satisfy this requirement. Credits earned at your four-year college may be used to satisfy this requirement.
At your two-year school, did you practice or compete in intercollegiate sports?

- If YES to all
  - You can practice and compete as soon as you transfer as long as you would have been academically and athletically eligible to compete had you stayed at your two-year school.

- If NO to any
  - You can practice and compete as soon as you transfer.

At your two-year school, did you:

1. Practice or compete in intercollegiate sports? - OR -
2a. Did you complete 24-semester or 36-quarter transferable credit hours? - AND -
2b. Did you complete at least two semesters or three quarters? Summer school does not count.

- If YES to 1 or 2
  - You can practice and compete as soon as you transfer.

- If NO to any
  - You can practice as soon as you transfer.
  - You cannot compete until you sit out for an academic year in residence.
TRANSFER EXCEPTIONS
There are a number of transfer exceptions that could allow you to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at your new school. Remember, other school or conference rules also may affect your timeline. Talk to the compliance staff at your new school about whether you qualify for a transfer exception. Your new school will decide if you qualify for a transfer exception.

BASIC RESTRICTIONS FOR TRANSFER EXCEPTIONS
There are several basic restrictions for transfer exceptions:

- If you were a partial qualifier or a nonqualifier during your first year, you must spend at least one academic year in residence before you can use a transfer exception. Learn more about your initial-eligibility status on pages 9 to 11.
- If you signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) and transfer during your first year as a full-time college student, you may not be able to compete at your new school for a certain period of time. Learn more about the NLI program on page 24.
- You may not use an exception if you are completing a year of residence at your current school.
- If you are a baseball or basketball student-athlete and transfer to a Division I school at the start of winter or spring term, you will not be eligible to compete until the next fall term.
- If you are a tennis student-athlete transferring to a Division I school at the start of winter or spring term and you have competed or received an athletics scholarship from your current school during the same academic year, you will not be eligible to compete until the next fall term.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER ATTENDED A FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL
If you transfer from a two-year school to an NCAA Division I or II school, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you meet one of the following conditions:

1. Your sport is dropped or is not sponsored at your two-year school.
2. You plan to attend a Division II school and have not been recruited by that school.
3. You have not participated in your sport, or have participated minimally, for two years.
4. You plan to attend a Division III school.
5. You graduated from your two-year school.

CASE STUDY
Billy is a nonqualifier. He attended a four-year college for one year and played football. His GPA was 1.987, which did not meet that school’s requirement to be eligible for the next year. So, Billy transferred to Ceylon University, a Division II school.

Is Billy eligible to play right away?
No.

Billy is eligible to use the transfer exceptions since he completed an academic year, but he does not meet the requirements for any of the exceptions. He cannot use the one-time transfer exception because he was not in good academic standing at the previous four-year school and would not have been eligible to compete had he remained at the first school.

Before he can play, Billy must spend one academic year in residence at Ceylon University.

1. Your sport is dropped or is not sponsored at your two-year school
If your current school drops your sport, or if it did not sponsor your sport while you were a student, you may use an exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division I or II school.

You may use this exception only if you transfer after your current school publicly announces it will drop your sport.

To qualify for this exception, you must have a GPA of at least 2.000 for Division II or 2.500 GPA for Division I.
2. You plan to attend a Division II school and have not been recruited by that school
If you have never been recruited by the Division II school you plan to attend, you may use an exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division I or II school.

To qualify for this exception, you must meet all the following conditions:

- You have not received an athletics scholarship.
- You have not participated in any athletics activities or meetings for more than 14 consecutive days.
- You were eligible for admission at the Division II school before you enrolled at the two-year college.

3. You have not participated in your sport for two years
If you have not participated in your sport for two years, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You have not practiced or competed with an intercollegiate sports team for two years before practicing or competing with your new school.
- You have not practiced for more than 14 consecutive days with an intercollegiate sports team for two years before practicing or competing with your new school.
- You did not practice or compete in noncollegiate amateur competition for two years while you were a full-time student.

4. You plan to attend a Division III school
If you plan to attend a Division III school, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you have not practiced or competed with an intercollegiate sports team for two years.

5. You graduated from your two-year school
If you graduated from your two-year school, and earned at least 25 percent of your credit hours at your two-year school, you may use an exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division II school.

**CASE STUDY**
Dauber, a qualifier, is a freshman soccer player who attends Cabrillo College. He just finished the fall semester and played in only one game. Dauber’s coach is unhappy with his ability, so Dauber wants to transfer to Ricardo College, another Division I school.

Can Dauber use a transfer exception?
Yes.
Because Dauber is a qualifier, he can use an exception. Because this is the first time he has transferred, he may be able to use the one-time transfer exception. If he is in good academic standing, Dauber can use the one-time transfer exception.

1. You want to return to your original school
If you attend a two-year school but want to transfer back to a Division I school you previously attended, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you were not sitting out an academic year in residence at the Division I school when you transferred to the two-year school.
2. Your sport was not sponsored at your first four-year school
If the first four-year school that you attended did not sponsor your sport while you were a student, you may be able to use this exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division I or II school if you meet all the following conditions:
   1. You have not attended another four-year school that offered your sport.
   2. You completed an average of 12 transferable credit hours at your two-year school.
   3. You earned a GPA of at least 2.500 for Division I or 2.000 for Division II in those transferable credit hours.
   4. You are transferring to a Division I school and you completed two semesters or three quarters at your two-year school. Summer school does not count.

3. You have not participated in your sport for two years
If you have not participated in your sport for two years, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you meet one of the following conditions:
   • You have not practiced or competed with an intercollegiate sports team for two years before practicing or competing with your new school.
   • You have not practiced for more than 14 consecutive days with an intercollegiate sports team for two years before practicing or competing with your new school.
   • You did not practice or compete in noncollegiate amateur competition for two years while you were a full-time student.

4. You plan to attend a Division II school and have not been recruited by that school
If you have never been recruited by the Division II school you plan to attend, you may use an exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division I or II school.

To qualify for this exception, you must meet all the following conditions:
   • You have not received an athletics scholarship.
   • You have not participated in any athletics activities or meetings for more than 14 consecutive days.
   • You were eligible for admission at the Division II school before you enrolled at the two-year college.

5. You plan to attend a Division III school
If you plan to attend a Division III school, you may use an exception to compete immediately if you have not practiced or competed with an intercollegiate sports team for two years.

6. You graduated from your two-year school
If you graduated from your two-year school, and earned at least 25 percent of your credit hours at your two-year school, you may use an exception to compete immediately after transferring to a Division II school.

CASE STUDY
In 2009-10, Jeff enrolled at Oscar University, a Division I school. Jeff was a qualifier and was on the swimming and diving team.
He then transferred to Felix College, a two-year school, in 2010-11 and was on the swimming and diving team there as well. He did not receive an Associate of Arts (AA) degree.
Now in 2011-12, Jeff wants to return to Oscar University.
Must Jeff serve an academic year in residence at Oscar?
No.
Even though he does not meet the requirements because he did not earn his AA degree from Felix, Jeff does not have to serve an academic year in residence at Oscar because he is returning to his original school and was not sitting out an academic year in residence when he transferred.
CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

While initial eligibility rules affect your first year at a Division I or Division II school, continuing eligibility rules determine how long you may compete. If you are transferring to an NCAA school, the length of time you may compete for that school will be based in part on continuing eligibility rules.

If you compete at a Division I school, you have five calendar years to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll as a full-time student at any two-year or four-year school and does not stop until five years have passed. Your clock continues to tick down, even if you spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, if you red shirt, if you do not attend school or even if you enroll part time during your college career.

If you compete at a Division II or Division III school, you have 10 full-time semesters or 15 full-time quarters to play four seasons of competition. You use a semester or quarter when you attend classes at a two-year or four-year school as a full-time student or when you enroll part time and compete for your school. You do not use a term if you are not enrolled or if you attend part time without competing.

You are allowed to compete for up to four seasons in each sport for two-year or four-year schools. You do not gain back any seasons of competition by transferring to a new school. If you are transferring to a Division I or Division II school, you will be charged a season of competition for each academic year in which you competed. If you are transferring to a Division III school, you will be charged a season of competition for each academic year in which you competed or practiced on or after the date of the first competition. The amount of competition or practice does not matter – you are charged a season of eligibility for even a minute of competition or, in Division III, a minute of practice on or after the date of the first competition.
IMPORTANT NCAA DEFINITIONS

Academic year in residence — also commonly referred to as “sitting out” — You may need to spend an academic year in residence without competing at your new school unless you qualify for a transfer exception. For an academic year in residence to count, you must complete a full-time program of studies for two semesters or three quarters. Summer school and part-time enrollment do not count for an academic year in residence.

Certifying school — The new school you want to attend determines whether you are eligible to play.

Continuing eligibility rules — Continuing eligibility rules affect how long you may compete in a certain sport.

- **Division I** — If you play at a Division I school, you have five calendar years to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll as a full-time student at any college. Your clock continues to tick down, even if you spend an academic year in residence as a result of transferring, if you red shirt, if you do not attend school or even if you enroll part time during your college career.

- **Divisions II and III** — If you play at a Division II or III school, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you attend as a full-time student to complete your four seasons of participation. You use a semester or quarter any time you attend class as a full-time student or enroll part time and compete for the institution. You do not use a term if you only attend part time with no competition or are not enrolled for a term.

Eligibility Center — The NCAA Eligibility Center evaluates your high school academic record and amateurism history to determine if you are eligible to participate during your first year at a Division I or II college.

Exception — A transfer exception allows you to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at your new school. Your new school will decide if you qualify for a transfer exception.

Financial aid — or scholarship — Any money for school you receive from a college or another source. Financial aid may be based on athletics, financial need or academic achievement.

Full time — Each school determines what full-time status means. Typically, you are a full-time student if you are enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in a term. Some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12 credit hours in a term.

Initial eligibility rules — Initial eligibility rules determine whether you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year at a Division I or Division II school.

International students — An international student is any student who attends a two-year or four-year school outside the United States.

NCAA — also National Collegiate Athletic Association — the national governing body for more than 1,300 colleges, universities, conferences and organizations.

National Letter of Intent (NLI) — NCAA schools that are part of the program may send a National Letter of Intent to a prospective student-athlete they have recruited to participate in their intercollegiate sports program. The letter is a legally binding contract. It explains what athletics financial aid the school agrees to provide the student-athlete for one full academic year, only if the student is admitted to the school and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. If you sign a National Letter of Intent, you agree to attend that school for one academic year and other schools that are part of the National Letter of Intent program can no longer recruit you. For more information, go to www.nationalletter.org.

Nonqualifier — A student who has not graduated from high school or who, at the time specified in the NCAA rules, has not successfully completed the required number of core-curriculum courses or has not presented the required GPA and/or SAT or ACT score required to be a qualifier. If you are a nonqualifier, you cannot practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship from a Division I or II school during your first academic year. You will have only three seasons of competition in Division I; however, a fourth season may be granted if you complete 80 percent of your designated degree program before the start of your fifth year of enrollment.

Partial qualifier — A student who has met some, but not all, of the academic requirements necessary to be a qualifier. If you are a partial qualifier, you can practice on campus and receive financial aid from a Division II school, but you cannot compete for one academic year. Division I does not have partial qualifiers.
Permission-to-contact letter — or written permission to contact — If you attend a four-year school full time, athletics staff members from an NCAA school cannot contact you or your parents unless they first have a letter from your current athletics director (or athletics administrator designated by the athletics director). If your current school does not grant you written permission to contact, the new school cannot encourage you to transfer and — in Divisions I and II — cannot give you an athletics scholarship until you have attended the new school for one academic year. If you are transferring from a school that is not a member of the NCAA or NAIA, you do not need a permission-to-contact letter.

Qualifier — A student who, for purposes of determining eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition, has:

- Graduated from high school
- Successfully completed the required core curriculum consisting of a minimum number of courses in specified subjects
- Obtained a specified minimum GPA in the core curriculum
- Obtained a specified minimum SAT or ACT score.

Redshirt — In Divisions I or II, redshirt refers to someone who attends a school full time, but does not play for an entire academic year for the sole purpose of saving a season of competition. A redshirt does not play in any college games or scrimmages in a given sport for an entire academic year, even though that student is otherwise eligible. If you do not play in a sport the entire academic year, you have not used a season of competition. However, if you play in even one second of a game as a college student-athlete, you are not a redshirt. Redshirting does not exist in Division III because if you play or practice after your first opportunity to compete, you are charged with a season of participation.

Recruited — If a college coach calls you more than once, contacts you off campus, pays your expenses to visit the campus, or in Divisions I and II, issues you a National Letter of Intent or a written offer of financial aid, you are considered to be recruited.

Season of competition — Generally, NCAA rules say that any competition in a season — regardless of the amount of time — counts as having played a season in that sport. If you play any time during a season, regardless of how long you played, it counts as having played for an entire season in that sport. Your season of competition starts when you spend one second in competition on the field, court, gym or track.

Self-release — If you are a student at a Division III school and you want to transfer to another Division III school, you may issue your own permission-to-contact self-release to allow another Division III school to contact you about transferring.

Transferable credit hours — Credit hours earned at your previous school that your new school will accept toward your degree. Each school determines how many and which credit hours are acceptable for transferring.

Transfer trigger — A condition that can affect your transfer status. A student who triggers transfer status is a student who:

- Has been a full-time student at a two-year or four-year college during a regular academic term. Classes taken during summer terms do not count.
- Practiced with a college team.
- Practiced or competed while enrolled as a part-time student.
- Received financial aid from a college while attending summer school.

Two-year college — A school where students can earn an Associate of Arts (AA) degree, an Associate of Science (AS) degree or an Associate of Applied Science degree within two years. Some people call these schools community colleges or junior colleges.

Waiver — An action that sets aside an NCAA rule because a specific, extraordinary circumstance prevents you from meeting the rule. An NCAA school may file a waiver on your behalf; you cannot file a waiver for yourself. The school does not administer the waiver, the conference office or NCAA does.

Walk-on — Someone who is not typically recruited by a school to participate in sports and does not receive an athletics scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school’s athletics teams.
WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

**NCAA RESOURCES**
NCAA.org/transfer  
NCAA.org/eligibilitycenter

Follow us on Twitter @NCAA_EC

U.S. callers: 317-917-6008  
International callers: 317-917-6222  
Monday-Friday  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

**Certification Processing**
NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
P.O. Box 7136  
Indianapolis, IN 46207

**Overnight Delivery**
NCAA Eligibility Center  
Certification Processing  
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

**NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT RESOURCES**
nationalletter.org  
317-223-0706

**NCAA CONFERENCES**
NCAA schools and conferences

**OTHER VALUABLE RESOURCES**

**National Junior College Athletic Association**
njc.ca.org  
719-590-9788  
1631 Mesa Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

**California Community College Athletics Association**
cccaasports.org  
916-444-1600  
2017 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges**
nwacsports.org  
360-992-2833  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way  
Vancouver, WA 98663