Transfer

Transfer 101

Basic information you need to know about transferring to an NCAA college

For Divisions I/II/III

2011-12

NCAA®

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August 2011

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NCAA GOALS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Balance academic, social and athletics experiences.
- Have a collegiate athletics experience based on fair, safe and reasonable standards and a commitment to sportsmanship.
- Ensure a quality education that leads to academic success.
- Support opportunities for participating in athletics.

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1 So, you are thinking about transferring

Relieve your anxiety: Read this guide to learn what you need to know

If you are thinking about transferring to a different school to play a sport, you might be confused and full of questions like …

- Do I have to tell my current school that I want to transfer?
- When can I play after I transfer?
- What transfer rules apply to me?
- What do I need to do at my two-year college to make sure that I am eligible to play?
- What do I do if I have more questions?
- Where do I start?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, (also called the NCAA) understands that the decision to transfer to another school is an important and often difficult one in your college career. Therefore, you should not transfer until you know all the rules and potential consequences. We do not want you to negatively impact your education or your chances to play college sports.

We would like to help you make your transition to your next school a smooth one so that you can continue your education and, at the same time, continue to participate in your sport. But you have a responsibility in this process as well. You need to learn as much as you can to protect your own eligibility. While NCAA schools have a responsibility and interest in giving you accurate advice about transfer and eligibility rules, you must understand exactly how the rules apply to YOU. Based on the facts, every situation is different.

Before you act, do your homework. Make sure you understand how transferring will affect YOU.

We have written this guide to try to help you answer as many questions as we can. We will also tell you about other places to go for more information if you need it. Since we believe that both the academic and athletics aspects of your life are valuable, we are committed to supporting you as you make this critical decision about changing schools.

In this guide, we directly address students who are interested in transferring to an NCAA school. However, parents, guardians, coaches and other school staff may find this guide helpful as well in learning the basic transfer rules.

Focus on both school and sports

The NCAA wants your college experience to be exciting, rewarding and successful. The most important result is that you have 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.

To be a true student-athlete, you will need a basic academic foundation before you are eligible to play sports. That is why NCAA rules and regulations cover both academics and athletics. And that is why you will need to be a successful student in the classroom before you can play at an NCAA school.

Be sure to carefully review the requirements for both academics and athletics before you make a move to change schools. Transferring schools could put you further away from earning your degree.

You may need more information

This guide introduces you to the key issues involved in transferring. But before you transfer to another school to play your sport, you may need more information. This guide will mention a few resources to get you on the right path. Key people, including your coach or compliance officer, can help you successfully work through the process, so you should seek their advice and ask them all your questions. This guide will point you toward several people to contact and some helpful websites to browse. You should take advantage of all the information that is available to you.

In addition to NCAA rules, you need to know that conference and individual college rules apply to you as well. You should consider all the rules before you decide whether transferring is right for you. Do not jeopardize your future; do not rely on this guide alone.

Where to get help?

- **Visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.** You will find publications to download and key topics to read.
- **Talk to people at your current school.** Staff in the athletics compliance office or athletics department can explain the rules to you.
- **Talk to the school you want to attend.** To find out what the school's requirements are, talk to someone in the school's athletics compliance office or athletics department. However, note that you will probably need written permission-to-contact before talking to someone. See *Know when you need to get permission to talk to another school* on page 9.
- **Call the conference of your new school.** For a list of NCAA conferences, see *Where to go for more information* on Page 29.
- **Contact the NCAA.** To speak to someone, call us Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Eastern time at 317/917-6008.

ABOUT THE NCAA

- The NCAA — made up of more than 1,300 schools, conferences, organizations and people — is the organization through which many colleges and universities govern their athletics programs. It is committed to fairly administering college athletics and protecting the best interests of more than 380,000 student-athletes.
- The 1,051 active member schools are divided into three major divisions: Divisions I, II and III. Schools choose which division they will join. One key difference is that Divisions I and II may offer athletics scholarships; Division III does not award athletics scholarships, but does offer financial aid based on academics or need.

2 Before you do anything, figure out where you are headed

First, decide which school is right for you

We understand that your first question is probably, "When can I play after I transfer?" We know that your goal is to be able to play your sport at a new school as soon as possible. But before you can answer that question, you need to do some homework to find out which rules apply to your situation.

The first step in the transfer process is to decide if you want to transfer at all and which school you want to attend. Either narrow your choices down to a few schools or decide exactly where you want to go.

Throughout this initial process, keep in mind that academics are just as important as athletics. The new school should help you satisfy both your academic and athletic goals. In short, your academic success and pursuing your degree should be most important in your mind.

When you begin to think about going to a new school, understand that the rules are different depending on whether you want to transfer to an NCAA Division I, II or III school. For instance, schools in Division I or II may offer athletes athletically related financial aid to cover costs of tuition, fees, room and board, or books. Division III schools do not award athletics scholarships, but they do offer financial aid based on academics or need.

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

That is why it is important to learn more about how the rules apply to your particular situation before you do anything.

Learn the transfer and eligibility rules for the NCAA, conference and the new school you plan to join.

Learn about the division and conference of the new school

Once you have selected your new school, look up the eligibility rules for the conference of the school.

In some cases, conference 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 the new school before you can play. So, it is important to know all the rules that apply to the new school you want to attend.

See *Where to go for more information* on page 28 for a list of conferences and phone numbers or go to **www.ncaa.org**.

Remember, you still must apply to be admitted to the school you want to attend.

A word of caution…

Meeting the NCAA transfer rules DOES NOT guarantee that you will be admitted to the school you are thinking about attending. To be able to play at the new school, you must remember to apply for admission. You will have to be accepted according to the school's admissions and academic requirements before you can play your sport.

Where to start?

- **Go to http://www.ncaa.org/sponsorships** for information about the school you want to attend. You will find a complete list of NCAA schools, sorted by division, sport, and conference. You will also 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** so that you are sure you understand all you have to do to be admitted both academically and athletically. Talk to the staff in the admissions office, athletics department or athletics compliance office. **But before you call, understand that you will probably need to get written permission-to-contact from your current school before you have a conversation with the new school.** See *Know when you need to get permission to talk to another school* on page 9.
- **If you are still confused, contact the NCAA national office or the appropriate conference office** for more information about your specific case.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Decide which school you want to attend.
- Find out about the school's division.
- Learn the specific NCAA and conference rules that apply to the new school.
- Learn the new school's rules or policies.

3 Find out if the transfer rules apply to you

Figure out if you are a transfer student-athlete

The first question you want to ask is, "Am I a transfer student-athlete?" It seems fairly simple, but you need to answer this basic question before you can move forward.

So, how do you figure out if you are considered a transfer? First, we would ask several questions about the most common conditions involved in transferring from one school to another. We call these conditions **transfer triggers**. The triggers are important because they tell you if you are a transfer student-athlete and if you will need to know the transfer rules.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Have you ever been enrolled full time at a two-year or four-year school in a regular academic term? (Summer does not count.)
- Have you ever reported for practice with the regular squad?
- Have you ever practiced or played while you were enrolled part time?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you are a transfer student-athlete. That means you now need to learn the transfer rules if you still want to play your sport at a new NCAA school.

A CASE STUDY

Brady was recruited to play basketball at Wisteria Lane College, an NCAA school. 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, another 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. He must get written permission-to-contact from Wisteria's athletics director before he can speak to the coach at Marcus University.

Know your initial-eligibility certification status

Once you have identified which school you want to attend, you need to look at your initial- eligibility certification status. Since NCAA schools agree that all athletes must meet minimum academic standards before they can play, make sure that you have met the requirements.

If you are thinking about transferring to a Division I or II school, you must first figure out if you would have qualified to play had you chosen to go there as a freshman after you graduated from high school. We call that being a **qualifier**. The core courses you took in high school, the grades and number of credits you earned, and your scores on standardized tests all combine to help determine whether you are a qualifier.

In part, your Eligibility Center status determines which transfer rules apply to you and how many seasons you may play.

Figure out if you are a qualifier, partial qualifier or nonqualifier

Why is this important? In part, your NCAA Eligibility Center qualifier, partial qualifier or nonqualifier status determines which transfer rules apply to you and how many seasons of competition you may have remaining to play at your new school.

Contact the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine your status:

- Go to **www.eligibilitycenter.org;** or
- Call **877/262-1492**.

Should you register with the Eligibility Center?

The Eligibility Center is responsible for evaluating academic records of high school athletes who want to play at Division I or II schools during their initial year of collegiate enrollment.

Division III athletes do not need to go through the Eligibility Center.

Note: If you never registered with the Eligibility Center, you will be classified as a nonqualifier. Schools cannot assume that you would have been either a qualifier or a partial qualifier unless they have a final certification report from the Eligibility Center.

Amateurism eligibility requirements

In response to the NCAA membership's concern about amateurism issues related to both international and domestic student-athletes, the Eligibility Center determines the amateurism eligibility of all freshman and transfer prospective student-athletes for initial participation at Division I or II schools. In Division III, certification of an individual's amateurism status is completed by each school, not the Eligibility Center.

If you plan to participate in intercollegiate athletics at a Division I or II school, you must have both your academic and amateurism status certified by the Eligibility Center before representing the institution in competition.
The information you provide about your athletics participation will be reviewed and a determination will be made as to whether your amateurism status should be certified or if a penalty should be assessed. If a penalty is assessed, you will have an opportunity to appeal the decision. The following precollegiate enrollment activities will be reviewed:

1. Contracts with a professional team.
2. Salary for participating in athletics.
3. Prize money.
4. Play with professionals.
5. Tryouts, practice or competition with a professional team.
6. Benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
7. Agreement to be represented by an agent.
8. Delayed initial full-time collegiate enrollment to participate in organized sports competition.

Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism rules is available on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org).

Know when you need to get permission to talk to another school

Written permission-to-contact

Generally, if you are enrolled as a full-time student at an NCAA or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) four-year school and you want to transfer to a different NCAA school to play, your current school's athletics director must give written permission-to-contact to the new coach or member of the athletics staff before you or your parents can talk with one of them. That is called having a **permission-to-contact letter**.

You may write to any NCAA school saying that you are interested in transferring, but the new coach must not discuss transfer opportunities with you unless he or she has received written permission-to-contact from your current school.

If your current school does not give you written permission-to-contact, another school cannot contact you and encourage you to transfer. This does not preclude you from transferring; however, if the new school is in Division I or II, you cannot receive an athletics scholarship until you have attended the new school for one academic year.

Also, if your current school officials deny your request to permit another institution to contact you about transferring, they must tell you in writing that you have a right to appeal the decision. In that instance, a panel of individuals from your current school who are not involved in athletics will conduct a hearing to decide the issue.

Do not talk to another school's coach until you know the rules about receiving written permission.

When do you not need written permission-to-contact?

In Divisions I and II, if you are transferring from a school that is not a member of the NCAA or NAIA, you do not need written permission-to-contact.

Also, if you are now in Division III, you may issue your own release (called a self-release) to allow another Division III school to contact you about transferring. The self-release applies only to transfer student-athletes from a Division III school to another Division III school. For a sample self-release, go to the Division III homepage at **www.ncaa.org.**

CASE STUDY

Rachel attended Halstead College in Division I as a freshman and practiced with the swim team. Before swimming in a meet, she was cut from the team.

After spending a summer at the beach, Rachel decided she wanted to transfer to a Division II school and join the swim team.

Does Rachel need to ask Halstead College for written permission-to-contact?

Yes.

Because Rachel practiced with the swim team at Halstead College, she was considered a member of the team and a student-athlete, even though she never participated in a meet.

ANOTHER CASE STUDY

Nolan attended Stars Hollow University in Division III as a freshman and sophomore. Nolan practiced and competed on Stars Hollow's men's lacrosse team.

Prior to the start of his junior year, Nolan decided to transfer to another Division III school to pursue a degree not available at Stars Hollow University.

Does Nolan need to ask Stars Hollow University for written permission-to-contact?

No.

Because Nolan is transferring from a Division III school to another Division III school, he may issue his own self-release to allow another Division III school to contact him about transferring.

Where to go for help

If you want to go to someone for help in figuring out if you are a qualifier:

- Contact your high school guidance office. Your high school will have some of the records you need, including your grades, which courses you took and how many credits you earned.
- Check with the Eligibility Center. Representatives can assist you in evaluating your academic record to determine if you are a qualifier.
  - Visit the Eligibility Center website at **www.eligibilitycenter.org;** or
  - Call **877/262-1492.**

Eligibility Center

NCAA Eligibility Center:
Certification Processing
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207

Package or overnight delivery:
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Web address:
www.eligibilitycenter.org

Eligibility Center customer service
Representatives are available from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

U.S. callers (toll free):	877/262-1492
International callers:	317/223-0700
Fax:	317/968-5100

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Figure out if you are a transfer.
- Get your high school academic records.
- Find out your NCAA Eligibility Center status or whether you need to register with the Eligibility Center.
- Get written permission, if you need it.

4 Take a closer look at the rules

Understand the basic transfer rule

If you transfer from a two-year school and do not meet the transfer requirements, or you transfer from a four-year school, whether you are an international or domestic student-athlete, this basic transfer rule applies to you:

You must spend one academic year in residence at your new school before you are eligible to compete.

Learn the language

Many people have the wrong idea about what the transfer rules really mean. That is why we suggest that you take a few minutes to become familiar with the key definitions that apply to transfer student-athletes. We define several of the most commonly used words here. For a more extensive list, see *Important definitions you might need to know* on page 26.

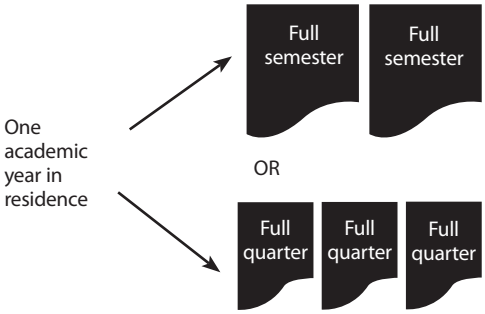
One academic year in residence = How long you must spend at your new school before you can compete. Sometimes people call the year in residence "sitting out."

For your academic year in residence to count toward your eligibility to compete, you must sit out only at the school where you intend to compete and you must be a full-time student. You cannot meet this requirement by attending the school part time or by not being enrolled in school at all.

For a semester or quarter to count toward your one academic year in residence, you must be enrolled full time (which is generally at least 12-credit hours) and you must be enrolled before the 12th day of class.

Full-time enrollment = Each school determines the meaning of full-time status on its own.

Typically, you are a full-time student if you are enrolled for at least 12-credit hours in a term. However, some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12-credit hours in a term.



Transferable credit hours = Credit hours from your first school that your new school will accept toward your degree. Each school determines how many and which credit hours are acceptable for transferring.

Progress toward degree = Whether you are moving toward earning your college degree at a reasonable pace. Each school determines how many credits you should take within a given time period to be considered meeting progress toward a degree. The school applies the same definition to all its students.

The NCAA also determines what progress toward degree means. To be able to play, you must meet NCAA, conference and school rules that govern whether you are appropriately making progress toward earning your degree.

Five-year clock = In Division I, the first time you enroll in any two-year or four-year school as a full-time student, you start your five-year period of eligibility. You have five-calendar years from initial collegiate enrollment to play four seasons of competition — even if you are not enrolled in school at all or attend school part-time within that time frame.

10-semester/15-quarter clock = In Division II and III, you have 10-semesters or 15-quarters in which to complete all your seasons of competition. You use one of your 10-semesters or 15-quarters every semester or quarter you attended a two-year or four-year college and are enrolled full-time or are enrolled part-time and compete. Unlike Division I, in Division II or III, you are not charged during a term that you are not enrolled in school or attend school part-time.

HERE IS HOW THE RULES APPLY IN ONE CASE

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.

HERE IS A DIFFERENT LOOK AT THE ISSUE

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.

When can you play?

Several key factors determine when you will be eligible to play. According to the NCAA, the specific rules that apply to you depend on:

- If you are a qualifier, partial qualifier or nonqualifier;
- If you are currently enrolled in a two-year or a four-year school;
- Whether you want to go to a Division I, II or III school;
- Which sport you play (for instance, if you play baseball, basketball, football or men's ice hockey additional rules may apply);
- Whether you are a mid-year enrollee (in baseball or basketball); and
- Whether you meet academic rules for eligibility.

If you want to transfer and play at a different school, remember that NCAA, conference and school rules all apply to you.

On the next few pages, you will find several charts to help you figure out which transfer rules apply to you. But remember that these are the NCAA rules only; other rules from the conference and the particular school you want to attend may affect your ability to play as well.

We have divided the information first by the type of school that you now attend (whether you now go to a two-year or four-year school). Then we show you which rules generally apply according to your Eligibility Center qualifier, partial qualifier or nonqualifier status. Other situations may exist, but the charts show you the most common rules.

- **If you are now in a two-year school**, go to page 14.
- **If you are now in a four-year school**, go to page 19.
- **If you have been at a four-year school and now attend a two-year school**, go to page 21.

If you are now in a two-year school and have never previously attended a four-year school…

If you are now in a two-year school, never previously attended a four-year school, and want to transfer to a four-year school, we sometimes refer to you as a **2-4** transfer. Here are the rules that generally apply to you. If you have previously attended a four-year school prior to enrolling in the two-year school, go to the 4-2-4 rules on page 21.

***Note:* If you are an international student and attend a school outside of the United States, go to the rules for student-athletes who are now in a four-year school on Page 19, even if you are in a two-year school.**

2-4 and you want to go to Division I

If you are a qualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

- Complete at least one semester or quarter as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
- Earn an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term you attended full time at the two-year school?**
- Earn a grade-point average (GPA) of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?

If Yes to all:	If No to at least one:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+	You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.* (See the exceptions on page 17.)

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

** In men's basketball, not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable degree credit and grade-point average requirements, unless the student-athlete is enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses.

+ Baseball and basketball - mid-year enrollee: In Division I, a transfer student-athlete in the sports of baseball and basketball who initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student for the spring term shall not be eligible to compete until the next academic year (i.e., fall term).

If you are a nonqualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

- Complete at least three semesters or four quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
- Graduate from a two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.
- Earn 48-semester or 72-quarter transferable-degree credit hours at the two-year school? If you initially enrolled full time in any college after August 1, 2009, the transfer credits MUST include six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English AND three-semester or four-quarter hours of math.**
- Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?

If Yes to all:	If No to at least one:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+	You cannot practice. You cannot receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

** In men's basketball, not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable degree credit and grade-point average requirements, unless the student-athlete is enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses.

+ Baseball mid-year enrollee: In Division I, a transfer student-athlete in the sports of baseball and basketball who initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student for the spring term shall not be eligible to compete until the next academic year (i.e., fall term).

2-4 and you want to go to Division II

If you are a qualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

- Complete at least one semester or quarter at the two-year school as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
- Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each full-time term at the two-year school?
- Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?

If Yes to all:	If No to at least one:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year in residence.* (See exceptions on page 17.)

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

If you are a partial qualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)

AND

2a. Graduate from the two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.

OR

2b. Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours? If you initially enrolled full time in any college after August 1, 2011, the transfer credits MUST include six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English AND three-semester or four-quarter hours of math. **

If Yes to 1 and 2a or 2b:	If No to 1 or 2:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year in residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

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

If you are a nonqualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)

AND

2a. Graduate from the two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.

OR

2b. Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours? If you initially enrolled full time in any college after August 1, 2011, the transfer credits MUST include six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English AND three-semester or four-quarter hours of math. **

If Yes to 1 and 2a or 2b:	If No to 1 or 2:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You cannot practice. You cannot receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year in residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

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

2-4 and you want to go to Division III

At any college, did you:

- Practice or play in intercollegiate sports?

If Yes:	If No:
You can practice and play provided that you would have been considered academically and athletically eligible if you had stayed at your two-year school.	You can practice. You can play right away after you transfer.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

If you answered No to any of the questions in the previous charts, there may be an exception that applies to you.

See *Rules have exceptions* on page 17.

CASE STUDY

Michele was a qualifier who runs cross country. She attended Forks Community College for two full semesters during the 2010-11 academic year and continued there for the fall term of 2011. (She attended for three full terms.)

In total, she completed 24 credit hours that will transfer toward her degree. Her GPA was 2.345.

Can Michele run in Division I, II or III?

Whether Michele can run depends on which school she attends. She cannot play at Division I or II because she needed an average of 12 credit hours for each term that she attended. Since she attended Forks for three terms, she needed 36 credit hours that would transfer toward her degree to be eligible (12 x 3 = 36). She has only 24.

Since Michele is a qualifier, if she transfers to a Division I or II school, she can practice and receive aid, but she cannot compete until she sits out a year.

But, if Michele transfers to Division III, she can compete right away if Forks (the two-year school) certifies that she would have been both athletically and academically eligible had she stayed there.

TAKE A LOOK AT ANOTHER CASE STUDY...

Joaquin, a nonqualifier, plays basketball and attended Marcus Community College (MCC) for two years. As a full-time student, he earned his AA degree. (He attended four full terms.) He wants to transfer to a four-year school. His GPA is 1.950 and he has 29 credits that can be transferred toward his degree.

Is Joaquin immediately eligible to play in Division I, II or III?

As with the previous case, Joaquin's eligibility depends on which school he attends. He cannot play basketball right away in Division I because he did not satisfactory complete a minimum of 48-semester hours of transferable-degree credit.

He also needed a GPA of 2.000. He had neither.

But he can play in Division II because he earned his AA degree and spent four semesters at MCC. (The rule is that he must complete at least one semester at the two-year school as a full-time student since he is a qualifier.)

If Joaquin wants to transfer to a Division III school, MCC (the two-year school) must certify that he would otherwise have been both academically and athletically eligible had he stayed there.

A THIRD LOOK AT THE ISSUE...

Jack is a nonqualifier. He attended KB Community College in 2010-11 and the 2011 fall term. He earned his AA degree after the 2011 fall term. He has 48 credit hours that can be transferred toward his degree.

Jack's GPA is 2.280. He practiced with KB's baseball team, but did not play in a game.

Will he be able to play in spring 2012 for Division I, II or III?

As with the other two cases, whether Jack can play right away depends on which four-year school he attends.

Jack is not eligible to play baseball in Division I in 2012 spring term. Even though he met the transfer requirements because he earned his AA degree, completed 48 credit hours, had a GPA above 2.000, and fulfilled three semesters in residence, he cannot play in the 2012 spring term for Division I because he is a mid-year enrollee in the sport of baseball. In Division I, a transfer student-athlete in the sports of baseball and basketball who initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student for the spring term shall not be eligible to compete until the next academic year (i.e., fall term). Therefore while Jack meets the transfer legislation he would not be eligible to play until the 2012 fall term.

However, Jack can play in Division II because he earned his AA degree and attended for at least two full-time semesters.

If Jack wants to transfer to a Division III school, KB (the two-year school) must certify that he would otherwise have been both academically and athletically eligible had he stayed there.

Rules have exceptions: Possible exceptions if you are in a two-year school

There are exceptions to the rules that may allow you to play right away after you transfer, even if you do not meet the 2-4 transfer requirements. These exceptions are applied by the new school (sometimes called the **certifying school**). The certifying school determines whether you are eligible. It has the authority to grant exceptions, based on the conditions that are explained here.

If your sport is discontinued or is no longer sponsored at your two-year school…

If your school dropped your sport from its program or never sponsored it while you were a student, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school to play.

You may only use this exception after the date that the school publicly announced that it would discontinue the sport. For example, if your school announces during the fall semester that it will discontinue softball at the end of the academic year, you can use this exception only if you transfer after the announcement. You may not use it if you transfer before then.

To use this exception, you must:

- Be a qualifier; and
- Have a GPA of at least 2.000.

If you have never been recruited…

If you have never been recruited by the Division II school you plan to attend, you may use this exception, if you:

- Are a qualifier;
- Have not received an athletics scholarship;
- Have not participated in any athletically related activities or meetings (beyond a 14 consecutive-calendar-day period); and
- Were eligible for admission at the Division II school before you enrolled at the two-year college.

If you did not participate in your sport or minimally participated for two consecutive years prior to transfer...

If you did not compete in your sport or did not engage in athletically related activities (e.g., practice) beyond a 14 consecutive-day period for a consecutive two-year period immediately prior to your transfer to the new school, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school.

This exception applies if you:

- Are a qualifier; and
- Did not practice or compete in intercollegiate sports for two years before you will practice or play for your new school; or
- Did not practice beyond a 14 consecutive-day period during the two-year period (Divisions I and II only); or
- Did not practice or compete in noncollegiate amateur competition while you were enrolled as a full-time student during the two-year period.

If you are transferring to a Division III school…

If you transfer to Division III and you have never participated for a consecutive two-year period in your sport at the college level, you may be eligible to play right away after you transfer.

If you are now in a four-year school…

If you are now in a four-year school and want to transfer to another four-year school, we sometimes refer to you as a **4-4** transfer. As a 4-4 transfer, generally you are not eligible to play at the new four-year school until you spend an academic year in residence at that new school. However, there are exceptions that may allow you to play right away, read this section to see if an exception can apply to you.

Only qualifiers are allowed to use exceptions during the first year after they enroll at the new school.

Exceptions are applied by the new school (sometimes called the certifying school). The certifying school determines whether you are eligible to play right away without spending an academic year in residence.

The certifying school has the authority to grant exceptions, based on the conditions that we explain here:

- You can use an exception during your first year of collegiate enrollment ONLY if you are a qualifier.

  [Note: If you are a qualifier, have signed a National Letter of Intent, and transfer during the first year after you enrolled full time, you may have to sit out for a period of time at the certifying school, even if you meet an exception. (For more information about the National Letter of Intent program, go to page 26.)]
- If you are a partial qualifier or a nonqualifier, you must spend at least one academic year in residence before you are allowed to use an exception.
- You cannot use an exception if you are sitting out a year of residence at your current school.
- In the sports of baseball or basketball, if you are transferring to a Division I institution at the start of the winter or spring term you will not be eligible to compete until the next fall term, regardless if you meet an exception.

  In tennis, if you are transferring ot Division I institution at the start of the winter or spring term, you will not be eligible to compete until the next fall term, regardless if you meet an exception if you have competed during the same academic year or received athletically related financial aid during the same academic year from the previous four year institution.

Exceptions for Divisions I and II if you are in a four-year school

If this is your first transfer…

If you have never transferred before from a four-year school, you might be able to use the one-time transfer exception to play right away at a Division I or II school.

To use this exception, you must:

1. Be playing a sport other than baseball in Division I, basketball in Division I, men's ice hockey in Division I or football in Division I. **Note**: In football you may be eligible to use this exception if:
   a. You transfer from a Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) school to a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) school and have at least two seasons of competition remaining; or
   b. You transfer from a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) school that offers athletics scholarships to a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) that does not offer athletics scholarships.

   Important Note: If you do not qualify for this exception due to any of the conditions in Subsection 1 above, you may be able to use the exception if you were not recruited by your first four-year school AND have never received an athletics scholarship.
2. Be in good academic standing and making progress toward your degree;
3. Have been considered academically eligible if you had stayed in your first school; and
4. Have a written release agreement from your first school saying that it does not object to your receiving an exception to the transfer residence requirement. If the release is denied, you may be entitled to a hearing conducted by an institutional entity or committee outside of the athletics department (e.g., the office of student affairs; office of the dean of students; or a committee composed of the faculty athletics representative, student-athletes and nonathletics faculty/staff members). Further, in Division I, if your request for a written release is not provided within seven business days of the previous institution receiving the request, the release shall be granted by default and the previous institution shall provide a written release to you.

If you return to your first school without participating at the second school …

To go back to your first school in Division I or II, you may use this exception if you did not practice or play at the second school.

If your sport is discontinued or not sponsored at your four-year school…

If your school dropped your sport from its program or never sponsored it while you were a student, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school.

You may only use this exception after the date that the school publicly announced that it would discontinue the sport. For example, if your school announces during the fall semester that it will discontinue baseball at the end of the academic year, you can use this exception only if you transfer after the announcement. You may not use it if you transfer before then.

If you have never been recruited…

If you have never been recruited by the Division I or II school you plan to attend, you may be able to use this exception if you:

- Have not received an athletics scholarship; and
- Have not practiced beyond a 14 consecutive-day period at any school or participated in intercollegiate competition before your transfer.

If you did not practice or play in your sport for two years …

If you did not participate in your sport for the two years immediately before you want to transfer, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school.

You may use this exception if you:

- Did not practice beyond a consecutive 14-day period or play in intercollegiate sports for two years before you practice or play for the new school; or
- Did not practice or play in noncollegiate amateur competition while you were enrolled as a full-time student during the two-year period.

Exceptions for Division III if you are in a four-year school

If you are transferring to a Division III school …

If you transfer to Division III and you have never used a season of participation at a Division III school or have never practiced or competed at a non-Division III school, you may be eligible to play right right away after you transfer.

However, if you did participate at your first school, you may be immediately eligible only if you would have been both academically and athletically eligible had you stayed at your first school.

If you transfer from a school that did not sponsor your sport while you attended that school, you may be immediately eligible if you sucessfully completed 24-semester or 36-quarter transferable-degree credit hours and attended the previous institution for at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters. (Summer school does not count.)

CASE STUDY

Billy is a nonqualifier. He enrolled for one year at a four-year college 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 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.

ANOTHER CASE STUDY

Dauber, a qualifier, is a freshman soccer player who enrolled at Bonzo College, a Division I school. 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 Richardo 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 and Bonzo does not object, Dauber can use the one-time transfer exception.

If you have been at a four-year school and now attend a two-year school…

If you started at a four-year school, then transferred to a two-year school and now want to transfer to a four-year school, we refer to you as a **4-2-4** transfer. Generally, here are the rules that apply to you.

4-2-4 and you want to go to Division I

If you are a qualifier…

Did you:

- Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance?**
- Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?
- Graduate from the two-year school **AND** have one-calendar year elapse since you left your previous four-year school?

If Yes to all:	If No to any:
You can practice.	You can practice.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.	You can receive athletically related financial aid.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+	You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

** In men's basketball, not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable degree credit and grade-point average requirements, unless the student-athlete is enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses.

+ Baseball and basketball - mid-year enrollee: In Division I, a transfer student-athlete in the sports of baseball and basketball who initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student for the spring term shall not be eligible to compete until the next academic year (i.e., fall term).

If you are a nonqualifier…

Did you:

- Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance?**
- Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?
- Graduate from the two-year school **AND** have one-calendar year elapse since you left your previous four-year school?

If Yes to all:	If No to any:
You can practice.	You can practice if you have completed one academic year in all your colleges combined.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.	You can receive athletically related financial aid if you completed one academic term at the two-year school.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+	You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

** In men's basketball, not more than two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used to fulfill the transferable degree credit and grade-point average requirements, unless the student-athlete is enrolling in a physical education degree program or a degree program in education that requires physical education activity courses.

+ Baseball and basketball - mid-year enrollee: In Division I, a transfer student-athlete in the sports of baseball and basketball who initially enrolls at the certifying institution as a full-time student for the spring term shall not be eligible to compete until the next academic year (i.e., fall term).

4-2-4 and you want to go to Division II

If you were a qualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

1a. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
AND

1b. Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours.

OR

2a. Complete at least one semester or or quarter as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
AND

2b. Graduate from the two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.

If Yes to 1 and 2:	If No to 1 or 2:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

If you are a partial qualifier…

At the two-year school, did you:

1a. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
AND

1b. Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours. If you initially enrolled full time in any college after August 1, 2011, the transfer credits MUST include six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English AND three-semester or four-quarter hours of math. ** +

OR

2a. Complete at least one semester or or quarter as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)
AND

2b. Graduate from the two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.

If Yes to 1 and 2:	If No to 1 or 2:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year in residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

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

+ Credits earned at the previous four-year institution may be used to satisfy this requirement.

If you were a nonqualifier...

At the two-year school, did you:

1a. Complete at least two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)

AND

1b. Complete an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter transferable-degree credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours. If you initially enrolled full time in any college after August 1, 2011, the transfer credits MUST include six-semester or eight-quarter hours of English AND three-semester or four-quarter hours of math. ** +

OR

2a. Complete at least one semester or or quarter as a full-time student? (Summer school does not count.)

AND

2b. Graduate from the two-year school? You must earn 25 percent of the credit hours at the two-year school that awards your degree.

If Yes to 1 and 2:	If No to 1 or 2:
You can practice. You can receive athletically related financial aid. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You cannot practice. You cannot receive athletically related financial aid. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

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

+ Credits earned at the previous four-year institution may be used to satisfy this requirement.

4-2-4 and you want to go to Division III

- Would you have been both academically and athletically eligible if you remained at your previous four-year school?

OR

- Did you successfully complete 24-semester or 36-quarter credit hours at the two-year school that can be transferred toward your degree at the four-year school **AND** did you spend at least two semesters or three quarters at the two-year school? (Summer school does not count.)

If Yes:	If No:
You can practice. You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*	You can practice. You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*

* Additional progress-toward-degree rules from the NCAA, the conference or the school may affect whether you can play.

If you answered No to any of the questions in the previous charts, there may be an exception that applies to you. Read the next section to see if an exception can apply to you to allow you to play right away.

Rules have exceptions: Possible exceptions if you are a 4-2-4 transfer

There are exceptions to the rules that may allow you to play right away after you transfer, even if you do not meet the 4-2-4 transfer requirements. These exceptions are applied by the new school (sometimes called the certifying school). The certifying school determines whether you are eligible. It has the authority to grant exceptions, based on the conditions that are explained here.

If you want to return to your original school …

If you want to go back to your original school in Division I, you may use this exception if you were not sitting out a year at the original school when you transferred to the two-year school.

If you want to go back to your original school in Division II, you may use this exception if you are a qualifier and were not sitting out a year at the original school when you transferred to the two-year school.

If your sport was never sponsored at your original four-year school …

If the first four-year school that you attended never sponsored your sport while you were a student, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school only if you have never attended another four-year school that offered your sport.

You may be able to use this exception if you:

- Are a qualifier;
- Completed an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter hours at the two-year school that can be transferred toward your degree (Division I only);
- Earned a minimum GPA of 2.000 at the two-year school; and
- Spent two full semesters or three full quarters at the two-year school (Division I only). (Summer school does not count.)

If you did not participate in your sport or minimally participated for two consecutive years prior to transfer...

If you did not compete in your sport or did not engage in athletically related activities (e.g., practice) beyond a 14 consecutive-day period for a consecutive two-year period immediately prior to your transfer to the new school, you may be able to use this exception to transfer to a Division I or II school.

This exception applies if you:

- Are a qualifier; and
- Did not practice or compete in intercollegiate sports for two years before you will practice or play for your new school; or
- Did not practice beyond a 14 consecutive-day period during the two-year period (Divisions I and II only); or
- Did not practice or compete in noncollegiate amateur competition while you were enrolled as a full-time student during the two-year period.

If you are transferring to a Division II school…

If you transfer to Division II and you are a qualifier, you can use any exception that applies to 2-4 transfer students. For more information, go to page 17.

If you are transferring to a Division III school…

If you transfer to a Division III school and you have never participated for a consecutive two-year period in your sport at the college level, you may be eligible to play right away after you transfer.

CASE STUDY

In 2009-10, Jeff enrolled at Oscar University, a Division I school. Jeff was a qualifier and was on the swim team.

He then transferred to Felix College, a two-year school, in 2010-11 and was on the swim team there as well. He did not receive an 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.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Understand the basic transfer rule.
- Look up the rules that apply to your situation.
- Find out if any exceptions apply to you.

5 Important definitions you might need to know

Two-year college — An institution 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.

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

10-semester/15-quarter clock — If you play at a Division II or III school, you have the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which you are enrolled 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 are enrolled 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.

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

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 initial year of enrollment at a Division I or II college. The Eligibility Center is a separate legal entity that provides service to NCAA member institutions.

Exception — If you meet an exception, it means that a specific regulation will not apply to you (for example, the residence requirement for a transfer student-athlete to become eligible for competition). The certifying school determines whether you are eligible and has the authority to grant exceptions.

Financial aid — or **scholarship** — any money you receive from a college or another source, such as outside loans or grants. Financial aid may be based on athletics, financial need or academic achievement.

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

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, but some schools define a full-time student as someone who takes fewer than 12 credit hours in a term.

Membership or members of the NCAA — The colleges, universities and athletics conferences that make up the NCAA. The members introduce and vote on rules. They establish programs to govern, promote and further the purposes and goals of intercollegiate athletics. The membership is divided into three main divisions — Divisions I, II and III — each with its own governing structure.

National Letter of Intent (NLI) — The Eligibility Center administers the National Letter of Intent program, not the NCAA. NCAA schools that are part of the program may send a National Letters of Intent to a prospective student-athlete they have recruited to participate in their intercollegiate sports programs.

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 **http://www.national-letter.org.**

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

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, play or receive athletically related financial aid from a Division I or II school during your first academic year in residence. You will have only three seasons of competition in Division I, however a fourth season may be granted if you have completed 80 percent of your designated degree program prior to the start of your fifth year of enrollment.

One-time transfer exception — You may be immediately able to play a sport at your new school if you:

- Do not transfer to a Division I school for baseball, men's or women's basketball, football or men's ice hockey (unless you were not recruited by the original institution and have never received athletically related financial aid);
- Have never transferred before from a four-year school;
- Are both academically and athletically eligible; and
- Receive a release agreement from the school from which you are transferring.

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 play for one academic year. Division I does not have partial qualifiers.

Permission-to-contact letter — or **written permission to contact** — If you are enrolled full time in a four-year school, 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.

Play — Competing against a team from another school or participating in a contest, game, match, meet, event against another school's team or player.

Progress toward degree — Whether you are moving toward earning your college degree at a reasonable pace. The definition applies to all students of the school and is governed by the school, the conference and NCAA legislation.

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; and
- Obtained a specified minimum SAT or ACT score.

Redshirt — In Divisions I or II, redshirting refers to someone who is enrolled full-time at a school, 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 scrimmage 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.

Sitting out — or **academic year in residence** — Under the basic transfer regulations, you must spend an academic year in residence at the school to which you are transferring. If you transfer from a four-year college to an NCAA school, you must complete one academic year in residence at the new school before you can play for or receive travel expenses from the new school, unless you qualify for a transfer exception or waiver. To satisfy an academic year in residence, you must be enrolled in and successfully complete a full-time program of studies for two-full semesters or three-full quarters. Summer school terms and part-time enrollment do not count toward fulfilling an academic year in residence.

Student-athlete — A student whose enrollment was solicited by a member of a school's athletics staff for the purpose of the student participating in an athletics program or a student who reports for practice.

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:

- Enrolled full-time during any term and attended class or in Division I if you are enrolled full time and are on campus on the opening day of classes.
- Reported for a regular squad practice.
- Practiced or competed while enrolled as a part-time student.
- Received institutional financial aid while attending summer school.

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 a scholarship from the school, but who becomes a member of one of the school's athletics teams.

6 Where to go for more information

NCAA resources

NCAA Web site:	www.ncaa.org
Send mail to:	NCAA P.O. Box 6222 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Send packages to:	NCAA 1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Phone:	317/917-6222 Monday-Friday Noon to 4 p.m. Eastern
Fax:	317/917-6622

Publications from the NCAA

NCAA publications hotline 800/638-3731.

- *Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete.*
- *National Collegiate Athletic Association general information brochure.*

NCAA Eligibility Center

Web site:	www.eligibilitycenter.org
Send mail to:	NCAA Eligibility Center P.O. Box 7136 Indianapolis, Indiana 46207
Send packages to:	NCAA Eligibility Center 1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Dr. Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
U.S. callers:	877/262-1492 toll free 317/223-0700 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time
Fax:	317/968-5100

National Letter of Intent (NLI)
P.O. Box 7132
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207-7132

Phone:	877/262-1492 toll free 317/223-0700
Fax:	317/968-5105
Web site:	http://www.national-letter.org

Resources outside of the NCAA

National Junior College Athletic Association
1755 Telstar Drive, Suite 103
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920

Phone:	719/590-9788
Fax:	719/590-73242

CONFERENCES AS LISTED IN THE NCAA DIRECTORY

Division I

America East Conference	617/695-6369
American Lacrosse Conference	740/593-3410
Atlantic Coast Conference	336/854-8787
Atlantic Hockey Association	978/373-9640
Atlantic Soccer Conference	215/951-2720
Atlantic Sun Conference	478/474-3394
Atlantic 10 Conference	757/706-3040
Big East Conference	401/272-9108
Big Sky Conference	801/392-1978
Big South Conference	704/341-7990
Big Ten Conference	847/696-1010
Big 12 Conference	469/524-1000
Big West Conference	949/261-2525
Central Collegiate Hockey Association	248/888-0600
College Hockey America	218/760-7825
Collegiate Water Polo Association	610/277-6787
Colonial Athletic Association	804/754-1616
Conference USA	214/774-1300
Eastern College Athletic Conference	508/771-5060
Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association	508/771-5060
Eastern Wrestling League	412/648-8226
ECAC Division I Hockey League	518/487-2289
Gateway Football Conference	314/421-2268
Hockey East Association	781/245-2122
Horizon League	317/237-5622
Ivy Group	609/258-6426
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference	732/738-5455
Mid-American Conference	216/566-4622
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	757/416-7100
Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association	740/397-4539

Missouri Valley Conference	314/421-0339
Mountain Pacific Sports Federation	530/669-7600
Mountain West Conference	719/488-4040
Northeast Conference	732/469-0440
Northern Pacific Field Hockey Conference	540/831-5211
Ohio Valley Conference	615/371-1698
Pacific-10 Conference	925/932-4411
Pacific Coast Softball Conference	925/895-4145
Patriot League	610/289-1950
Pioneer Football League	314/421-2268
Southeastern Conference	205/458-3000
Southern Conference	864/591-5100
Southland Conference	972/422-9500
Southwestern Athletic Conference	205/251-7573
The Summit League	630/516-0661
Sun Belt Conference	504/299-9066
West Coast Conference	650/873-8622
Western Athletic Conference	303/799-9221
Western Collegiate Hockey Association	303/871-4223

Division II

California Collegiate Athletic Association	925/472-8299
Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference	203/773-6411
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association	757/865-0071
Conference Carolinas	336/884-0482
Deep South Lacrosse Conference	803/981-5240
East Coast Conference	631/348-3455
Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	989/894-2529
Great Lakes Valley Conference	317/237-5633
Great Northwest Athletic Conference	509/535-5291
Gulf South Conference	205/991-9880
Heartland Conference	254/714-0907
Lone Star Conference	972/234-0033
Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association	816/421-6422
Northeast-10 Conference	508/230-9844
Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference	651/288-4015
Pacific West Conference	480/983-6605
Peach Belt Conference	706/860-8499
Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference	570/893-2512
Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference	719/471-0066
South Atlantic Conference	803/981-5240
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	770/908-0482
Sunshine State Conference	407/248-8460
West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	304/487-6298

Division III

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference	724/934-1978
American Southwest Conference	972/234-0033
Capital Athletic Conference	717/815-6817
Centennial Conference	717/358-4463
City University of New York Athletic Conference	718/997-4270
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	630/637-5693
Colonial States Athletic Conference	610-361-5344
Commonwealth Coast Conference	413/796-2329
ECAC Division III East Women's Hockey League	518/771-5060
ECAC East Ice Hockey League	518/771-5060
ECAC Northeast Ice Hockey League	518/771-5060
ECAC Women's West Ice Hockey League	518/771-5060
Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association	914/337-9300
Empire-8	585/581-0834
Great Northeast Athletic Conference	401/598-1604
Great South Athletic Conference	706/880-8262
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference	317/882-8090
Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	319/366-4845
Landmark Conference	973/805-8836
Liberty League	518/388-6433
Little East Conference	508/910-6299
Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference	413/572-8212
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association	248/336-1677
Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation	717/867-6395
Midwest Conference	920/748-8157
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	651/644-3965
New England College Wrestling Association	401/254-3428
New England Football Conference	978/665-3313
New England Small College Athletic Conference	413/587-2105
New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference	781/239-4944
New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance	802/468-1365
New Jersey Athletic Conference	856/582-3679
North Atlantic Conference	802/368-0050
North Coast Athletic Conference	440/871-8100
North Eastern Athletic Conference	518/320-7354
North Eastern Collegiate Volleyball Association	201/684-7675
Northern Athletics Conference	608/225-1640

Northwest Conference	206-325-5096
Ohio Athletic Conference	330/259-9090
Old Dominion Athletic Conference	540/389-7373
Pilgrim League	413/748-3332
Presidents' Athletic Conference	724/933-4630
St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	314/529-9586
Skyline Conference	732/586-5922
Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	323/851-4740
Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference	678/546-3470
University Athletic Association	585/273-5881
USA South Athletic Conference	910/630-7282
Western Water Polo Association	714/639-9106
Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	608/263-4402

The NCAA salutes the more than

400,000 student-athletes

participating in 23 sports at

more than 1,000 member institutions

NCAA 8/2011