

Making the Leap for a Successful Transfer to NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Institutions

Presented to:
Community College League of
California
Commission on Athletics

Overview



- Initial-eligibility status.
- Seasons of competition.
- Transferable credits and grade-point average.
- Conditions affecting transfers.
- Residence requirement.
- Competition in year of transfer.
- 2-4 transfers.
- 4-2-4 transfers.
- Case studies.

Initial-Eligibility Status

- Determined by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- **NONQUALIFIER** by default if student-athlete never registered with the clearinghouse.
- Cannot assume he or she would have been a qualifier or partial qualifier, even though the high school transcript may show good grades and a good test score.
- Must have his or her final clearinghouse certification report.
 - Preliminary report is not sufficient.
- Not applicable for Division III institutions.

Seasons of Competition

- Maximum of four seasons at all collegiate institutions combined.
- Division I nonqualifier – three seasons at Division I institution.
- Use season of competition even if not enrolled full time if the student-athlete represents an institution in outside competition, competes in the uniform of the institution, or receives expenses from the institution for competition.

Conditions Affecting Transfer Status (Transfer Triggers)

- See NCAA Bylaw 14.5.2 for full list.
- Full-time enrollment and present on the first day of classes (Division I); Full-time enrollment and attends classes (Division II due to 2006 NCAA Convention Proposal No. 10, effective August 1, 2006, and Division III).

OR

- Reported for regular squad practice.

Transferable Credits

- Not all two-year institution credits may transfer to a four-year institution.
- May be a limit on the number of credits from the two-year institution that can be used toward the degree at the four-year institution.
- Repeated courses may only count one time.

Transferable Credits

- Some examples of credits that may not transfer:
 - Courses with grades less than a “C.”
 - Remedial courses.
 - Even if the two-year institution does not consider the course remedial, the four-year institution might.
 - Vocational credits (e.g., typing, welding, basic computer skills).
 - Athletics activity credits.
 - Varsity athletics credits.

Transferable Grade-Point-Average

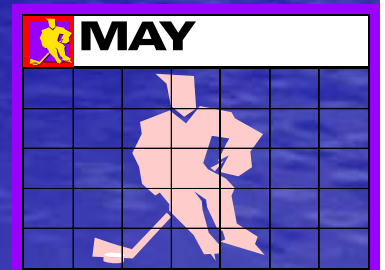
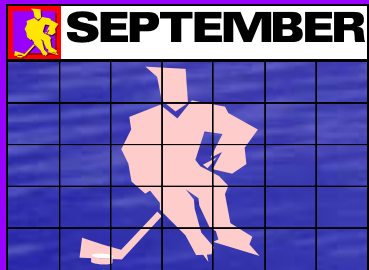
- Only credits that transfer to the four-year institution may be used in the transfer grade-point-average.
- Failed courses that would have transferred if passed may possibly be included in the calculation.

General Transfer Rule

- Must spend one academic year in residence at the four-year institution before being eligible to compete.
- Academic year equal to two full semesters or three full quarters.
- For a semester or quarter to count, student-athlete must be enrolled before the 12th class day.

What is a Year in Residence?

- Enrollment in and completion of minimum full-time program for two full semesters or three full quarters; **OR**
- Enrollment in minimum full-time program for two full semesters or three full quarters and pass a number of hours equal to the sum total of the minimum load of each of the required terms.



Quick Tip

- The year in residence is often referred to as “sitting out.”
- Student-athletes can misconstrue this and may think that a year spent out of school or as a part-time student will serve as “sitting out.”
- Make sure student-athletes understand that “sitting out” is being enrolled as a full-time student at the four-year institution for one year.

Competition in Year of Transfer

- Cannot compete at the four-year institution if the student-athlete has competed at the two-year institution during the same segment that concludes with the NCAA championship.

Competition in Year of Transfer

- Example: Swimming
 - Mark competes in a dual meet for the two-year institution in November.
 - Transfers to four-year institution in January.
 - The NCAA championships are in March.
 - May not compete for the four-year institution that academic year since he already competed at the two-year institution.

Competition in Year of Transfer

- Example: Softball
 - Dot competes in “fall ball” at the two-year institution in October.
 - Dot transfers to a four-year institution in January.
 - The NCAA championships are in May.
 - Dot may compete for the four-year institution in the year of transfer since the “fall ball” competition was not during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championships.

Two-Year Institution Transfers

- Division I requirements.
- Division II requirements.
- Division III requirements.
- Exceptions.



2-4 Transfer Rules — Division I Qualifier

- Requirements:
 - Full-time enrollment for a minimum of one semester or one quarter;
 - Average of 12 hours of transferable credits per term of attendance; and
 - Cumulative grade-point-average of 2.000 in transferable credits.
- If requirements are not met, may practice and receive athletics aid, **BUT**
- Cannot compete for one full academic year.

2-4 Transfer — Division I Nonqualifier

- All of the following must be met in order to practice, compete and receive institutional financial aid:
 - Full-time enrollment for a minimum of three semesters or four quarters;
 - Associate of Arts (AA) degree;
 - Forty-eight semester or 72 quarter hours of transferable credits; and
 - Cumulative 2.000 grade-point-average in transferable credits.

2-4 Transfer — Division I Nonqualifier

- Summer hours.
 - Limit of 18 semester or 27 quarter hours that can be used toward minimum requirement (48 semester/72 quarter).
 - Limit of nine semester or quarter hours earned summer term immediately prior to the transfer.
- If attended multiple two-year institutions.
 - Twenty-five percent of credits used for an AA must have been taken at the two-year institution awarding the degree.

2-4 Transfer — Division I Nonqualifier

- Additional requirement for football and men's basketball:
 - Only if initially enrolled in any institution before August 1, 2003.
 - Thirty-five percent of degree completion
 - Required only for competition, not practice and financial aid.

Additional Regulations for Division I Basketball

- Men's and women's basketball midyear transfers.
- If he or she meets the two-year transfer regulations, but enrolls after the conclusion of the certifying institution's first term, he or she is not eligible for competition until the following academic year.
 - This applies to the 2-4 and 4-2-4 transfers.



Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements

- For all students (including transfers) first entering a collegiate institution full time on or after August 1, 2003.
- Must complete the following percentage-of-degree requirements:
 - Forty percent prior to third year of enrollment.
 - Sixty percent prior to fourth year of enrollment.
 - Eighty percent prior to fifth year of enrollment.
- Year is determined by the number of full-time terms of enrollment.

Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements

- No limit on summer hours that can be used toward an AA and/or percentage-of-degree requirements.
- All student-athletes must have earned at least six hours the previous full-time term.
 - Do not have to be transferable to meet this requirement (Division I only).

2-4 Transfer Rules — Division II

- Transfer rules are the same regardless of clearinghouse certification status.
- In order to transfer to a Division II institution from a two-year institution and be eligible to compete immediately, the student-athlete must:
 - Have spent at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters at the two-year institution;

AND....

2-4 Transfer Rules — Division II (Continued)

- One of the following:

- Graduate with an AA degree;

OR

- The double play:

- Complete an average of 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable credits acceptable toward a degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term (12 hours per term for every term); and
- Cumulative grade-point-average of 2.000 in transferable credits.
- Six transferable hours previous full-time term.

What about Division II Practice and Financial Aid?

- Practice and financial aid are tied to a student-athlete's clearinghouse certification status.
- What if the student-athlete does not meet the two-year transfer rules?
- Qualifier: May practice and receive aid, but not compete for one full academic year.
- Partial qualifier: Same as qualifier.
- Nonqualifier: May not practice, compete or receive institutional financial aid for one full academic year.

Additional Regulations

Divisions I and II

- Credits earned while part time at a four-year institution may be used to determine transfer eligibility provided:
 - Hours are accepted by the two-year institution and placed on the transcript or other official documentation of the two-year institution; and
 - Any official documentation other than the transcript must include the official seal of the two-year institution and be signed by the appropriate academic official.

2-4 Transfers — Division III

- If a student-athlete has not previously used a season of participation at a Division III institution and has never participated in intercollegiate athletics at a non-Division III institution, the student is immediately eligible to transfer to a Division III institution.
- If a student-athlete transfers from a two-year institution and did participate, the student must have been both academically and athletically eligible had he or she remained at the two-year institution.

Exceptions to the Residence Requirement for 2-4 Transfers

- Only qualifiers may use an exception.
- Discontinued/nonsponsored sport exception.
 - Divisions I and II.
 - The two-year institution attended immediately prior to transfer:
 - Dropped the student-athlete's sport from its program; or
 - Never sponsor the sport on the intercollegiate level while the student-athlete was in attendance there.
 - Must have 2.000 grade-point-average at the two-year institution to use this exception.

More 2-4 Exceptions

- Nonrecruited student-athletes' exception – Division II only.
 - Not recruited by certifying institution.
 - Did not receive athletics aid.
 - Did not participate in countable athletically related activities except limited preseason tryouts.
 - Eligible for admission at the Division II institution prior to enrollment at the two-year institution.
 - **Qualifiers only.**

More 2-4 Exceptions

- Two-year nonparticipation exception – Divisions II and III now and Division I August 1, 2006, (Proposal No. 2005-55).
 - No intercollegiate practice or competition for two years prior to the date the student-athlete practices or competes for the certifying institution.
 - No practice or competition in noncollegiate amateur competition while enrolled as a full-time student.
 - Does not include time prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment.
 - **Qualifiers only.**



Case Studies —
Two-Year College Transfers

Case Study — Division I Ricky - Nonqualifier

- Ricky competed in football at a two-year institution.
- He attended for five full-time semesters.
- Earned 60 hours, received his AA and had a 2.08 grade-point-average at the two-year institution.
- Transfers to a Division I institution.
- Only 48 hours are accepted and has a 2.000 transfer grade-point-average.

Case Study — Division I

- During Ricky's last semester at the two-year institution he enrolled in 12 hours, but only needed three hours to complete his AA, so he withdrew from the other nine hours during the middle of the term.
- Ricky wants to be a football coach when he graduates, so he chose the Kinesiology degree program which requires 128 hours.

Case Study — Division I Ricky — Nonqualifier

- Does Ricky meet the transfer requirements?
- Does Ricky meet the progress-toward-degree requirements?
- Can Ricky receive financial aid, practice and compete at the Division I institution?

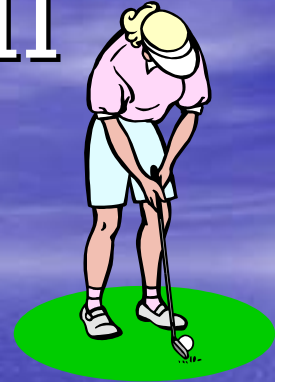
Case Study — Division I

Ricky — Nonqualifier

- Does Ricky meet the transfer requirements?
 - Yes, five semesters, AA degree, 48 transfer hours and a 2.000 grade-point-average.
- Does Ricky meet the progress-toward-degree requirements?
 - No, he did not pass six hours his last full-time term of enrollment.
 - He also would not have 40 percent.
 - $48/128 = 37.5$ percent.
- Can Ricky receive financial aid, practice and compete at the Division I institution?
 - Financial aid – Yes.
 - Practice – Yes.
 - Compete – No.

Case Study — Divisions I and II

Monica — Qualifier



- Monica attended Central Perk Community College for three full-time semesters (2004-05 and fall 2005).
- She completed 24 hours of transferable credits with a 2.345 grade-point-average.
- Will Monica be eligible at a Division I or II institution?

Case Study — Divisions I and II Monica — Qualifier

- Division I or II – not eligible to compete.
 - She needs an average of 12 hours of transferable credits per term of attendance.
 - She attended three terms; therefore she needs 36 hours.
 - She has only 24 transferable credits.
 - She can practice and receive aid (qualifier), but cannot compete.



Case Study — Divisions I and II

Ross — Nonqualifier

- Ross attended Community College of New York and completed his AA degree in fall 2005 term after three full-time terms.
- He will have 51 hours of transferable credits with a 2.280 grade-point-average and will have 40 percent of his degree completed.
- He has practiced, but not played on the Community College team.
- Will he be able to play basketball in spring 2006 for Division I or II?

Case Study — Divisions I and II Ross — Nonqualifier

- Division I - Ross will not be eligible to play basketball in spring 2006.
 - He meets the transfer requirements (AA, 48 transferable credits, 2.000 grade-point-average, three semesters in residence), but he cannot compete in Division I basketball due to the midyear transfer rule.
- Division II - Ross is eligible to play basketball spring 2006.
 - He meets the requirements by completing his AA and attended for at least two full-time semesters.



Case Study — Divisions I and II

Rachel — Qualifier

- Rachel attended ABC Community College for three full-time terms during 2004-05 and fall 2005. She competed on the gymnastics team the entire time.
- She wishes to transfer to a four-year institution in spring 2006. She presents 39 transferable credits and has a 2.89 grade-point-average.
- Is Rachel immediately eligible to compete in gymnastics at a Division I or II institution in spring 2006?

Case Study — Divisions I and II

Rachel — Qualifier

- Division I: Has three terms (needs one) and 39 hours (needs 36) and 2.89 (needs 2.000). Meets rule.
- Division II: Has three terms (needs two), 39 hours (needs 36) and a 2.89 grade-point-average (needs 2.000). She needs the 36 and the 2.000 grade-point-average because she does not have her AA. Meets rule.

BUT...



Case Study — Divisions I and II (Continued)

- Divisions I and II - A student-athlete cannot compete in the championship segment at two different institutions in the same academic year.
- Even though Rachel meets the academic components of the transfer rule, the competition in year of transfer legislation prevents her from competing the rest of the season at the four-year institution.
- What if Rachel played softball?

4-2-4 College Transfers

- Transfer requirements.
- Exceptions.

4-2-4 College Transfers — Division I

- Complete an average of at least 12 hours of transferable credits for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year institution following the transfer from the four-year institution most recently attended;
 - *Effective August 1, 2006.*
- 2.000 grade-point-average in transferable credits;
- Graduated from the two-year institution (AA); and
- One calendar year lapse from the time the student-athlete left the previous four-year institution.

4-2-4 College Transfers — Division II

- Apply the 2-4 transfer requirements.

4-2-4 College Transfers – Division I & II Exceptions

- Return to original institution – Division II only.
 - Student-athlete returns to the four-year institution from which he or she transferred to the two-year institution.
 - Student-athlete may not have an unfulfilled residency requirement at the time of transfer from the four-year institution.
 - **Qualifiers only.**

4-2-4 College Transfers — Division I Exceptions

- Discontinued/nonsponsored sport.
 - Student-athlete's initial four-year institution never sponsored the student's sport while the student was in attendance
 - provided the student never had attended any other four-year institution that offered intercollegiate competition in that sport.

4-2-4 College Transfers — Division III

- If a student-athlete is a 4-2-4 and did participate, the student would have had to:
 - Either be academically or athletically eligible had he or she remained at the four year institution; or
 - Successfully completed 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of transferable credits and spent at least two semesters or three quarters at the two-year institution.

4-2-4 College Transfers — Division III Exceptions

- Two-year nonparticipation exception.
 - For a consecutive two-year period immediately before the date on which the student-athlete practices or plays at the certifying institution, the student cannot:
 - Practice or play in intercollegiate competition.
 - Practice or play organized noncollegiate amateur competition while enrolled as a full-time student at a collegiate institution.



Case Studies —
4-2-4 College Transfers

Case Study



- Enrolled at four-year Institution A in 2003-04 and competed.
- Transferred to two-year Institution B in 2004-05 and competed. Did not receive AA degree.
- Wishes to return to Institution A in 2005-06.
- Does Michael have to serve a year of residence?

Case Study Answer



- Division I: Even though he does not meet the 4-2-4 requirements (no AA), he does not have to serve a year in residence, because he is returning to his original institution.
- Division II: Treat as 2-4. Meets requirements for the return to the original institution exception, which can be used if he doesn't have 24 transferable credits and a 2.000 grade-point-average at the two-year institution.
- Division III: Had to have been academically and athletically eligible had he remained, OR if not, 24 transferable credits from the two-year institution.

Review with Student-Athletes

- NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse certification status.
- What division is he or she transferring to?
- Apply the appropriate rule.
- General rule applies unless an exception can be used.
 - Must be a qualifier to meet an exception.

Institution Specific Considerations

- Institution's policy for transferable credits and grade-point-average.
- Institution's available degree programs.
- Institution and/or conference may have more stringent eligibility standards.
- Student-athlete must also meet institution's admissions criteria.

Avenues of Assistance

- NCAA Divisions I/II/III Manuals.
- NCAA Divisions I/II/III Transfer Guide.
- Legislative Services Database for the Internet.
- Compliance coordinator at four-year institution.
- NCAA national office.