

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 started 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:

You can practice.
 You can receive athletically related financial aid.
 You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+

If No to at least one:

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:

You can practice.
 You can receive athletically related financial aid.
 You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+

If No to at least one:

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 credit hours for each full-time term at the two-year school? These credits must be transferable toward your degree at the four-year school.
- Earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours?

If Yes to all:

You can practice.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*

If No to at least one:

You can practice.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.
You cannot play until you complete one full academic year in 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.

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 credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school that can be transferred to your degree at the four-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours.

If Yes to 1 and 2a or 2b:

You can practice.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*

If No to 1 or 2:

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.

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 credit hours for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year school that can be transferred to your degree at the four-year school **AND** earn a GPA of 2.000 in those transferable credit hours.

If Yes to 1 and 2a or 2b:

You can practice.
You can receive athletically related financial aid.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*

If No to 1 or 2:

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.

2-4 and you want to go to Division III

At any college, did you:

- Practice or play in intercollegiate sports?

If Yes:

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.

If No:

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 Bono Community College for two full semesters during the 2007-08 academic year and continued there for the fall term of 2008. (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 Bono for three terms, she needed 36 credit hours that would transfer toward her degree to be eligible ($12 \times 3 = 36$). 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 Bono (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 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 satisfactorily 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 2007-08 and the 2008 fall term. He earned his AA degree after the 2008 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 2009 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 2009 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 2009 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 2009 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.

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.