

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 credit hours for each term of full-time attendance that can be transferred toward your degree at the four-year school?*
- 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: |
|--|---|
| <p>You can practice.</p> <p>You can receive athletically related financial aid.</p> <p>You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+</p> | <p>You can practice.</p> <p>You can receive athletically related financial aid.</p> <p>You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*</p> |

* 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 credit hours for each term of full-time attendance that can be transferred toward your degree at the four-year school?*
- 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: |
|--|---|
| <p>You can practice.</p> <p>You can receive athletically related financial aid.</p> <p>You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*+</p> | <p>You can practice if you have completed one academic year in all your colleges combined.</p> <p>You can receive athletically related financial aid if you completed one academic term at the two-year school.</p> <p>You cannot play until you complete one full academic year of residence.*</p> |

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

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+ 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 or a partial qualifier...

At the two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two-semester 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 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 of residence.*

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

If you were a nonqualifier...

At the two-year school, did you:

1. Complete at least two-semester 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 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 of residence.*

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

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?

If Yes:

You can practice.
You can play right away during the first year after you transfer.*

If No:

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 section below 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 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 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 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 2008-09, 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 2009-10 and was on the swim team there as well. He did not receive an AA degree.

Now in 2010-11, 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.

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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.