



NCAA DIVISION I TRANSFER FAQ

The following questions and scenarios are designed to help student-athletes who are currently enrolled at a Division I school understand the factors that will impact their ability to immediately compete for another Division I school if they transfer. As always, student-athletes are encouraged to seek assistance from their campus compliance administrator(s) to best understand how these factors would apply to their particular circumstances. Student-athletes may also contact NCAA customer service at 317-917-6008 for general rules education. Please visit ncaa.org/transfer to view NCAA transfer guides and additional resources.

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Permissible Communication

Q1: What steps must a Division I student-athlete take to speak to other schools about transferring?

A1: Division I student-athletes must complete the [Division I Transfer Module](#) and notify their current school in writing of their desire to be entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal. Student-athletes may not speak to other schools about transferring directly or indirectly through others (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor, former teammates) until they receive notice that they have been input into the Transfer Portal. Please consult the [Division I Notification of Transfer](#) resource.

- » **Undergraduate students:** The majority of undergraduate student-athletes in Division I may only be entered into the Transfer Portal during the sport-specific [transfer window](#) for their sport. A campus compliance administrator will clarify when an undergraduate student-athlete is able to be entered into the Transfer Portal during a particular time of year, including whether any exceptions apply to a student-athlete's circumstances (e.g., their head coach takes a new job).
- » **Postgraduate students:** Student-athletes who are on track to complete their undergraduate degree by end of the year (e.g., two semesters) may be entered into the Transfer Portal at any time.

Q2: What happens if communications occur with athletics staff or boosters at the Division I school to which a student-athlete ultimately transfers prior to when the student-athlete first appeared in the Transfer Portal?

A2: Communicating with another Division I school's athletics staff prior to entering the Transfer Portal can jeopardize a student-athlete's future eligibility at that school. Existing recruiting rules prohibit communicating with a student-athlete who is enrolled at another Division I school prior to the student-athlete appearing in the Transfer Portal. These rules extend to indirect contact made by third parties on the student-athlete's behalf (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor, former teammates). Certain violations of these rules can constitute a significant breach of conduct as it relates to the NCAA infractions process.

Transfer Eligibility

Q3: Is a student-athlete who enters the Transfer Portal automatically eligible to compete at another Division I school?

A3: No. Entry into the Transfer Portal is required for Division I student-athletes to be recruited by other schools, but they still must meet other criteria and be academically eligible at their new school to compete immediately.

Q4: How do most undergraduate Division I student-athletes become eligible to compete immediately at another Division I school the first time they transfer?

A4: Most first-time undergraduate Division I transfer student-athletes who compete immediately for another Division I school qualify for the one-time transfer exception. In order to meet the criteria of the one-time transfer exception, an undergraduate student-athlete transferring from another Division I school must:

- » Enter the Transfer Portal during their sport-specific transfer window;
- » Leave their current school academically eligible; and
- » Certify in writing, along with their new head coach, they did not have direct or indirect communication with the new school's athletics staff prior to entering the Transfer Portal.

Q5: When does a Division I student-athlete typically know if they will be academically eligible to qualify for the one-time transfer exception?

A5: The academic-eligibility criteria for the one-time transfer exception are based on the student-athlete's academic record when they actually transfer to the new school, not when they enter the Transfer Portal (which often occurs during an in-progress semester or quarter). A student-athlete who fails to pass the courses necessary to maintain their academic eligibility during their last term prior to transferring will likely jeopardize their ability to use the one-time transfer exception.

Q6: Does a student-athlete need to transfer enough academic credit to their new Division I school to compete immediately, even if they meet the one-time transfer-exception criteria?

A6: Yes. Any undergraduate student-athlete transferring after their second year of college or later will need to transfer enough academic credit to their new Division I school to be academically eligible to compete. This requirement is separate from and in addition to meeting the one-time transfer-exception criteria.

Campus compliance and academic administrators are best suited to evaluate a student-athlete's academic record and indicate if they are on track to meet these academic requirements based on the school's own transfer policies, the student-athlete's enrollment history and sport.

Change of Major or Degree

Q7: Will a student-athlete have to change majors or degree program if they transfer schools?

A7: It is possible that transferring may limit a student-athlete's ability to stay eligible to compete in their current major or degree due to various factors like their academic record to date, how far along the student-athlete is into their degree progression, and the academic offerings of the school to which they want to transfer. A student-athlete should speak to campus compliance and academic advisors at the schools they are considering to figure out whether they will be able to stay in their desired degree or major should they ultimately transfer.

Multiple Transfers

Q8: Can a student-athlete who has transferred previously out of a four-year school compete immediately at a third or fourth Division I school if they are still an undergraduate student?

A8: Most student-athletes who have previously transferred from another four-year school will not qualify for the one-time transfer exception. As a result, most undergraduate student-athletes will be required to attend their new Division I school for one academic year as a full-time student before being able to compete. A [transfer waiver](#) process remains available for undergraduate transfer student-athletes who are able to document they needed to transfer schools under specific, limited circumstances.

Student-athletes should discuss with their campus compliance administrator whether any other transfer exceptions or eligibility options may be available based on their own circumstances.

Postgraduate Transfer Eligibility

Q9: What criteria does a student-athlete who has graduated with their baccalaureate degree need to meet to be eligible as postgraduate student at another Division I school?

A9: A student-athlete who graduates with remaining athletics eligibility may use their remaining eligibility at another Division I school provided:

- » Request to enter the Transfer Portal by May 1 (fall/winter sports) or July 1 (spring sports), or by the final day of their sport-specific transfer window, whichever occurs later;
- » Enroll as a full-time postgraduate student; and
- » Meet a Division I transfer exception or qualify for a waiver that may be applied by the school in which they enroll.

Disclaimer: This document and other NCAA transfer guides and resources are intended to address frequently asked questions related to the NCAA Division I one-time transfer exception and are for educational purposes only. A campus compliance administrator must certify student-athlete transfer eligibility. General guidance and information for students considering transferring can be found at [ncaa.org/transfer](https://www.ncaa.org/transfer).