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.
  – \(\frac{48}{128} = 37.5\) 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…
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.