

# Four-Year Transfers 101

The general rule is someone who transfers from a four-year institution to another four-year institution must serve an academic year in residence (two full-time semesters) unless the student-athlete can use an NCAA transfer exception. See the four-year transfer exceptions by clicking [here](#). The following flow chart helps clarify which direction and what rules/guidelines apply to a specific situation when an athletics scholarship student-athlete wants to transfer.

## UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFERS

Athletics scholarship recipients

Is this the first transfer from a 4-year institution?

YES

NO

Use the one-time transfer exception (NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10).

The transfers must serve year in residences unless the transfers receive successful legislative relief waivers through the NCAA. The waiver guidelines include four options.

Option 1:  
[Student-athlete injury or illness](#) (See pp. 10-12)

Option 2:  
[Student-athlete mental health](#) (See pp. 12-14)

Option 3:  
[Exigent circumstances](#) (See pp. 14-16)

Option 4:  
[Diagnosed EID](#) (See pp. 16-17)

## GRADUATE TRANSFERS

Athletics scholarship recipients

Is this the first transfer from a 4-year institution?

YES

NO

Did the transfers request to enter the portal during an open window for their sports (e.g., May 1 for fall sports, July 1 for winter/spring sports)?

Use the [graduate transfer previously approved waiver \(PAW\)](#) (See pp. 11-12).

YES

NO

Use the one-time transfer exception (NCAA Bylaws 14.6.1 and 14.5.5.2.10).

Use the [graduate transfer previously approved waiver \(PAW\)](#) (See pp. 11-12).

## TRANSFER PORTAL WINDOWS

### UNDERGRADUATES

#### Fall sport student-athletes

45-day window day after championship selection day  
15-day window from May 1-15 (Football: April 15-30)

#### Winter sport student-athletes

60-day window day after championship selection day

#### Spring sport student-athletes

December 1-15  
45-day window day after championship selection day

### GRADUATES

#### Fall and winter sport student-athletes:

Through May 1 or undergraduate window listed above, whichever is later

#### Spring sport student-athletes:

Through July 1 or undergraduate window listed above, whichever is later

### CURRENT TRANSFER WINDOWS

Please click [here](#) for the current transfer window dates.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Student-athletes must maintain academic eligibility both at the institutions they leave and the ones to which they transfer.
- Student-athletes must still meet all other transfer requirements (e.g., good academic standing, no disciplinary suspensions, Title IX situations, mid-year transfer rules, etc.).
- Student-athletes who have never been on athletics aid (nor will be on athletics aid in the upcoming academic year) may use the nonscholarship transfer exception to be immediately eligible. This also means that they can enter the transfer portal at anytime.
- Student-athletes who must serve a year in residence are now able to travel with their teams to away-from-home competitions.
- Graduate transfers who must use the PAW can meet #5 as non-degree seeking graduate students taking graduate certificates that their previous institutions did not offer.
- Graduate transfers can use the PAW more than once (i.e., they can transfer to another institution without actually obtaining graduate degrees at current institutions) so long as they have time remaining on their eligibility clocks and pass six-credit hours in the most recent semester.
- Institutions cannot file legislative relief waivers for prospects. So compliance offices cannot submit any waivers to the NCAA until the prospects begin their careers at the new institutions.
- Institutions must follow the updated financial aid rules relating to undergraduate transfers. The Q&A can be found [here](#).