

**NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2020-11 – Academic Eligibility – Exceptions for Transfers
From Four-Year Colleges – One-Time Transfer Exception – Uniform Application
Question and Answer Resource
(Updated April 20, 2021)**

The following resource is designed to help the membership understand application contexts for NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2020-11.

Question No. 1: Would the uniform transfer eligibility exception be available to a student-athlete participating in any sport?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete who transfers from another four-year collegiate institution may qualify for the uniform transfer eligibility exception regardless of sport of participation.

Question No. 2: When would the uniform transfer eligibility exception first be available?

Answer: The exception could be applied to certify the eligibility of a four-year transfer student-athlete seeking to compete for their new Division I institution during the 2021-22 academic year.

Question No. 3: If adopted, could a midyear transfer who initially transferred to a new Division I institution during the 2021 spring term(s) apply the uniform transfer eligibility exception to compete for their new Division I institution during the 2021 fall term?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete satisfied the conditions of the uniform transfer eligibility exception at the time of transfer.

Question No. 4: Would the uniform transfer eligibility exception be available to a student-athlete who previously transferred from another four-year institution(s)?

Answer: No. The uniform transfer eligibility exception would only apply to a student-athlete transferring from another four-year institution for the first time, either as undergraduate or preserved for use as a postgraduate student [unless the discontinued/nonsponsored sport exception applied to the previous four-year transfer (see NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.5.5.2.6)]. Similarly, the exception would not be available to a 4-2-4-4 transfer student-athlete unless their first four-year institution discontinued or did not sponsor the student-athlete's sport consistent with Bylaw 14.5.5.2.6.

Question No. 5: May the uniform transfer eligibility exception be used by a student-athlete impacted by a head coaching change?

Answer: Yes. There would be no restrictions on the reason a student-athlete chooses to transfer, provided the student-athlete meets all the specified criteria in the uniform transfer eligibility exception.

Question No. 6: Would the uniform transfer eligibility exception impact how the NCAA Transfer Portal is used?

Answer: No. The NCAA Transfer Portal would still be used to indicate that a student-athlete has provided written notification of transfer to the current institution. However, the legislation would require a student-athlete to indicate to their current institution they have completed mandatory education related to transfer prior to providing written notification of transfer.

Question No. 7: Would there be a deadline by which a student-athlete leaving a Division I institution must enter the NCAA Transfer Portal in order to apply the uniform transfer eligibility exception?

Answer: Possibly. The proposal includes a component related to a notification of transfer date, which will be voted on separately by the NCAA Division I Council. If the notification of transfer date component is adopted, student-athletes who participate in fall or winter sports would be required to provide written notification of transfer to their previous institution by May 1 in order to apply the uniform transfer eligibility exception at a new Division I institution**. Student-athletes who participate in a spring sport would be required to provide written notification of transfer by July 1.

****May 1 date changed for 2021-22 eligibility only.** At its April 14 meeting, the Division I Council approved a blanket waiver of the May 1, 2021, deadline for fall/winter sports. As a result, student-athletes in all sports will default to the July 1 notification of transfer date in order to apply the uniform transfer eligibility exception to compete at another Division I institution during the 2021-22 academic year only.

Question No. 8: If the notification of transfer date component is adopted as a part of the uniform transfer eligibility exception, are there any exceptions for student-athletes who provide written notification of transfer after the identified dates?

Answer: Yes. If a fall or winter sport student-athlete is impacted by a head coach change or receives a reduction, cancelation or athletics aid nonrenewal between May 1 and July 1 (for a reason other than those permitted in Bylaws 15.3.4.2 or 15.3.5.1), they could still qualify for the uniform transfer exception at a new Division I institution provided the other criteria are still met.

Question No. 9: If the notification of transfer date component is adopted as a component of the uniform transfer eligibility exception, would student-athletes who

transfer at midyear be required to have notified their institution by the applicable notification of transfer dates for the previous academic year?

Answer: No. At its December meeting, the Council amended Proposal 2020-11 to note that midyear transfer student-athletes are not required to have notified their previous institution by the notification deadlines for the previous academic year. As a result, existing midyear transfer rules may apply at the new Division I institution; however, the previous academic year's notification deadlines will not impact the student-athlete's ability to qualify for the uniform transfer eligibility exception.

Question No. 10: What would happen if another Division I institution or booster are found to have had impermissible recruiting contact with a student-athlete from another four-year institution?

Answer: Existing recruiting legislation prohibits direct and indirect contact (third parties) with a four-year student-athlete enrolled at another Division I institution prior to the student-athlete appearing in the Transfer Portal. Certain violations can constitute a significant breach of conduct as it relates to the NCAA infractions process and jeopardize the student-athlete's eligibility at the institution that engaged in tampering behavior.

Additionally, in order to apply the uniform transfer eligibility exception, the student-athlete and the head coach at the certifying institution would be required to certify in writing that recruiting contact did not occur prior to student-athlete's entry into the Transfer Portal.

Question No. 11: Would the student-athlete's previous four-year institution still be required to indicate in writing that it does not object to the student-athlete being eligible to compete immediately at the new Division I institution (provide a written "release")?

Answer: No. The previous institution would not have the ability to object to the student-athlete's use of the uniform transfer eligibility exception.

Question No. 12: Would the exception apply to a student-athlete who does not leave the previous institution academically eligible?

Answer: If a student-athlete is not academically eligible for reasons other than percentage of degree (e.g., fails to pass six credit hours during the student-athlete's last semester) the student-athlete would not qualify for the uniform transfer eligibility exception at another Division I institution.

Question No. 13: How would a four-year transfer student-athlete establish their academic eligibility to compete at the new Division I institution to which they transfer?

Answer: The proposal would not change progress-toward-degree requirements for transfer student-athletes. Consistent with existing legislation, a transfer student-athlete would need to meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements prior to being eligible to compete at the new institution. The academic requirements a student-athlete must meet depends on the student-athlete's previous terms of enrollment, sport and timing of when the student-athlete transfers institutions (e.g., fall semester or midyear).

Question No. 14: Would access to the uniform transfer eligibility exception allow all student-athletes to compete for two institutions during the same academic year?

Answer: No. Existing midyear transfer and postseason rules would continue to apply to most student-athletes whose championship season concludes during the winter or spring.

Question No. 15: How would the uniform transfer eligibility exception impact a team's NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate, specifically the retention component?

Answer: The uniform transfer eligibility exception would not affect how a transfer is accounted for in a team's APR; however, the working group referred review of how APR policy (including the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalty structure) fairly accounts for a uniform transfer eligibility exception to the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics. To clarify, APR policy, unlike legislation, is overseen by the Committee on Academics and can be modified outside of the Division I legislative cycle.

Question No. 16: Would the uniform transfer eligibility exception impact intra-conference transfer policies?

Answer: No. Conferences maintain the authority to have their own intra-conference policies; however, in light of the proposal to adopt a uniform transfer eligibility exception at the national level, conferences should be positioned to review their existing transfer-related policies.

Question No. 17: How would the uniform transfer eligibility exception be certified?

Answer: Like all other four-year transfer exceptions, Division I institutions would be responsible for certifying the criteria of the uniform transfer eligibility exception are met by a four-year transfer student-athlete prior to allowing the student-athlete to compete during the 2021-22 academic year.

Question No. 18: If the uniform transfer eligibility exception is adopted by the Division I Council, will there still be a legislative relief waiver process for student-athletes who do not qualify for the exception?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 19: Would the uniform transfer eligibility exception impact incoming transfer student-athletes from two-year colleges (e.g., 2-4 or 4-2-4 transfers)?

Answer: No. Transfer student-athletes from two-year colleges would remain subject to the transfer requirements outlined in Bylaw 14.5.4 or Bylaw 14.5.6. Two-year college or 4-2-4 transfers who do not meet these legislative requirements have access to a separate waiver process articulated in the [Directive Regarding the Standard of Review of Two-Year College Transfer Waivers](#).

Question No. 20: If the notification of transfer date component is adopted as a component of the uniform transfer eligibility exception, what notification date would a multi-sport student-athlete (e.g., football and outdoor track and field) be held to in order to potentially qualify for the proposed uniform transfer eligibility exception at another Division I institution?

Answer: If a student-athlete competed in both a fall/winter sport (e.g., football) and a spring sport (e.g., outdoor track and field) at their previous institution the year preceding transfer, they could utilize the spring sport notification date (July 1) for purposes of qualifying for the uniform transfer eligibility exception.