

Tracking Transfer in Division I Men's Basketball

[National data](#) indicate that many of today's college graduates transfer at some point on their way to a degree. This is true among student-athletes as well, and may be most visible in Division I men's basketball (MBB). Since 2015, NCAA Research has been tracking the destinations of Division I men's basketball transfers and uncovered some interesting findings:

- The rate of transfer between four-year colleges in Division I MBB is high relative to most other sports, but not the highest ([see tables in full report](#)).
- The number of 4-4 transfers on Division I MBB squads has increased in each of the past two years (blue line in Figure 1). This is coupled with a relatively stable percent of two-year college transfers in MBB (red line).
- That said, NCAA Research has found that about 40% of all MBB players who enter Division I directly out of high school depart their initial school by the end of their sophomore year.

Where do these transfers end up? Transfers were identified by merging the 2019 Division I Basketball Transfers list from the Verbal Commits [website](#) with all Division I men's basketball student-athletes listed in the 2018-19 Transfer Portal. 694 of the players on the list were identified as transferring to another school and joining the basketball team. 54% of the transfers went to another Division I school (often to a less competitive program), while the others typically left for Division II, NAIA or two-year colleges (Figure 2).

Generally, over 80% of all MBB transfers say they leave for athletic reasons. Absent proper academic planning, many of these student-athletes lose credits upon transfer and register lower Academic Progress Rates (APRs) and graduation rates at their new schools than seen among non-transfers.

Figure 1: Trends in the Proportion of Men's Basketball Transfers in Division I APR Cohorts

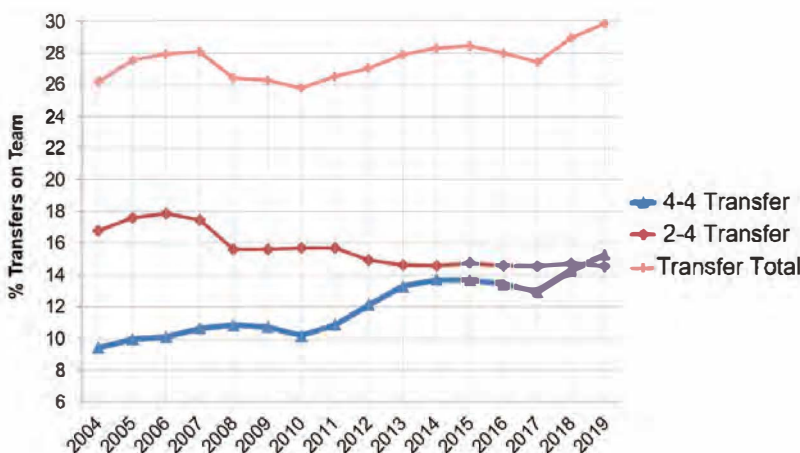
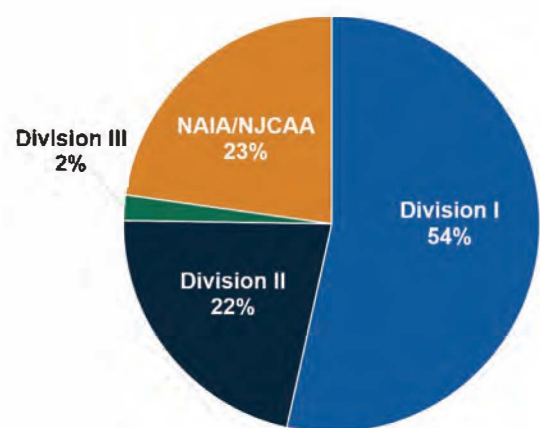


Figure 2: Transfer Destination of Division I Men's Basketball Players



Note: Destination of the 694 confirmed transfers as of 9/15/19.

[Powerpoint describing methods and data in more detail.](#)