



DESTINATION OF 2019 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL TRANSFERS

January 2020



Summary of Findings

- ▶ Although the Division I Transfer Portal opened in October 2018, there was no substantial change in the number of transfers in Division I men's basketball from 2018 to 2019.
- ▶ Consistent with the past four years of transfer data, about half of men's basketball transfers remain in Division I, while a quarter transfer to Division II and a quarter transfer out of the NCAA (NAIA, NJCAA, etc.).
- ▶ Fewer than 1 in 10 are “up transfers” (transferring to a more prestigious program), while about 30% are “lateral transfers” and 60% are “down transfers.” This pattern has remained consistent over time.
- ▶ Of those men's basketball transfers remaining in Division I, nearly one third are so-called “graduate transfers.” This percentage has remained relatively consistent over the past four years. Graduate transfers are more likely to “up transfer” than undergraduate transfers in men's basketball.

Identifying 2019 Transfers in Division I Men's Basketball

- ▶ Transfers were identified by merging the 2019 Division I Basketball Transfers list from the Verbal Commits [website](#) (downloaded Sept. 15, 2019) with all Division I men's basketball student-athletes listed in the 2018-19 Transfer Portal.
- ▶ List destination accuracy was determined primarily through:
 - ▶ The “matriculated” institution listed in the student's status field in the Transfer Portal.
 - ▶ 2019-20 men's basketball roster of destination institution and/or student-athlete bio.
 - ▶ Secondary sources:
 - NJCAA National Letter of Intent Signee Database.
 - Official press releases from either/both institution(s).
 - Transfer student-athletes' Twitter feed or other social media footprint (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.).

Methods of Analyses

- ▶ To analyze the data, only end-of-season Division I transfers (those who entered the portal after Feb. 15, 2019) were included in the data set.
 - ▶ Cases added:
 - 63 student-athletes on the Verbal Commits list, who were not in the 2018-19 Transfer Portal.
 - 9 Transfers from Savannah State listed in the Portal as Division II due to reclassification.
 - ▶ Cases removed:
 - Midseason transfers (147). To identify these cases, we relied on the “transfer initiated” date in the Transfer Portal.
 - “Walk-ons” at either their 2018-19 or 2019-20 Division I institution (101). To identify these cases, we relied on the aid data in the Transfer Portal.
 - Those who “withdrew” from the Transfer Portal (76).
 - Those not currently on a college basketball roster (54).
 - Those not DI men’s basketball student-athletes (19, mainly DII student-athletes who were on the Verbal Commits DI list).
 - Those who did not play in 2018-19 (18).
 - Those who were duplicate entries in the Transfer Portal (11), those now pursuing professional opportunities (9), those who had retired (5), those who remained on their 2018-19 team (3) and those dismissed from their 2018-19 team (1).
- ▶ Destination coded by name and division of new institution.

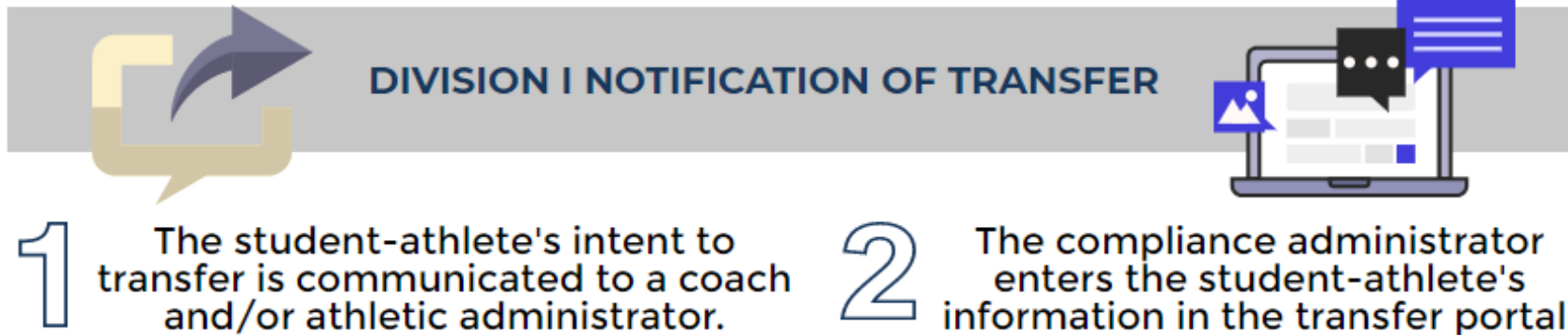
1,066 (in 2018-19 Transfer Portal)
+63 From VC list
+9 From Savannah State
-147 Midseason transfers
-101 Walk-ons
-76 Withdrew from portal
-54 No destination
-19 Not DI MBB SAs
-18 Not on '18-'19 rosters
-11 In portal twice
-9 Pursuing pro opportunities
-5 Retired
-3 Remained on '18-'19 team
-1 Dismissed from team

694 confirmed transfers



TRANSFER PORTAL

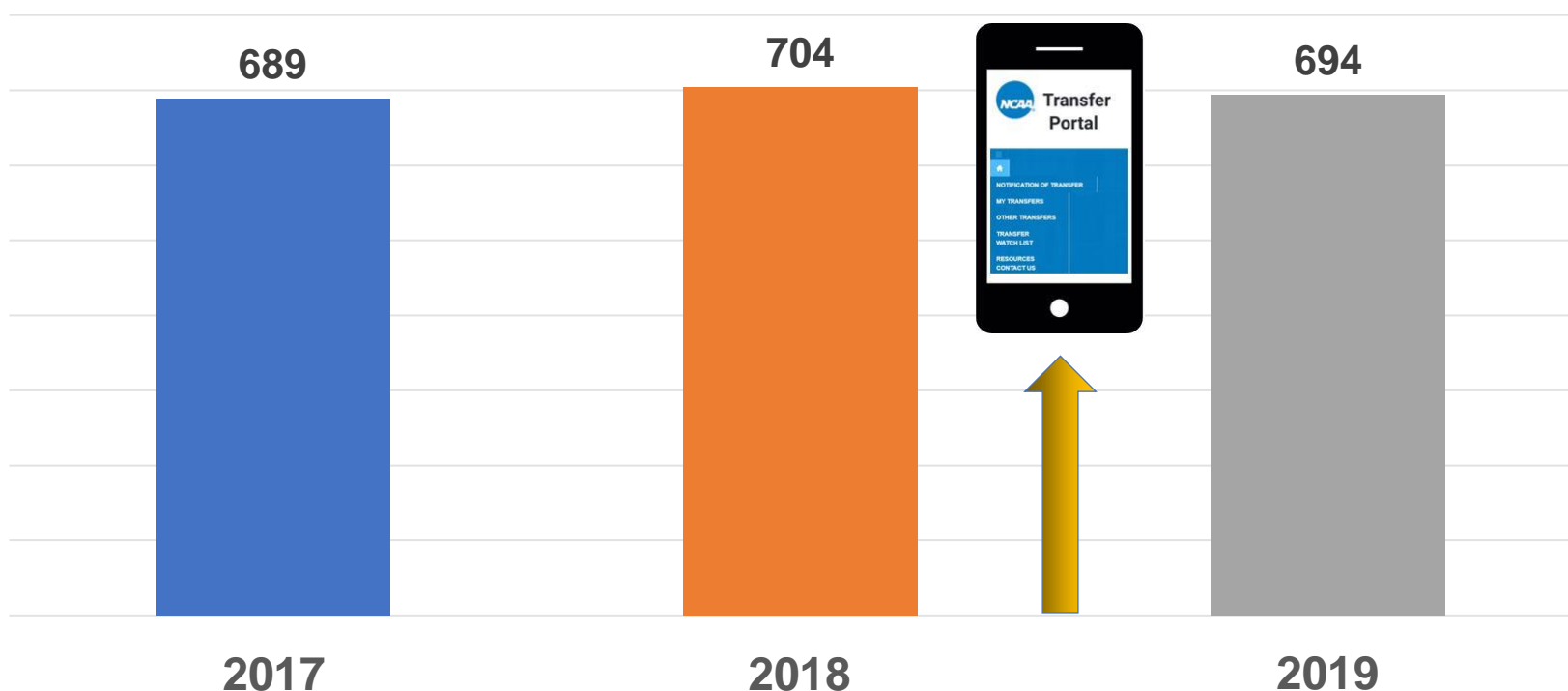
The Transfer Portal is an NCAA application to ensure compliance with notification of transfer and for compliance administrators to systematically manage the student-athlete transfer process.



Note: The Transfer Portal is not accessible to student-athletes or the general public.

Men's Basketball Transfers by the Numbers

- ▶ From 2017 to 2019, there has not been substantial change in the number of transfers in Division I men's basketball. In 2017, there were 689 transfers (12.6% of all Division I men's basketball student-athletes), in 2018 there were 704 (12.7%) and in 2019 there were 694 (12.6%).

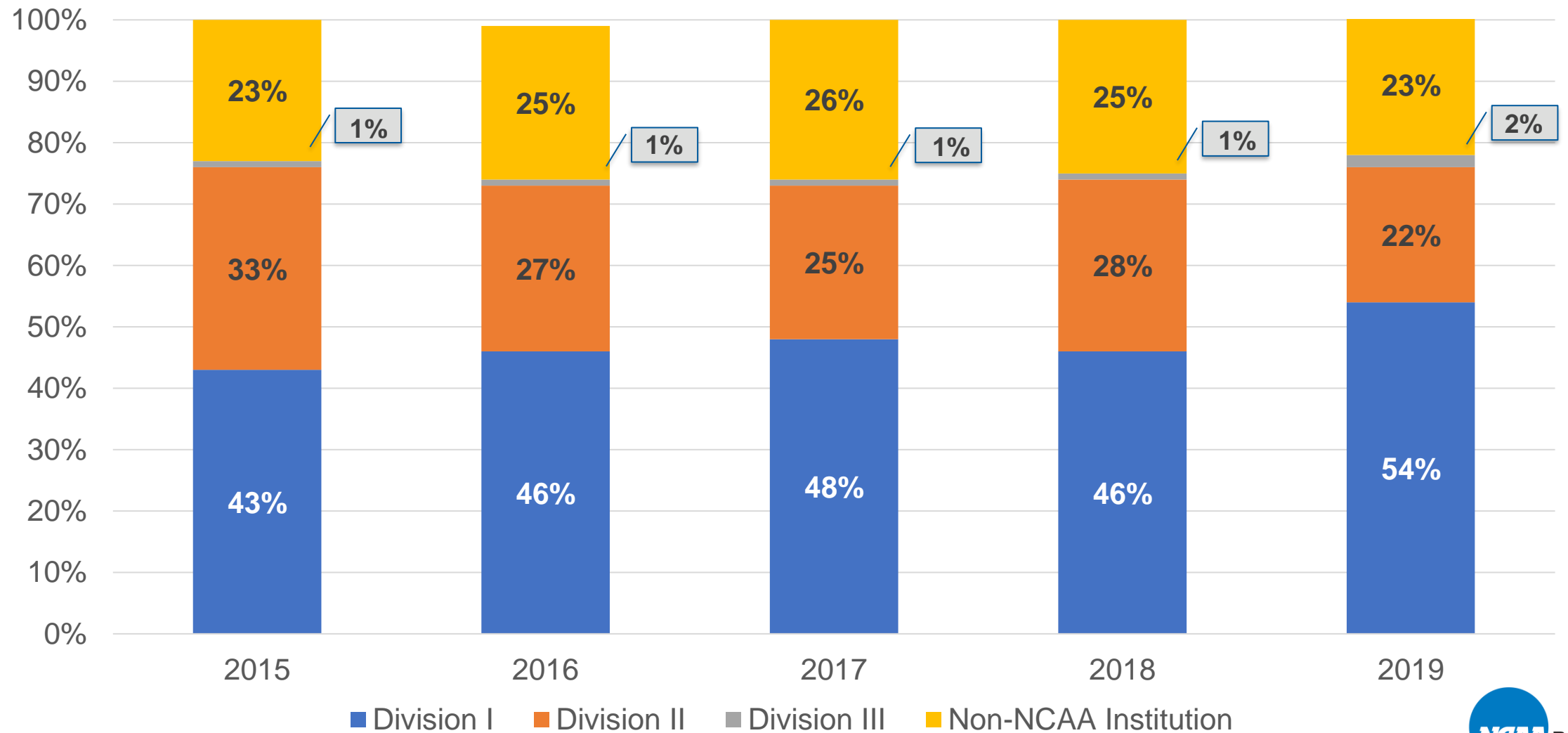


Note: 2017 is used as a baseline because that is when NCAA Research began using the Verbal Commits transfer list to track transfers.

Transfer Pathways

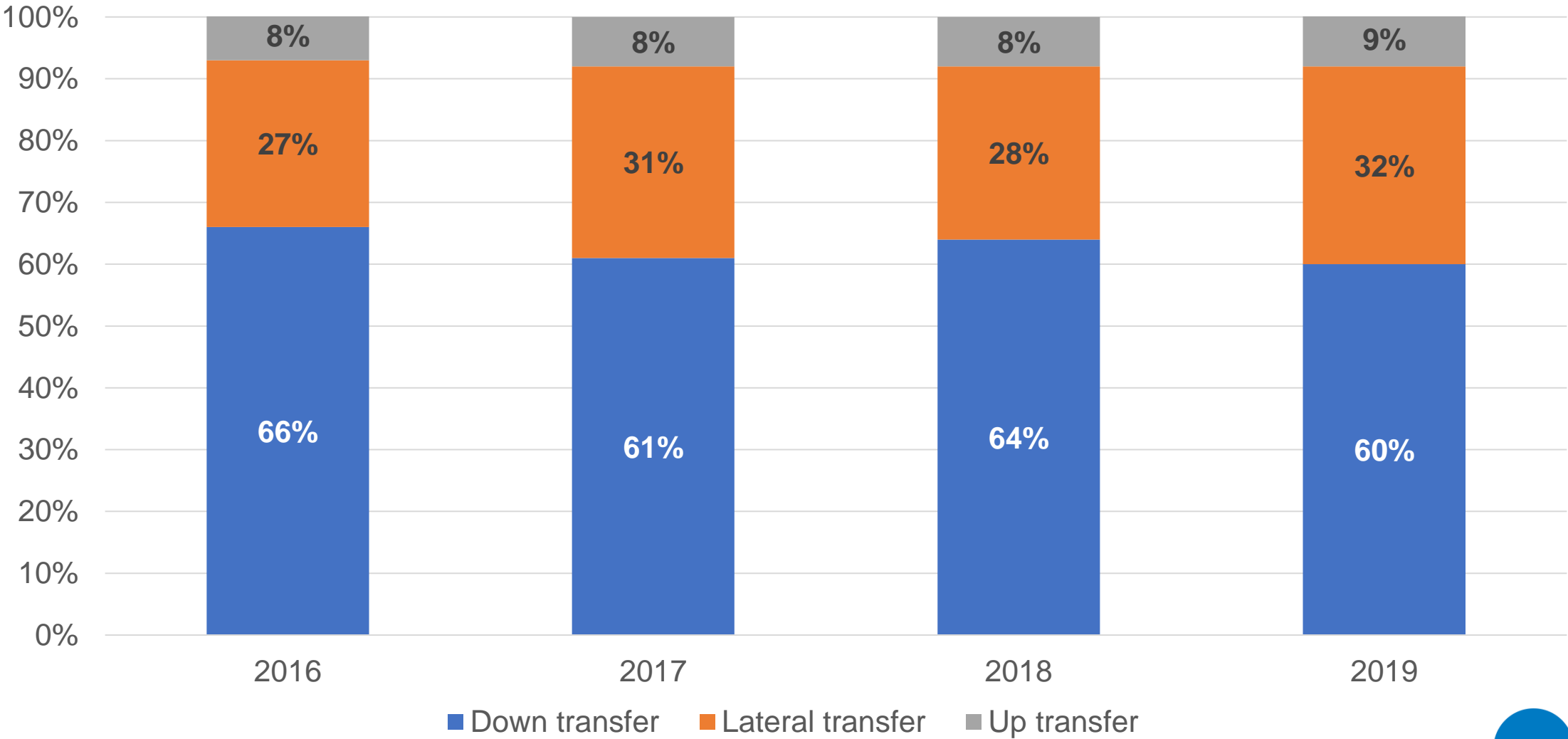
- ▶ In 2019, there was a slight uptick in the percentage of transfers remaining within Division I (from 46% in 2018 to 54% in 2019). However, consistent with the past four years of transfer data, about half of men's basketball transfers remain in Division I, while a quarter transfer to Division II and a quarter transfer out of the NCAA (NAIA, NJCAA, etc.).
- ▶ Fewer than 1 in 10 are “up transfers” (transferring to a more prestigious program), while about 30% are “lateral transfers” and 60% are “down transfers.” This pattern has remained consistent over time.
- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of transfers remaining at Division I institutions are lateral transfers, while a quarter are down transfers and 16% are up transfers. This pattern has remained consistent over the past four years.

Transfer Destination by Division



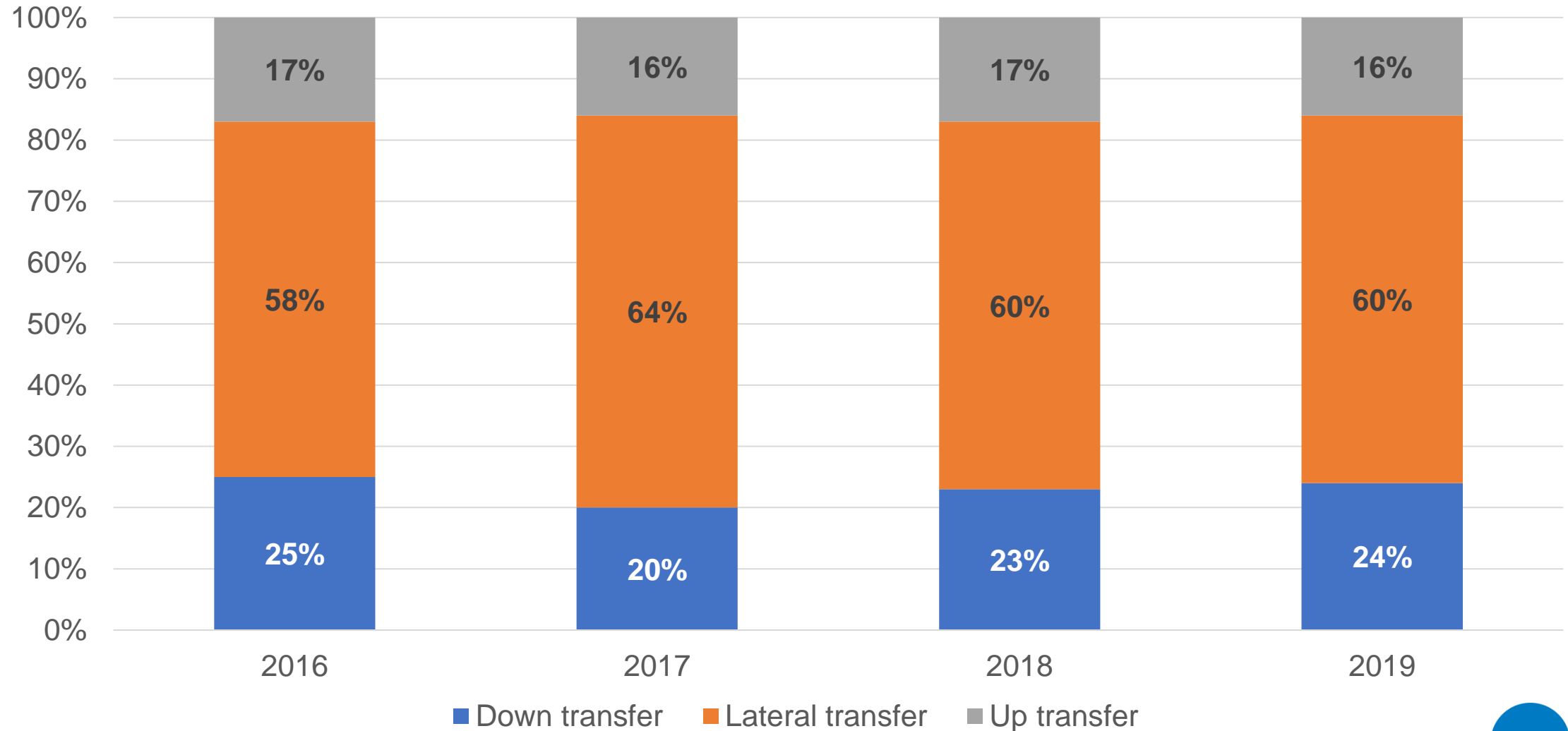
Note: The NCAA Transfer Portal became active on Oct. 15, 2018.

Directional Movement of Transfers



Note: The NCAA Transfer Portal became active on Oct. 15, 2018.

Directional Movement of Transfers Remaining in Division I

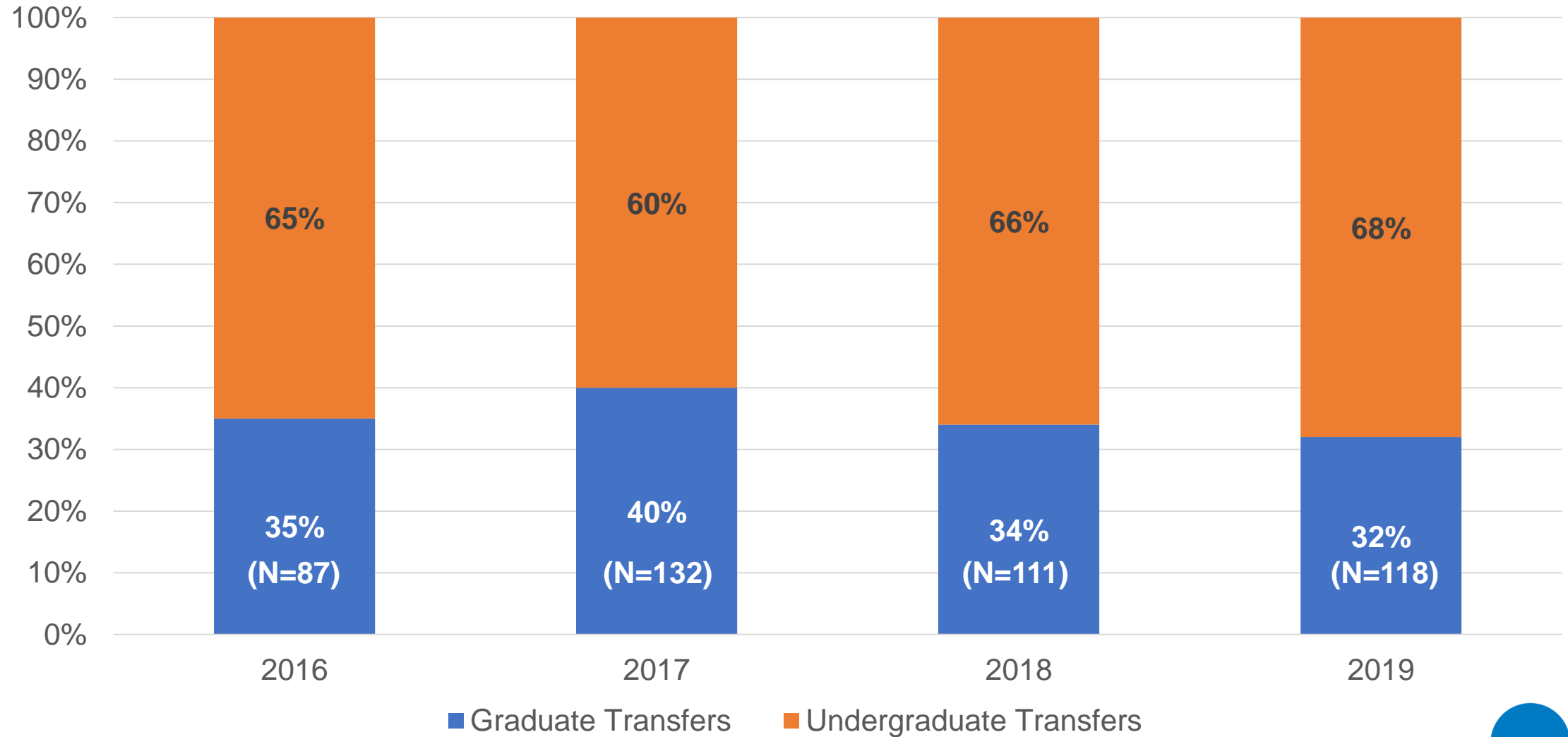


Note: The NCAA Transfer Portal became active on Oct. 15, 2018.

Pathways of Graduate Transfers

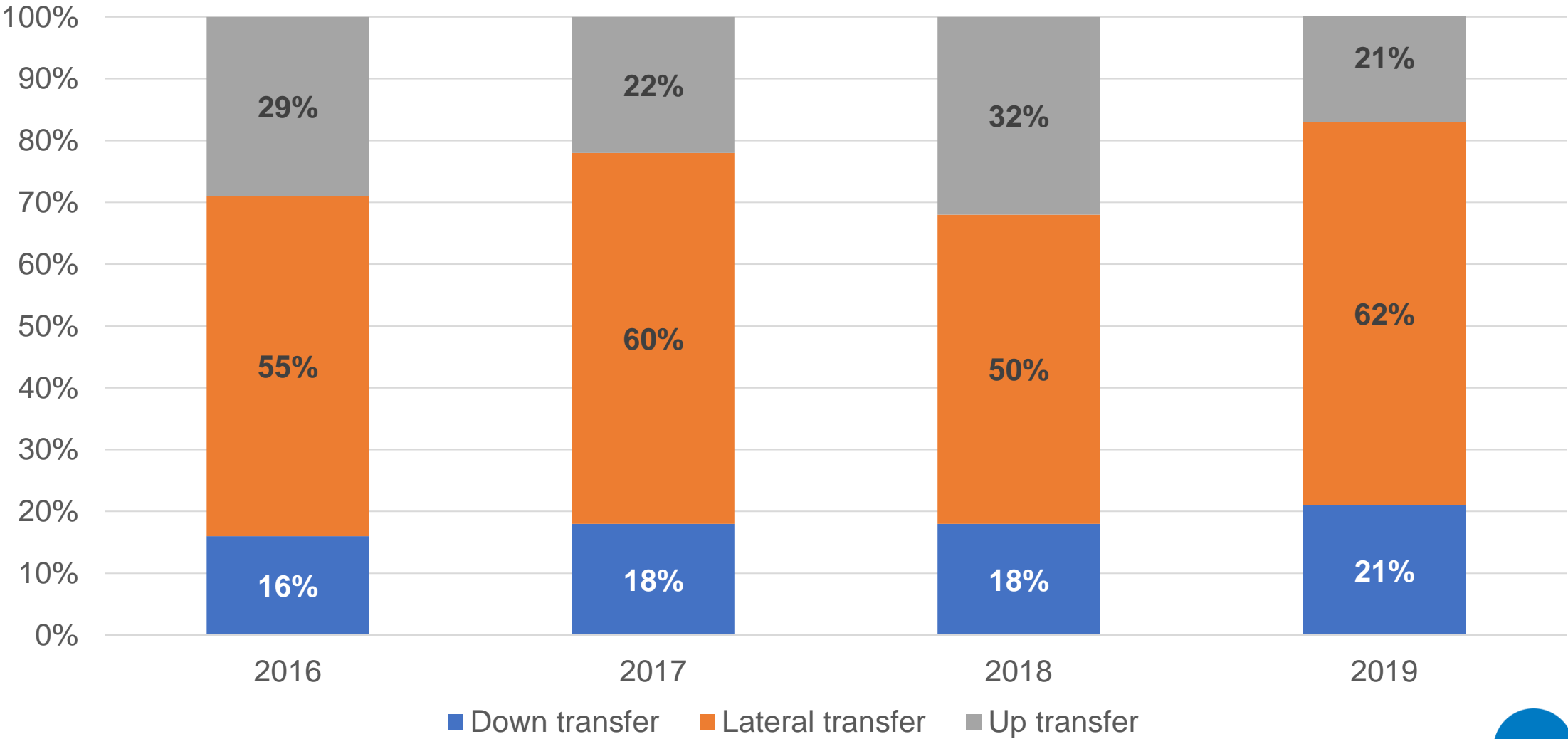
- ▶ In total, 118 Division I “graduate transfers” were identified (walk-ons excluded) among the 2019 end-of-season transfers. This is similar to the number identified in 2018 (111).
- ▶ Graduate transfers make up about a third of all transfers within Division I. This percentage has remained relatively consistent over the past four years.
- ▶ While graduate transfers are twice as likely to “up transfer” than undergraduate transfers in men’s basketball, nearly 80% of graduate transfers are either lateral or down transfers.
- ▶ Graduate transfer figures are considered draft until academic data for that year are obtained the following spring.

Percentage of Men's Basketball DI-DI Transfers by Enrollment Status



Note: The NCAA Transfer Portal became active on Oct.15, 2018.

Directional Movement of Division I Graduate Transfers



Note: The NCAA Transfer Portal became active on October 15, 2018.

Number of Transfer Departures Per Division I Team

	2018	2019
0 Transfers	59	58
1 Transfer	94	93
2 Transfers	78	90
3 Transfers	55	58
4 Transfers	43	29
5 of more Transfers	22	23

Note: 2019 numbers based on the 694 confirmed transfers, as of 12/2/19.

Detailed Methods

- ▶ NCAA Research has tracked Division I Men's Basketball transfer movement since fall 2013. From 2013-16, we relied on the Division I Men's Basketball transfer list compiled annually by Jeff Goodman at ESPN. When that list was discontinued, we relied on the Verbal Commits transfer list. In 2019, NCAA Transfer Portal data were used, in addition to the Verbal Commits list. Both lists were used in 2019 because DI student-athletes who intend to transfer out of the NCAA (e.g. to a junior college) are not required to be entered into the Transfer Portal.
- ▶ The primary goal of this project has been to assess the transfer movement of Division I men's basketball student-athletes within and out of Division I, to track trends in "graduate transfers," and to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of up transfers (transferring to a more prestigious program) within Division I.
- ▶ When Goodman/ESPN originally compiled the list, midseason transfers were on a separate list from end-of-season transfers. As such, we have tracked the movement of these end-of-season transfers only. Additionally, those who were Division I walk-ons at either the departing or receiving institution consistently have been excluded from the NCAA analyses. While walk-ons were annotated on ESPN lists, we relied on press releases and media guides to identify them on the Verbal Commits lists in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, athletics scholarship data were available in the Transfer Portal and were utilized to determine walk-on status.
- ▶ In its first year (10/15/18-7/31/19), graduate student status was an optional field in the Transfer Portal; it is now a required field. Portal data provided graduate status for 83% of the transfers within Division I. For the remaining 17% with missing data (62), we cross-referenced the Verbal Commits field noting "immediate eligibility" for these individuals. For those anticipated to have immediate eligibility, we examined bios and official press releases from the start of the 2019-20 regular season to identify graduate transfers not captured in the portal.

Technical Appendix

Determining Transfer Direction (NCAA modification of term defined by Luke Winn, *Sports Illustrated*, 2012):

▶ Up Transfer

- ▶ Transferring from a non-autonomy conference to a “major” basketball conference program (ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 or SEC) .
- ▶ Transferring from a non-“major” conference program to a perennial power outside the “major” conferences (Gonzaga or Wichita State).
- ▶ Transferring from any Division I team that has NOT won a national championship in the past 10 years to a program that has won a national championship in the past 10 years (Duke, Kentucky, Louisville, UConn, UNC, Villanova or Virginia).

▶ Lateral Transfer

- ▶ Transferring from a “major” conference program that has NOT won a national championship in past 10 years to a perennial power.
- ▶ Transferring from a “major” conference program to another “major” conference program that has NOT won a national championship in past 10 years.
- ▶ Transferring from a non-“major” conference program to another non-“major” conference program that is NOT a perennial power.

▶ Down Transfer

- ▶ Transferring from a “major” conference program to a non- “major” conference program that is NOT a perennial power.
- ▶ Transferring from a perennial power to a non- “major” conference program.
- ▶ Transferring from a program that has won a national championship in the past 10 years to program that has not done so.
- ▶ Transferring out of Division I to Division II, Division III, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.



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