

NCAA Division I Transferable Degree Credit Grade-Point Average -A Primer-

Background.

The purpose of this document is to provide an explanation of the NCAA term grade-point average (GPA) for transferable degree credit which refers to the GPA calculated using only transferable degree credits. This calculation must be done in order to determine whether or not a student-athlete transferring from a two-year college meets an exception to the academic year in residence requirement in Bylaws 14.5.4.1, 14.5.4.2 and 14.5.6. This calculation is part of the process of evaluating a transfer prospective student-athlete, even if the institution does not transfer grades with academic credit.

The notion of transferable degree credits can be traced back to the 1963 NCAA Convention. During that convention, the membership first adopted legislation requiring transfer student-athletes to present a certain number of transferable-degree credit hours to be eligible for competition at the certifying institution. The intent was to require student-athletes to take and pass academically substantive coursework at a two-year institution prior to enrollment at an NCAA member institution. In the time since the transferable-degree credit legislation was adopted, the membership has continued to adopt legislation to ensure the academic preparedness of two-year college transfer student-athletes.

Transferable Degree Credits.

Transferable degree credits are those which the institution must count if courses are accepted as degree credit in any of its colleges, schools or departments; not only those which would be accepted by the transfer student-athlete's intended degree program. It is the institution's responsibility to determine which credits are transferable degree credits based on the academic programs it offers.

Calculating the GPA for Transferable Degree Credit.

Calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit is very similar to the traditional GPA calculation (quality points/credit hours = GPA). For example, in both cases, a primary element is determining which courses must be included in the calculation. With a few exceptions, grades earned in all transferable degree credits must be used in the calculation.

One notable exception is for 2-4 and 4-2-4 transfers in men's basketball. That exception states that a maximum of two credit hours of physical education activity courses may be used in the GPA for transferable-degree credit calculation unless the transfer student-athlete is enrolling in a physical education degree program or an education degree program that requires physical education activity courses at the certifying institution. If a transfer student-athlete is

enrolling in such a degree program, then the institution may use up to the minimum amount of credits required for the specific degree program when making the calculation.

For example, if a men's basketball transfer student-athlete has 12 physical education activity-course credits taken at the two-year institution and he intends to major in biology at the four-year institution, then only two of those physical education activity-course credits may be used in the calculation of the GPA for transferable degree credit. If that same transfer student-athlete intends to major in physical education at the four-year institution, then all 12 physical education activity course credits may be used in the GPA calculation, dependent on the minimum amount of credits required for the physical education major at the four-year institution. If the four-year institution only requires a student majoring in physical education to complete six physical education activity credits to receive a degree, then only six credits may be used in the GPA calculation. In that scenario, the institution may use the highest grades earned by the student to use in the calculation.

While failed courses may not be used toward the transferable-degree credit requirements in NCAA Bylaws 14.5.4.1, 14.5.4.2 or 14.5.6, those courses must be included when calculating the GPA for transferable-degree credit GPA per Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2.

Similarly, a grade that does not meet institutional requirements for transfer credit also must be used when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit. Grades earned in courses that would not transfer to the institution, regardless of grade earned, are not used in the GPA calculation. For example, if an institution only accepts transfer courses that have a grade of C and above, the NCAA GPA for transferable-degree credit calculation would still include any transferable-degree credits with a grade of D or F.

If a student-athlete has retaken a course, only the most recent grade earned may be used when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit.

And, even if an institution limits the number of credit hours that may be transferred to the institution, the institution still must use all transferable degree credits when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit. For example, if an institution only allows 40 transferable credit hours but a student-athlete has 75 transferable degree credits on the transcript, then the GPA for transferable degree credit is calculated using all 75 transferable degree credits.

The student-athlete's complete record of coursework must be used, which includes courses taken over the summer that would exceed the summer credit limitations of Bylaw 14.5.4.2.1. It also includes all transferable degree credits earned at all two-year colleges. For this reason, it is necessary to obtain official transcripts from all two-year colleges attended by a transfer

student-athlete in order to see the actual grades earned at each school. The attachment provides legislation and interpretations of relevance.

Questions and Answers.

Question No. 1: When is a GPA for transferable degree credit calculated?

Answer: Anytime there is a student-athlete immediately transferring to a Division I institution from a two-year college, whether as a 2-4 transfer or 4-2-4 transfer.

Question No. 2: Is GPA for transferable degree credit the same as a two-year college GPA?

Answer: No. The GPA for transferable degree credit uses only transferable degree credits. Each transfer student-athlete should have a GPA for transferable degree credit calculated as part of an NCAA transfer eligibility evaluation.

Question No. 3: In what instances would the institutional and the NCAA legislated GPA for transferable degree credit be different?

Answer: If your institution has limitations on the number of transferable credit hours which is more restrictive than NCAA legislation, then two different GPA calculations should occur. One GPA would be the GPA for transferable degree credit for calculating NCAA eligibility; the other would be the GPA calculated per institutional policy.

If your institution uses a different system for transfer grades as compared to institutional grades, then there would also be discrepancies between the GPAs.

Question No. 4: How do post-secondary credits taken at the two-year college prior to full-time enrollment get used when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit?

Answer: If such credits appear on the prospective student-athlete's official transcript and the courses taken are transferable degree credits, then the post-secondary credits must be included when the GPA for transferable degree credit.

Question No. 5: How are classes with failing grades or grades that do not meet institutional regulations for transfer accounted for in GPA for transferable-degree credit calculations?

Answer: Grades in all transferable-degree credit courses are included when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit. If a prospective student-athlete receives a grade of F in a transferable-degree credit course, then he or she would receive zero quality points and the number of credit hours would be added to the number of credit hours used in the calculation. Therefore, if a prospective student-athlete fails a three-credit hour course, zero quality points would be added to the numerator and three credit hours would be added to the denominator.

Even if an institutional policy mandates that only courses with certain grades are transferable for credit, all transferable-degree credit courses, including those with unacceptable grades must still be used in the GPA for transferable degree calculation. So, if a prospective student-athlete receives a grade of D in a three-credit hour course that is transferable degree credit but the institution doesn't accept D grades for transfer, the course would still be included as one quality point and three credit hours when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit.

Question No. 6: What is considered to be a physical education activity credit?

Answer: Physical education activity courses are courses which primarily involve body movement produced by skeletal muscles resulting in energy expenditures through organized group or class activities. Examples include but are not limited to, swimming, team sports, weight lifting, etc.

Question No. 7: How are transferable degree credits earned at multiple two-year colleges used in GPA for transferable-degree credit calculations?

Answer: For 2-4 transfers, an institution must consider a student-athlete's complete two-year college record prior to transfer to the four-year institution when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit. For 4-2-4 transfers, an institution must consider a student-athlete's complete two-year record following transfer from the four-year institution most recently attended. To help ensure accurate calculations, an institution should use all official transcripts from the student-athlete's applicable collegiate enrollment.

Case Study No. 1

The following is a transcript from Local Community College for 2-4 transfer Joe Varsity, a baseball prospective student-athlete. He plans to attend Division I State University and will declare a major in accounting. Classes marked with an asterisk are transferable degree credits and those courses shaded in grey are not accepted at State for any of its schools, colleges or departments. Joe's overall cumulative GPA at Local Community was 2.110 (114 quality points/54 credit hours).

Fall 2009	Credits	Grade	QP	Fall 2010	Credits	Grade	QP
Basic Stats*	3	B	9	Computer Concepts*	3	C	6
Western Civ*	3	C	6	Composition and Rhetoric II*	3	C	6
Spanish I*	3	C	6	Social Problems*	3	B	9
Intro to College Life	2	A	8	College Algebra*	3	D	3
Badminton*	1	A	4	Basketball*	1	A	4
Spring 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Spring 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
Composition and Rhetoric*	3	D	3	Elements of Biology*	3	C	6
First Aid*	2	B	6	Intro to Fiction*	3	C	6
Psych 101*	3	D	3	US History*	3	C	6
Fine Arts*	3	D	3	Intro to Sociology*	3	C	6
Coaching Basics*	1	A	4	Humanities for Theatre*	3	D	3
Bowling*	1	A	4				
Archery*	1	B	3				

Calculations:

Quality Points: $(9+6+6+4+3+6+3+3+4+4+3+6+6+9+3+4+6+6+6+6+3) = 106$

Transferable Degree Credits: $(3+3+3+1+3+2+3+3+1+1+1+3+3+3+3+1+3+3+3+3+3) = 52$

Note: Eight quality points and two degree credits were not included in the calculation because they are not transferable degree credits.

$(106/52) = 2.038$

$(\text{Quality Points}/\text{Transferable Degree Credits}) = \text{GPA for transferable degree credit.}$

Joe's GPA for transferable degree credit is a 2.038 (106 quality points/52 credit hours). State will accept all but two credits taken at Local Community. Note that while Joe is going to be an

accounting major, classes such as first aid and coaching basics may be included when calculating the GPA for transferable degree credit because those classes are part of some degree program at State, even if they are not a part of Joe's specific degree program. While there are other transfer qualifications Joe must meet, he does have the minimum 2.000 GPA for transferable degree credit to meet the GPA requirements to avoid an academic year of residence as a transfer student-athlete.

Case Study No. 2

The transcript below is from Valley Tech Community College for Ken Fairway, a 2-4 transfer student-athlete in the sport of golf. He plans to attend City College, a small liberal arts college, and will declare a major in human behavior. Classes with an asterisk are transferable degree credits and classes shaded in grey do not qualify as transferable degree credits. Ken's overall cumulative GPA at Valley Tech is 2.690 (143/53).

Fall 2009	Credits	Grade	QP	Fall 2010	Credits	Grade	QP
English 100*	3	D	3	British Lit Thru Film*	3	B	9
Calc*	3	B	9	Advanced Mechanical Engineering	3	A	12
Engineering Principles I	3	A	12	Architectural Drafting Principles	3	A	12
Intro to Architecture	3	A	12	Honors Physics	3	B	9
CPR Certification*	1	A	4				
Spring 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Spring 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
English 200*	3	D	3	Basic Speech*	3	D	3
Quantum Physics	3	A	12	Mass Communication*	3	D	3
Engineering Principles II	3	A	12	Psychology*	3	C	6
Calculus for Engineering	3	A	12	Sociology*	3	C	6
Western Civilization*	3	F	0	First Aid*	1	A	4

Calculations:

Quality Points: $(3+9+4+3+0+9+3+3+6+6+4) = 50$

Transferable Degree Credits: $(3+3+1+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+1) = 29$

Note: 93 quality points and 24 degree credits were not included in the calculation because they are not transferable degree credits.

$(50/29) = 1.720$

$(\text{Quality Points}/\text{Transferable Degree Credits}) = \text{GPA for transferable degree credit.}$

While Ken earned above average grades for majority of courses he took at Valley Tech, those courses do not transfer to City. City is a liberal arts school; therefore, engineering and architecture courses are not accepted by any of its degree programs. He does not meet the

minimum GPA for his transferable degree credit of 2.000; therefore, he does not meet the GPA requirement to avoid an academic year of residence at City. Please note that while Ken earned a grade of F in his Western Civilization class and that credit would not be countable when looking at the number of credits earned to transfer to the institution, it still must be included in the GPA for transferable-degree credit calculation as zero quality points and three credit hours.

Case Study No. 3

Using the Men's Basketball Physical Education Activity Courses Exception.

Andrew Assist is a men's basketball 2-4 transfer student-athlete from Green Tree Junior College. He is transferring to Big State University. His overall cumulative GPA from Green Tree is 2.430 (173/71). His intended major is communications. The classes with asterisks are transferable degree credits; those shaded in grey are not transferable toward any degree at Big State.

Fall 2009	Credits	Grade	QP	Fall 2010	Credits	Grade	QP
College Success	3	A	12	Acting I*	3	D	3
Fundamentals of Grammar	3	B	9	Computer Concepts*	3	C	6
American History*	3	C	6	Comp and Rhetoric II*	3	C	6
National Government*	3	C	6	Beginning Algebra II	3	A	12
Principles of Speech*	3	C	6	Social Problems*	3	C	6
Varsity Athletics*	1	A	4	Varsity Athletics	1	A	4
Spring 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Spring 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
Intro to Fine Arts*	3	D	3	Elements of Biology*	3	C	6
Comp and Rhetoric I*	3	C	6	Intro to Fiction*	3	C	6
First Aid*	3	B	9	Western Civ*	3	C	6
Basic Mathematics	3	A	12	Yoga	1	A	4
Intro to Psych*	3	B	9	Intro to Soc*	3	C	6
Varsity Athletics*	1	A	4	Humanities for Theatre*	3	D	3
				Varsity Athletics	1	A	4
Summer 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Summer 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
Beginning Algebra I	3	A	12	College Algebra*	3	D	3

Calculations:

Quality Points: $(6+6+6+4+3+6+9+9+4+3+6+6+6+6+6+6+6+3+3) = 104$

Transferable Degree Credits: $(3+3+3+1+3+3+3+3+1+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3) = 50$

Note: 69 quality points and 18 degree credits were not included in the calculation because they are not transferable degree credits.

$$(104/50) = 2.080$$

(Quality Points/Transferable Degree Credits) = GPA for transferable degree credit.

Andrew's GPA for transferable degree credit is 2.080 (104/50). Classes from all six semesters that Andrew was enrolled at Green Tree are transferable degree credits. As a men's basketball student-athlete majoring in communications, only two physical education activity credits can be counted as transferable degree credit. Andrew has met the required 2.000 GPA for transferable degree credit for purposes of avoiding an academic year of residence as a transfer student-athlete.

Case Study No. 4

Use of Repeated and Failing Courses.

Fall 2009	Credits	Grade	QP	Fall 2010	Credits	Grade	QP
Basic English Composition	3	F	0	Coaching Soccer*	2	A	8
Pre Calc*	3	B	9	Zoology*	3	C	6
Elements of Biology*	3	C	6	Kinesiology*	3	C	6
Sign Language*	3	F	0	Spanish I*	3	F	0
European History*	3	B	9	Calculus*	3	B	9
				Racquetball*	1	A	4
Spring 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Spring 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
Shakespeare*	3	D	3	Intro to Fiction*	3	C	6
Basic English Composition*	3	B	9	Yoga *	1	A	4
Physics*	3	B	9	American History*	3	B	9
Statistical Analysis*	3	C	6	Chemistry*	3	B	9
Spanish I	3	D	3	Fitness Walking*	1	A	4
Intro to Sport Management*	3	A	12	Human Communication*	3	C	9

Calculations:

Quality Points: $(9+6+0+9+3+9+9+6+12+8+6+6+0+9+4+6+4+9+9+4+9) = 137$

Transferable Degree Credits: $(3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+2+3+3+3+3+1+3+1+3+3+1+3) = 56$

Note: Three quality points and six degree credits were not included in the calculation because they are not transferable degree credits.

$$(137/56) = 2.446$$

(Quality Points/Transferable Degree Credits) = GPA for transferable degree credit.

There are a few things to keep in mind regarding the above transcript. First, the student-athlete failed and repeated two courses. For those, only the most recent grade will be counted, even if the most recent grade is lower than the previous grade. Also, the credits for the repeated class will only count once. Therefore, for Spanish I, the 2010 fall grade of F will transfer, not the 2010 spring grade. Also, the sign language credit and grade will be included in the GPA for transferable-degree credit calculation, even though the course itself will not transfer because he received no credit for it. For this student-athlete, assuming all courses are transferable, 59 credits will transfer (two classes were repeated; therefore, those credits are not added) and 128 quality points were earned; therefore, the GPA for transferable degree credit is 2.160.

Case Study No. 5

Courses with Grades that Render Courses Not Transferable.

The student-athlete is transferring from a two-year college to an NCAA Division I institution that will only count courses with a grade of C or above as transferable. This is different than the NCAA legislative policy where all transferable degree credits must be counted in the GPA for transferable-degree credit calculation, regardless of grades earned. Courses with an asterisk are transferable degree credits and courses in all capital letters are ones which do not transfer to the institution due to the grade earned. Please note that no courses are shaded in grey due to the fact that all courses are transferable degree credits. Below the transcripts are the calculations for GPA for transferable degree credit and institutional transfer GPA.

Fall 2009	Credits	Grade	QP	Fall 2010	Credits	Grade	QP
CREATIVE WRITING*	3	F	0	Coaching Soccer*	2	A	8
Pre Calc*	3	B	9	Geology*	3	C	6
Environmental Science*	3	C	6	Kinesiology*	3	C	6
BASIC CHINESE*	3	D	3	FRENCH II*	3	F	0
The Civil War*	3	B	9	Calculus*	3	B	9
				Table Tennis*	1	A	4
Spring 2010	Credits	Grade	QP	Spring 2011	Credits	Grade	QP
SHORT STORIES*	3	D	3	Intro to Fiction*	3	C	6
Basic English Composition*	3	B	9	Yoga *	1	A	4
Physics*	3	B	9	Civics*	3	B	9
Advanced Geometry*	3	C	6	Chemistry*	3	B	9
FRENCH I*	3	D	3	Orienteering*	1	A	4
Intro to Sport Management*	3	A	12	Interpersonal Communication*	3	C	9

Calculations:

Quality Points: $(0+9+6+3+9+3+9+9+6+3+12+8+6+6+0+9+4+6+4+9+9+4+9) = 143$

Transferable Degree Credits: $(3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3+2+3+3+3+3+1+3+1+3+3+1+3) = 62$

$(143/62) = 2.306$

$(\text{Quality Points}/\text{Transferable Degree Credits}) = \text{GPA for transferable degree credit.}$

Quality Points: $(9+6+9+9+9+6+12+8+6+6+9+4+6+4+9+9+4+9) = 134$

Countable Transfer Credits: $(3+3+3+3+3+3+3+2+3+3+3+1+3+1+3+3+1+3) = 47$

$(134/47) = 2.851$

$(\text{Quality Points}/\text{Countable Transfer Credits}) = \text{Institutional transferable GPA.}$

Here, the NCAA GPA for transferable degree credit is a 2.306 and the institutional GPA is a 2.851. Notice the significant difference between the two based on the different calculations. This is an example of one of the instances where multiple GPAs must be calculated to satisfy all applicable NCAA and institutional regulations.