



LE MOYNE ATHLETICS

LE MOYNE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why has Le Moyne College decided to elevate its Athletic program to NCAA Division I status?

Le Moyne is reclassifying to NCAA Division I status to provide our student-athletes the unique opportunity to compete at the highest level of collegiate athletics, showcase Le Moyne College to a broader audience and enhance the student experience.

This move represents the culmination of a thorough process that began in earnest in January 2022. After conducting its own internal research, the College hired an outside consultant to conduct a feasibility study on the prospects of elevating Le Moyne's intercollegiate athletic program to Division I during the winter of 2022.

Upon reviewing the feasibility study, President Linda LeMura formed an Ad-Hoc Committee on Athletics Reclassification that began meeting in June 2022. The Committee met twice weekly throughout the summer and early fall to discuss variables associated with such a move. The Committee spoke with Presidents, Athletic Directors and other representatives from schools that had recently reclassified their intercollegiate athletic program to Division I, as well as other experts in the field.

The Committee, comprised of members of Le Moyne's faculty, Board of Trustees and other senior leaders on campus, met 32 times in all, before voting unanimously during the winter of 2023 to support a move to Division I. Shortly thereafter, the Le Moyne College Board of Trustees voted in favor to reclassify the College's intercollegiate athletic program to Division I.

Le Moyne had most recently studied a similar move in 2017, after originally considering the possibility in 2010.

The College has invested thoughtfully in Athletics in recent years, improving its basketball, baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse facilities. These enhancements have made reclassifying the program to Division I status possible.

Why did Le Moyne College accept an invitation from the Northeast Conference?

The Northeast Conference (NEC) expressed interest in Le Moyne College and conducted its own evaluation process to determine if the institution shared the academic and athletic attributes of the NEC membership. Le Moyne has long positioned itself—both academically and athletically—as ready to compete at the highest levels. In recent years, two previous Northeast-10 conference-member institutions with whom Le Moyne shared many academic and athletic similarities – Merrimack and Stonehill – reclassified to Division I as a member of the Northeast Conference.

The Northeast Conference is an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of nine institutions of higher learning located throughout seven states. Media coverage of the NEC extends to a number of the largest markets in the United States including New York (#1), Washington, D.C. (8), Boston (#9), Baltimore (#28) and Hartford/New Haven (#34), providing Le Moyne exposure in new regions of the Northeast.

The NEC's mission has remained remarkably consistent over its 42 years as a NCAA Division I athletic entity: to provide opportunities for student-athletes to achieve their fullest potential in the classroom, in athletic competition and in the community. The NEC also had 29 teams in 16 different sports receive NCAA Public Recognition Awards based on the latest Academic Progress Report released in 2020.

In addition, many NEC institutions are ranked in the U.S. News Regional Universities North category.

What is the timing of the move to Division I?

Le Moyne will remain a member of the Northeast-10 Conference, remaining eligible for NCAA Division II Championships for the remainder of the 2022-23 season. Effective July 1, 2023, Le Moyne will formally begin its reclassification process to become a Division I institution. As of Fall 2023, student-athletes will begin competition in the Northeast Conference. Le Moyne will become a full member of the conference in 2027-28 upon completion of its four-year NCAA Division I reclassification period.

How does this decision align with Le Moyne College's strategic priorities?

This decision aligns with the Le Moyne College's commitment to enhancing its profile, reputation, and expanding its reach through intercollegiate athletics. It will help advance Le Moyne's capacity for high impact practices that ensure a sustainable, resilient, and vibrant future for the College, while enhancing the student experience, increasing demand for a Le Moyne College education and strengthening the institution's community engagement as well as visibility regionally and nationally as outlined in our new strategic plan, Tomorrow Together.

How will team roster spots be determined for Fall 2023?

Determination of roster spots will continue to be determined by each head coach as we have always operated at Le Moyne College in past years. Head Coaches will continue to communicate with all team members to discuss their role within the program.

How will athletic aid be determined for Fall 2023?

This process remains unchanged from past years at Le Moyne and will be administered in the same manner as previously. Each head coach will make recommendations on renewals, increases, reductions or non-renewals through the Office of NCAA Compliance and in conjunction with the Office of Financial Aid. Head Coaches will continue to hold conversations with team members who are receiving athletic aid the upcoming academic year to provide clarity to each student-athlete.

What are the benefits to moving to a Division I athletic conference?

The Le Moyne community will benefit in many ways from the move to a Division I athletic conference. The College will elevate its national profile and reputation, expand its geographic footprint, extend its brand to compelling regions of the Northeast, foster renewed energy, create a vibrant spirit around campus, enhance its academic reputation and much more.

Additional benefits for the College to increase demand for a Le Moyne College education include:

- Aligning with peer and aspirant institutions
- Building strong non-conference regional rivalries with schools in Le Moyne's geographic footprint
- Enhancing the collegiate experience for all students
- Strengthening pride and affinity in our alumni and community
- Expanding our brand to compelling regions of the Northeast
- Engaging with Le Moyne alumni in the areas with the Northeast Conference footprint

What revenue-generating opportunities will result from moving to a Division I conference?

Le Moyne will realize many revenue-generating opportunities in the future, including:

- Expanded fundraising initiatives
- Increased attendance, ticket sales and corporate support of Le Moyne Athletics
- Participation in the NCAA Division I revenue sharing model after the four-year reclassification period is completed
- Receipt of NCAA Division I grants to fund academic initiatives in support of Le Moyne student-athletes
- Opportunities to compete at away contests against Division I opponents with revenue provided by the home institution to cover travel costs and support overall athletic department operating costs

Can Le Moyne College compete with other schools in the Northeast Conference?

Le Moyne College student-athletes compare favorably with their peers at many mid-major Division I institutions, including those currently competing in the Northeast Conference. Those institutions include Central Connecticut State University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Long Island University Brooklyn, Merrimack College, Mount St. Mary's University, Sacred Heart University, Saint Francis University, Stonehill College and Wagner College. The NEC also holds associate membership agreements with several Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference such as Coppin State University, Delaware State University, Howard University, Maryland Eastern Shore University Norfolk State University and North Carolina Central University.

The four-year Division I reclassification process is designed to allow new Division I members the opportunity to strengthen their program support of each team over time to assist in the transition.

Will this move enhance Le Moyne's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives?

The ability to strategically increase Le Moyne's roster sizes will help the College diversity its intercollegiate athletic program. Additionally, the Northeast Conference holds associate membership agreements with several Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference such as Coppin State University, Delaware State University, Howard University, Maryland Eastern Shore University Norfolk State University and North Carolina Central University. Competing regularly in those markets against student-athletes from institutions could lead to added interest from students of all races and ethnicities.

Will this move negatively impact Le Moyne's lacrosse programs, which compete for Division II National Championships regularly?

In the spirit of our Jesuit Core Values, we want to provide Le Moyne student-athletes with the opportunity to compete at the highest level. Division II has served Le Moyne College and its intercollegiate athletic program very well, but we feel this is the proper moment in time to elevate our athletic program to new heights and showcase our student-athletes on the biggest stage. We feel Division I Athletics will provide our student-athletes unparalleled life experiences and boost the overall profile of the College.

Will all Le Moyne's intercollegiate athletic programs have a home in the Northeast Conference?

One reason Le Moyne accepted the invitation to join the Northeast Conference (NEC) is that such a move provides an excellent match for the College's current offering of 21 intercollegiate athletic programs. All of the sports currently offered by Le Moyne will compete in the NEC by 2024-25. Men's Lacrosse will not be sponsored by the NEC in 2023-24 as the league rebuilds its membership in that sport. The NEC will return to sponsoring Men's Lacrosse once again beginning in 2024-25.

What conference will Le Moyne's Men's Lacrosse team compete in during the 2023-24 academic year?

Le Moyne is exploring possibilities to gain an associate conference membership in the sport of Men's Lacrosse for 2023-23 until the Northeast Conference returns to sponsoring the sport in 2024-25. Le Moyne could also compete as a Division I Independent in the sport of Men's Lacrosse in 2023-24, building an exciting slate of opponents from a variety of conferences across the country.

When will Le Moyne's intercollegiate athletic teams be eligible to compete for NCAA Championships?

There is a four-year reclassification period established by the NCAA for schools transitioning from Division II to Division I. During that time, reclassifying schools are not eligible to compete for NCAA Championships.

When will Le Moyne's intercollegiate athletic teams be eligible to compete for Northeast Conference championships?

While Le Moyne will compete for Northeast Conference regular season championships immediately, schools reclassifying from Division II to Division I are not eligible to compete for NEC Tournament titles during their first two years of the transition process.

Will alumni experience any changes with this transition?

Alumni fans will benefit from the enhanced sporting events and spectator experience resulting from Le Moyne hosting Division I teams on campus during competitions.

The transition to Division I will enrich the value of a Le Moyne degree for all graduates as Le Moyne Athletics gains media coverage and expands brand awareness for the College. Division I provides an outstanding platform to share the many successes of Le Moyne College with a larger audience that extends beyond our immediate geographic footprint.

What does the move to Division I mean for returning and incoming student-athletes?

All returning and incoming student-athletes who are affected by this move will automatically become Division I student-athletes.

There are some differences from an eligibility standpoint from Division II to Division I. We have prepared additional information to help our returning and incoming student-athletes better understand the differences.

Will new athletic programs be added upon the move to Division I?

We continuously evaluate the state of our intercollegiate athletic program and our sport offerings. While the addition of sports to Le Moyne's current portfolio is not imminent, we continue to evaluate possibilities on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately, sports would only be added following extensive research on financial feasibility, campus impact, student demand and competitiveness.

Will there be changes to existing athletic programs?

We continue to review the infrastructure in place to best position our department for success and sustainability. At the present time, we do not intend to make any immediate adjustments to our athletic offerings.

Will travel increase for our athletic programs?

In recent years, Le Moyne athletic teams have had to travel extensively for both conference and non-conference games. While there will be travel involved for Northeast Conference play, much of it will be reduced and eliminate many trips to New England. There are a number of intriguing non-conference opportunities within New York State for competition, many within a 2-3 hour bus ride of Le Moyne's campus.

Will the move to Division I require new athletic facilities?

While most aspects of our current facilities currently align favorably with Division I standards, there are some improvements necessary regardless of competing at the Division I or Division II level. These improvements will help heighten student-athlete and fan experience, game broadcasts and increase revenue generation potential. We have several facility construction projects scheduled this summer to include construction of new baseball dugouts at Dick Rockwell Field, construction of a concessions/restroom facility at Ted Grant Field and construction of a press box at the Le Moyne Softball Complex. Additionally, we have hired a design firm to develop a plan for expanding and renovating the Events Center, which houses our team locker rooms as well as Coach and administrative offices, and the Recreation Center, which serves all students at Le Moyne.

Will the Division I transition affect Le Moyne's academic profile?

Academic excellence has always been a pillar of Le Moyne College's legacy. The Dolphins have received the NCAA Division II Presidents' Award for Academic Achievement each of the first 11 years of the program's existence of honoring institutions with an Academic Success Rate (ASR) of 90% or better.

We expect the transition to Division I to positively impact Le Moyne's academic profile. Division I academic standards ensure student-athletes take appropriate steps to earn their degrees and include everything from grade point average to credit hour requirements.

With increased brand awareness and an expanded footprint, Le Moyne College could benefit in many ways thanks to a regular presence in Northeast Conference markets.

How will Le Moyne College address the added investment required to support a Division I athletic program?

The move to a Division I intercollegiate athletic program represents a four-year transition process with incremental financial commitments invested over that period. These costs are offset by new revenue streams such as targeted fundraising initiatives, ticket sales, increased corporate sponsorship opportunities, “guarantee” rights competitions and NCAA financial distributions.

How can fans support this new historic endeavor?

There are many ways to show your support of our ‘Phin Phamily including:

Attend a sporting event. [View our schedule here](#)

Purchase your favorite Dolphins gear

Donate to the Dolphin Athletic Association

Follow us on social media