

General Policy

To students pursuing a first bachelor's degree, the Office of Admissions awards transfer credit according to the guidelines discussed here. Admissions reserves the right to accept or reject credits earned at other institutions of higher education. In general, it is University policy to accept credits earned at institutions fully accredited by their regional accrediting association for colleges and universities, provided that such credits have been earned through university-level courses appropriate to the student's degree program at the University of Washington (UW). Exceptions are noted under Notable Restrictions on Transfer Credit and Courses Receiving No Credit.

State Policy on Inter-college Transfer & Articulation

The UW subscribes to the statewide Policy on Inter-College Transfer and Articulation Among Washington Public Colleges and Universities, endorsed by the public colleges and universities of Washington as well as by the State Board for Community and Technical College Education, and adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. The policy deals with the rights and responsibilities of students, and the review and appeal process in transfer-credit disputes.

Class Standing

A student's class standing is determined by the total number of transfer credits awarded by the UW, not by the number of years of college study or by the completion of an associate degree.

Class Standing

Class Awarded Credits Needed

Freshman	0 – 44 credits
Sophomore	45 – 89 credits
Junior	90 – 134 credits
Senior	135+ credits

Satisfying UW graduation requirements depends not only on the number of credits completed—a minimum of 180 for most programs—but also on completing all College and major requirements.

Quarter vs. Semester Credits

Colleges and universities that operate on a semester system award semester credit. The UW awards quarter credit. To convert quarter credits to semester credits, multiply by two-thirds. To convert semester to quarter credits, multiply by 1.5. For example, a student who has earned 30 credits at an institution on a semester calendar would earn 45 quarter credits at the UW.

Applying Transfer Credit to Degree Requirements

Before a student first registers for classes at the University of Washington, s/he should meet with an academic adviser to plan a program of study. The adviser determines how the transfer credits shown on the transfer-credit evaluation may be used to meet UW degree requirements. For example, suppose that Admissions awards a student 120 transfer credits, but only 100 of those credits can be applied toward graduation requirements for that student's degree program. If selective credits are needed, credits that do not apply toward specific requirements may still be applied toward the minimum number of total credits required for graduation.

Alternative Credit Options

The UW does not award general credit for work or life experience. However, two avenues exist for obtaining credit under selected circumstances.

Once enrolled at the UW, students may explore the possibility of obtaining departmental approval for transfer of credit earned through coursework taken at an unaccredited institution.

Students may arrange to challenge specific UW courses via credit by examination if the same knowledge has been gained through independent study outside a formal educational setting.

For information concerning coursework taken at an unaccredited institution, contact the Office of Admissions. For credit by examination for independent study completed outside a formal educational setting, contact the Graduation and Academic Records Office at 206.543.1803 or ugradoff@u.washington.edu

Transfer Credit Evaluation

After an admitted student pays the \$272 New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee, and shortly before the student's Advising and Registration session, the Office of Admissions completes a course-by-course evaluation of transfer credits. One copy of the evaluation is sent to the student; a second copy is sent to the student's academic advising office.

The information recorded on the transfer credit evaluation, including the transfer of credits and the transfer GPA, becomes part of the student's permanent record at the UW. If a student applies to an academic program with special admission requirements, transfer coursework and the transfer GPA will be considered.

The evaluation is not an official transcript. The official UW transcript that is sent out to other institutions does not include the transfer GPA or a detailed listing of the transfer credit the UW awarded—it merely lists the other colleges the student has attended and the total number of transfer credits awarded. Transfer grades are not included in the UW GPA.

Appeal Procedure

If some courses do not transfer and the student questions a decision, the student should consult the admission specialist who completed the transfer evaluation. Further appeal can be directed to the UW Transfer Officer at the Admissions Office.

Courses Receiving No Credit

The University of Washington reserves the right to deny credit for courses that are not compatible with those offered in its baccalaureate degree programs. Some general categories of courses never receive transfer credit—or, in some instances, receive credit on a restricted basis only (see items marked with an asterisk in the list that follows). Examples of courses that receive no credit include:

- Courses considered below college level (usually numbered below 100).
- Repeated courses or courses with duplicate subject content.
- Coursework earned at an institution that did not hold at least candidacy status with its regional accrediting association when the coursework was taken.
- Courses that provide instruction in a particular religious doctrine.

- Mathematics courses considered below college level, including basic math, business math, and beginning and intermediate algebra.
- Courses offered for non-credit continuing education units.
- Remedial English (e.g., reading, vocabulary development, grammar, speed reading, or any courses that are preparatory to an institution's first Freshman Composition course).*
- Courses providing instruction in English as a Second Language (100-level or above).*
- Examinations offered by the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).
- Remedial courses in any academic discipline (100-level and above).*
- Non-academic/vocational-technical courses.*

*Up to 15 credits may be awarded for courses numbered 100 and above if included as electives within an academic associate degree from a Washington community college. See also Restricted Credit.

Transfer Credit Limit

The University allows a maximum of 90 credits of lower-division transfer coursework to be applied toward a UW degree. Of the 180 credits required for graduation from the University (some majors require more than 180), a maximum of 90 lower-division transfer credits are allowed. Once you are enrolled at the UW, if your lower-division credit exceeds 90, there will be a difference between the "total credits earned" and the "total credits allowed" under the Summary of Transfer Credit following the Detail of Transfer Credit.

Additionally, a maximum of 135 total transfer credits are allowed toward the 180 credit total. The University-wide residence requirement states that 45 of the last 60 credits must be taken "in residence" while enrolled as a matriculated student. Therefore, a student transferring 135 or more credits must complete a minimum of 45 more credits in residence at the UW.

Despite these restrictions, all of your transferable credit are listed under the Detail of Transfer Credit and may, with your adviser's approval, be used to satisfy individual requirements for graduation. It may be helpful to think of your transfer credits as a "bank account" of credits from which you may draw. All of your transferable credits remain in the bank, but no more than 90 lower division credits and no more than 135 total transfer credits may be "withdrawn" in order to be applied toward the 180 (or more) credits required for your degree.

Extension Credit from Other Schools

Extension credit, including correspondence courses, earned at other schools may not exceed 45 credits. Military credit is included in this 45-credit limit.

Foreign Language Courses

Students who have completed two or more years of a high-school foreign language receive no college credit for an entry-level course (e.g., FRENCH 101) in the same language when that course is completed after matriculation at the University. Transfer students who complete such a course before matriculation at the UW are eligible to receive transfer credit.

Military Credit

Credits earned in Armed Forces Training Schools (AFTS) and through USAFI and DANTES may not exceed 30 credits and are included in the 45-credit limit for extension credit. Official transcripts, DD-214, or DD-295

forms must be submitted, and credit will not be awarded until after the student has enrolled at the University. Scores received in such coursework are not included in the transfer GPA. No credit is awarded for Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) programs.

Native Language

First-year (elementary) or second-year (intermediate) foreign-language credit is not granted either by examination or by course completion in a student's native language. "Native language" is defined as the language spoken in the student's home during the first six years of his or her life and in which he or she received instruction through the seventh grade.

Out-of-Sequence Courses

Credit is not awarded for prerequisite courses in mathematics or foreign languages completed after a more advanced course has been completed. For example, students will not be awarded credit for Spanish 102 if taken after Spanish 103.

Overlapping Content

If a department considers two of its courses to have overlapping content, credit will be awarded for only one. For example, credit is granted for either PHYS 114 or PHYS 121. Other departments in which such overlapping courses occur include Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Foreign Language, Genetics, Geological Sciences, Linguistics, Psychology, and Statistics. Restrictions of this kind are noted in the [Course Catalog](#).

Physical Education

No more than three quarter credits will be allowed for physical-education activity courses.

Restricted Transfer Credit

Transfer credit will not generally be awarded for vocational or technical courses. However, a maximum of 15 quarter credits will be awarded in transfer for college-level vocational-technical courses when they have been allowed as electives within the 90 credits comprising an academic associate degree from a Washington community college. Courses in this category are those that ordinarily provide specialized training for an occupation (e.g., allied health, bookkeeping, electronics, or physical therapy assistant). When allowed, these credits will apply only toward the elective credit component of a baccalaureate degree at the UW. Such courses are not included in the transfer GPA.

Senior Residency Requirement

To be recommended for a first or subsequent baccalaureate degree, a student must complete 45 of his or her final 60 credits as a matriculated student in residence at the University of Washington campus where the degree is to be earned.