

Guide to Course Transferability

Admissions counselors are not able to provide prospective students with a preliminary evaluation of non-California Community College coursework prior to receiving an application for admission. This guide is intended to help you understand what types of courses will have the best chance of transferring to UCSB for credit—from non-California Community Colleges and four year colleges or universities, in or outside of California.

1. If you are applying from a regionally accredited college or university, compare the catalog descriptions of courses you have taken to the descriptions of similar courses in the UCSB Catalog, <http://my.sa.ucsb.edu/catalog/current/index.aspx>. Credit for online courses follows the same policies as courses taken in person and will only be considered from regionally accredited institutions. Courses that are the same as undergraduate courses at any UC campus generally are transferable if they carry the same or similar credit, prerequisites, level of instruction, and content. If you are offered admission to UCSB, and choose to enroll, your courses must be reported on an official transcript. Do not send transcripts (unless directed to do so) until after you have been admitted to UCSB and have submitted your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).
2. Courses in traditional academic disciplines (for example, science, literature, humanities and social sciences) are generally transferable. The following are not transferable: courses that are vocational, technical, or professional in nature (e.g., advertising, real estate, and electronics); remedial courses (for example, trigonometry); personal enrichment (for example, time management).
3. Each transfer course must be listed and described in the college's catalog for the academic year in which it was taken. Some courses require published prerequisites in order to be considered transferable to the university.
4. University of California Extension courses are transferable if numbered 1-199. In general, however, courses offered through other university extension or continuing education divisions are not transferable.
5. The maximum transferable credit awarded for physical education courses is six quarter units (or four semester units).
6. The maximum transferable credit awarded for English as a Second Language courses is 12 quarter units (or 8 semester units).
7. AP and IB Credit: UC awards credit for College Board Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. See the UCSB General Catalog section on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate for more information.
8. UC may award lower division (freshman/sophomore level) units for military courses completed if the courses are consistent with University policy on granting transfer credit when there is an equivalent course taught at a UC campus. UC will consult the ACE recommendations for information regarding course content and as a guide to the awarding of credit. UC does not grant credit for military/recruit basic training.
9. UC does not grant credit for CLEP exams, work experience, vocational or technical training and remedial academic or personal enrichment courses.

English Composition Courses

Courses in English Composition must have a prerequisite of a course or examination comparable to Writing 1 at UCSB. Courses should require extensive practice in writing papers and require a significant amount of reading literature. Transferable English Composition courses will be appropriate to meet the freshman English composition requirement at UCSB. Acceptable courses should focus on expository writing and must be at least 3 semester or 4 quarter units. Courses designed for foreign or international students or for students whose first language is not English may transfer, but will not be acceptable for the required pattern of courses for admission. Remedial courses not appropriate for transfer might include focus on grammar, sentence structure or paragraph development.

Mathematics Courses

Transferable Mathematics courses must have a prerequisite of Intermediate Algebra or higher, and the prerequisite must be published in the school's catalog for the year the applicant took the course. Transferable courses will employ the topics of Advanced Algebra as found in courses such as: Pre-calculus, Calculus, Linear Algebra or Discrete Mathematics. Note: Courses such as "Math for Liberal Arts," "Nature of Math," "Math for Teachers" or "Mathematical Ideas" will not meet the admission requirement in Mathematics. Statistics courses which have Advanced or Intermediate Algebra as prerequisites may be transferable and meet the university's Mathematics admission requirement. Course topics should include population distribution, probability and tests of hypothesis, significance and correlations.

Quarter System

UCSB operates on a quarter system. All transferable semester units will be converted from semester to quarter units. To convert semester units to quarter units, multiply the semester units by 1.5. You should plan on completing at least 90 quarter (60 semester) units before you transfer. In addition, the College of Letters & Science and College of Engineering do not admit students with 135 quarter (90 semester) units or more (students with senior class standing).

If you are changing from a semester to a quarter system, you should try to complete series courses before you transfer—for example, Chemistry 1A-1B—to avoid duplicating coursework. If your school is on the semester calendar and you wish to enroll in the latter terms of a two- or three-quarter course sequence at UC, you may have to repeat material.

Lower Division Unit Limitation

A maximum of 105 lower division quarter units (70 semester units) from non-UC colleges or universities will transfer to UC. Subject credit will be awarded for all transferable courses, even if they are beyond the unit maximum. All community college courses are lower division, and freshman and sophomore-level courses at 4-year institutions are typically lower division. Courses taken at any UC campus, including UC Extension, are not included in this limitation even if they are lower division, so they could put a student at risk of reaching senior standing.

Official Notification of Transfer Credit

Once you are admitted and have submitted all of your transcripts to the Office of Admissions, we will complete a "New Student Profile," which will indicate the units awarded for classes taken prior to enrollment at UCSB. UCSB applicants who plan to transfer from a college other than a California community college must meet the same minimum course and unit requirements for admission eligibility. Applicants from outside California must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.80.

NOTE: Transfer applicants from a college other than a California community college may gain some insight about transferability of courses by reviewing the ASSIST website, www.assist.org, which describes course articulation agreements between California community colleges and UCSB.