

## University of California (UC) Transferable Course Agreement

### Policy and Process on Course Transferability

The University of California and the California Community Colleges continue to work together in establishing articulation agreements to facilitate student transfer. There are two categories of articulation agreements. One determines the general transferability of community colleges courses at the university-wide level; the other determines the acceptability of transfer courses in satisfaction of specific degree requirements in various academic programs at the campus level.

#### **Special Regulations for Courses in Specific Subject Areas**

The following guidelines pertain to courses particularly at lower division, in subject areas that have special regulations to be articulated for transfer credit to the University of California. These guidelines should be used in conjunction with the general information already provided regarding the awarding of transfer credit keeping in mind that transferable courses should be comparable in terms of their purpose, scope and depth appropriate to lower-division courses in the UC system.

#### **Administration of Criminal Justice**

Only one introductory course to the profession is allowed for transfer credit. The content of these courses should not specifically deal with the applied, functional aspects of law enforcement. See Criminology/Law and Society.

#### **Agriculture**

The primary focus of these courses must be theoretical, although the course may contain some elements of an applied nature. Courses should be compared to those at UC Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences or Natural and Agricultural Sciences or UC Departments such as Botany, Environmental Science or Plant Science.

#### **American Sign Language**

Appropriate courses must be in American Sign Language, not signed English, and cover the deaf culture as well as the phonology, vocabulary, and grammar of American Sign Language. Courses which cover signed exact English or finger spelling are not acceptable. ASL courses can be used to satisfy the LOTE requirement as identified on the UC TCAs posted at [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org).

#### **Architecture**

Courses in this subject should emphasize architectural design and theory, rather than applied aspects such as drafting or building/construction technology. These types of courses may be found in UC departments such as Architecture and Civil Engineering. Credit for variable topics is not usually allowed due to credit limitations in this area.

#### **Art**

Transferable courses in this area should stress aesthetic intent and content over technique. In addition to knowledge and appreciation, courses should stress principles and concepts that unify knowledge as well as the methods of investigation that characterize specific disciplines. Courses on the history of photography, color photography, mixed media and digital and computer art are acceptable. Commercial or professional art

courses (Advertising, Commercial Photography, Interior Design, etc.) are not appropriate, nor are craft courses (Calligraphy, Jewelry Making, Weaving, etc.).

### **Biological (Life) Sciences**

Courses in this area should teach fundamental concepts and principles of the Biological Sciences discipline, how these were derived and how they are applied. Although specific prerequisites are not required for introductory courses, these courses are expected to be at the baccalaureate level in content and scope. It is not appropriate for courses in this area to be primarily professional or technical.

While courses generally are expected to have a laboratory or field component where appropriate, lab or fieldwork are not required for elective credit. Courses proposed for lower-division preparation for Biological Sciences majors must have Intermediate Algebra as a prerequisite. Credit will not be given for introductory courses taken after more advanced level courses in this area.

### **Business**

Transfer credit will be allowed for an introductory business course, provided it focuses on the role of business as it relates to the greater society and includes topics on ethics, labor, finance marketing, etc. Credit is granted for up to one year in Principles of Accounting and one course in Business Law. Calculus and some computer systems courses offered through a business department are transferable, if the majority of the content is math or computer-oriented and not business-oriented

### **Chemistry**

Courses in this subject should cover the basic principles of chemistry. UC allows only one introductory or survey course prior to the general course series for the major or non-major. Courses designated as applied, remedial/review or for certification are not considered appropriate. Courses proposed for lower-division preparation for Chemistry majors must have intermediate Algebra as a prerequisite. Credit will not be given for introductory courses taken after more advanced level courses in this area.

### **College Success**

Courses (up to 3 semester units maximum) should cover topics such as critical thinking, perceptions of the value of a college degree, university history/policies, student culture, communication, health and wellness, sex, diversity, life planning, campus resources and student responsibility for education. Primary focus should not be career development and course should focus on the theories of succeeding in college. Community college catalog is a required text for this course.

### **Computer Science**

Courses in this area should cover topics such as introductory theory of the computer; its organization and logic; or development of a high-level programming language. Credit for one course in computer literacy may be granted. Courses that provide technical training or are primarily business-oriented are not considered appropriate for transfer. Courses such as data processing and desktop publishing are not appropriate for transfer.

### **Criminology/Law and Society**

The content of these courses should focus on criminal theory and not specifically with the functional aspects of law enforcement or administration of justice. UC grants credit for one course in each of the following areas; an introduction, Law and Society and Criminal Justice System. These courses are found in UC departments of Criminology, Law and Society, Legal Studies and Sociology. See Administration of Justice.

### **Dance**

Theory, history, choreography, notation or performance courses offered in any department are acceptable. Non-traditional courses such as pilates and aerobics are considered p.e. and are limited to the the p.e. maximum credit of 4 units.

### **Education**

Courses should focus on education within the context of its history, politics, culture, and effect on the individual and society. One introductory education course is allowed for transfer. Courses which combine the introductory teaching information, CSTP, and K12 Content Standards, as well as field experience in a "diverse public school setting", could be acceptable as an additional course.

### **Engineering**

Courses in this area must have a strong theory component, but may include some application. Surveying courses must have a prerequisite of at least Trigonometry. Most other engineering courses must have a prerequisite of at least introduction to calculus. These include Circuits, Statics and Properties of Materials. One course in Introduction to the Engineering Profession and one course in Introduction to Engineering CAD are also acceptable. Courses primarily skills-oriented, such as manufacturing technology or practical mappings are not considered appropriate for transfer.

### **English As A Second Language**

UC Academic Senate regulations allow a maximum of 8 semester units of transfer credit for courses that emphasize writing. Only the highest levels of ESL, which prepare students for transferable English composition, may be approved for UC transferability. In order to approve ESL course work, paragraph development and progression to essay writing is needed. Courses that focus exclusively on listening, reading, or speaking skills are not appropriate for UC credit.

### **English Composition and Literature**

Courses in English composition must have a prerequisite of a course or examination comparable to the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement. Although such a prerequisite is not currently required for literature courses, the expectation is that they too will be of a college level. Courses should require extensive practice in writing and require a substantial amount of reading of significant literature. Children's Literature courses are acceptable as a genre but not as a teaching/selection guide for teachers/parents. Remedial work in English is defined as work primarily focused on topics in spelling, punctuation, and usage, and in the basic structures of sentences, paragraphs, and short essays.

### **English/ Writing**

These courses are also called: "Writing", "Creative Writing", "Script Writing", "News writing" etc. All courses in which writing is the primary focus must have a minimum prerequisite or eligibility for a transferable English composition course. One course in Journalism is allowed for transfer credit. Courses may include topics such as fundamentals, history or media studies. Commercially oriented writing courses are not appropriate. Courses in this area may not be used to meet the English composition requirement for eligibility.

### **Health Education/First Aid/Life Saving**

Credit may be granted for one course in Health Education, one course in First Aid and one course in Life Saving. Courses may include topics in community, general, personal or public health. Comparable courses may be found in UC departments such as Physical Education, School of Public Health, Social and Administrative Health Science, Sociology, etc.

### **History**

In 2010, UCOP received a request from UC history faculty about the need for expanded details in the outlines of history courses in the following areas: World History, Western Civilization, American History, Latin American History, History of Africa, and History of Asia. This request for expanded COR is only for series courses in these subjects rather than courses with specialized foci (e.g., The Latina/o Experience in the United States). Courses should emphasize the development of critical and historical thinking through various class assignments, e.g., out-of-class assignments, papers, independent or collaborative research, and include at least one reading beyond the assigned textbook. A recommended format for the COR would group course content into sections rather than a list of dates and locations covered in the course.

### **Independent Study**

Independent study courses will usually be undertaken after completion of basic courses in the subject area. It is a means of meeting special curricular needs and not a replacement for standard courses. Courses should be in areas for which transfer credit is granted to the University and which have appropriate and sufficient readings, papers and/or tests. Granting of credit is determined based on course content upon petition to the enrolling UC campus usually after transfer. A course syllabus must be submitted by the student for campus consideration. This area includes courses in Directed Study, Experiential Learning, Field Studies, Independent Study, Individual Projects, Internship, Special Studies, Special Topics, Tutorial, etc.

### **Languages other than English**

Language courses should provide instruction in the written and oral language as well as history and cultural traditions of the country associated with the language studied. Languages other than English for Native Speakers are appropriate for transfer. Courses primarily conversational must have as prerequisite a course equivalent to the third year of high school study or one year of college level coursework in the language. Also, the content of conversation courses should not be primarily business or travel-oriented. Conversation courses are not appropriate for IGETC.

Split level courses:

In May 2005, UC faculty confirmed that foreign language is an area of sequential knowledge and validation in this area is acceptable. During the 2005-06 TCA update, agreements were adjusted to reflect this understanding. Courses that are equivalent to 2 years of high school study are identified by a footnote and with the IGETC area 6A designation for each foreign language at each CCC. In addition, courses beyond the proficiency level as well as the second half of split courses are also identified with the IGETC area 6A designation. UCOP no longer requires both courses of a split sequence to be taken in order for credit to be granted. The second half of a split course sequence may now validate the first half. In order for a split level course to meet area 3B for IGETC, the course must be a minimum of three units.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics courses including statistics must have a prerequisite course equivalent to intermediate algebra or higher. These courses will employ topics of advanced algebra as found in courses such as college algebra, pre-calculus, calculus, linear algebra, discrete mathematics, analytic geometry or elementary functions. One year in Elementary Math for Teacher Education may be considered for credit. Math for Teacher Education is not appropriate for Quantitative Reasoning.

Remedial work in mathematics is defined as work in topics from arithmetic, beginning and intermediate algebra, plane geometry, and trigonometry. A pre-calculus course, with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite, containing topics from advanced algebra, elementary functions (logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric),

and analytic geometry, is not considered remedial. Credit for trigonometry is not allowed if taught as a separate course. In the past, UC deducted one unit for courses which contained trigonometry content. Beginning fall 2006, based on UC faculty clarification credit will be granted for College Algebra and Precalculus courses as offered.

UC continues to require intermediate algebra or its equivalent as a prerequisite for transferable math courses, including statistics. The community colleges will determine equivalence of prerequisite courses. Please note in your TCA submissions that the prerequisite(s) includes intermediate algebra, and if your campus offers any alternative (i.e., equivalent) course(s), be sure to list the alternatives as well.

A student may receive credit for either college algebra or pre-calculus.

### **Military Credit**

#### Military Language

Specialized and Military Language Schools should be held to the same standards as indicated above in the Language Other Than English section.

#### Military Science

Courses are acceptable in the following areas of academic disciplines: literature, history, sociology, psychology, ethics, or engineering in the military services. Some courses of a practical nature may also be acceptable. Comparable courses may be found in the Military Science department or ROTC at UCB, UCSB and UCLA. Courses such as Land Navigation and Orienteering, Basic Mountaineering, Basic Leadership, Basic and Advanced Military Physical Conditioning are acceptable.

#### Military Service

General military credit is not granted upon admission however credit may be granted using the ACE Armed Services Guides based on departmental or UC school or college recommendation after enrollment. If the student requests a review of this course work, advise the student to submit supplemental information upon which to make a decision similar to Independent Study. CLEP is not accepted.

### **Music**

UC does not limit credit for the number of appropriate music courses a student may transfer. Theory and performance courses are appropriate for transfer credit. Electronic music courses should have prerequisites or include music theory and history. Courses that focus primarily on the commercial aspect of music are not considered appropriate for transfer.

### **Physical Education**

Courses may fall into three categories: 1) Activities, 2) Theory, and 3) Academic/Scholarly. Credit for Activity courses is acceptable when physical movement is indicated in the course outline and is limited to 4 semester units. Theory courses are limited to 8 semester units/12 quarter units. Courses primarily vocational such as Aerobic Instructor Training or Fire Academy Protection Preparation are not considered appropriate for transfer credit.

### **Physical Science**

Courses in this area should teach fundamental concepts and principles – how these were derived, and how they are applied. Although a specific prerequisite is not required for introductory courses, these courses are

expected to be at the baccalaureate level in content and scope. It is not appropriate for courses in this area to be primarily professional or technical in nature. Credit will not be given for introductory courses taken after more advanced level courses in this area.

### **Physics**

UC allows only one introductory or survey course prior to the general course series for the major or non-major. Major courses in this area should teach fundamental concepts and principles – how these were derived, and how they are applied. Physics for Physicists and Engineers must have a prerequisite of calculus; Physics for Biologists must have a prerequisite of trigonometry; and Physics for Liberal Arts Students must have a prerequisite of intermediate algebra. No credit for an introductory course following any course for the major or a more advanced level course.

### **Psychology**

All courses must be academic in content focusing on research, theory and analysis. Courses should include the theory and application of information. Courses in which the student is a recipient of therapy or instruction aimed at personal improvement or information about the health aspects of psychology are not appropriate for transfer.

### **Religion**

Courses in this area should focus on religion in an objective and scholarly manner. Courses should approach religion from a historical and literary point of view that is comparative and cultural. Courses that approach religion from a dogmatic, sectarian point of view meant to indoctrinate or convert are not appropriate for transfer.

### **Social Sciences**

Courses should provide students with an understanding of the development and basic features of societies and cultures. Courses may include an examination of the historic and contemporary ideas that have shaped our world, an examination of the nature and principles of individual and group behaviors, or a study of social science methodologies. Courses that are primarily for personal enrichment are not appropriate for transfer.

### **Statistics/Probability**

These courses may be found in the social sciences, mathematics, economics and science departments. At minimum, statistics courses must have a prerequisite of intermediate algebra or its equivalent. A second course in statistics may be acceptable if content is sequential and not duplicative.

### **Theater Arts**

Theory courses, as well as performance and production courses, are appropriate for transfer. Courses may include directing, film making, history, performance, production/stagecraft, costume design and makeup, theory and scriptwriting. Practical courses in Broadcasting such as radio/TV or other commercially oriented courses are not appropriate for transfer.

### **Variable Topics Courses**

These courses are also called "Independent Studies", "Special Studies", "Special Topics", "Internships", etc. Credit for variable topics courses is given only after a review of the scope and content of the course by the enrolling UC campus. This usually occurs after transfer and may require recommendations from faculty. UC does not grant credit for variable topics courses in Journalism, Photography, Health, Business Administration, Architecture, Administration of Justice (Criminology) or Library Departments because of credit restrictions in

these areas. Each UC campus will determine credit for these courses based on information provided by the student, usually after they have been admitted at UC. Credit is granted only if it is determined that the content of the course is appropriate for transfer at the individual UC campus.

Variable Topic courses are not posted on the TCA. In their place, a note is included on the TCA describing the UC credit granting policy for these types of courses.

**NOTE:**

**California Community College Policy regarding Distance Education/Telecourses**

Title 5, Section 55376 requires that:

(a) Each distance education/telecourse shall include the use of appropriate texts, supplemental assigned readings, and/or enrichment materials and activities including examples of reading and writing assignments as required by section 55002(a) and (b).

(b) Each distance education/telecourse shall include regular personal contact between instructor and students through group or individual meetings, orientation and review sessions, supplemental seminar or study sessions, field trips, library workshops, telephone, correspondence or other in-person activities. Personal contact may be supplemented by telephone contact and correspondence.

Additional information about the revised Title V regulations for distance education courses can be found online at [http://www.academicssenate.cc.ca.us/Publications/Papers/Distance\\_learning.html](http://www.academicssenate.cc.ca.us/Publications/Papers/Distance_learning.html).

UC does not consider method of delivery at the transfer level.