You asked. We answered.

COLLEGE INSIDE

College Inside answers your questions about higher education.

What is credit transfer?

Credit transfer is the process of moving academic credits from one institution to another. It allows students to apply previously completed coursework toward a degree at a new school. However, each college has its own policies on what credits they'll accept.

How does credit transfer work?

You request that official transcripts from your previous school(s) be sent to your new school. The new school evaluates each course and decides whether to accept it for credit. Different colleges may make different decisions about the same courses.

Where do I send my transcripts to have them evaluated?

Request to have official transcripts sent directly from the first college to the admissions office or registrar of the college you're applying to or transferring to. Some colleges will accept unofficial transcripts for credit transfer, but check with your school. You'll need to have transcripts sent to each school separately if applying to multiple colleges.

elective

/ə'lektiv/ (adj.)

A course you choose to take that isn't specifically required for your major or general education requirements. Electives allow you to explore interests outside your main field of study or dig deeper into areas related to your major.

What is elective credit?

Elective credit counts toward your total credits for graduation but doesn't fulfill specific major or general education requirements. Some colleges may accept a course as elective credit even if they don't count it toward a specific major requirement.

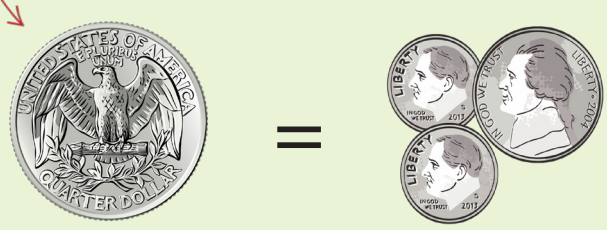
What's the difference between semester and quarter credits?

Semester systems typically have two 15-week terms per year. Quarter systems have three 10-week terms. ***One semester credit usually equals 1.5 quarter credits.*** Colleges have their own methods for converting between these systems.

1 semester credit = **1.5 quarter credits**

For example: if you earn 2 semester credits, you would have 3 quarter credits.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY: *When counting money, two nickels and a dime are worth the same as 25¢ quarter, just made up of more coins. The same principle applies for semesters and quarter credits. The terms usually both take 30 weeks, they are just divided differently. It takes a higher number of quarter credits (or coins, in this analogy) to equal one semester credit, but they're not worth any more or less.*



25¢ = **25¢**

What kinds of classes are more likely to transfer?

General education courses, lower-division courses (100 and 200 level), courses from accredited institutions, and classes with common curricula across schools are more likely to transfer. Upper-division major classes (300 and 400 level) are less likely to transfer. However, each college makes its own decisions about transfer credits.

Why didn't my new college accept all of my classes?

Credits might not transfer if the course content doesn't match anything offered by your new college, the previous school isn't accredited, your grade was too low, or the credits are too old.

What can I do if a college won't give me credit for a certain class?

If a college denies credit for a class, ask for a detailed explanation of why. You can try to submit the original course syllabus or request a course description from your previous school to show its content. This may also be available in the course catalog that is available on the college website. Sometimes the department head for the relevant subject can sign off on accepting a course. Ask if the college has a formal appeals process or if it's possible to test out of the course based on prior knowledge.

accreditation

/ə'kredə'tāSHən/ (adj.)

Accreditation is a process of external quality review for colleges and universities. Credits from accredited institutions are more likely to transfer because accreditation ensures a certain level of academic quality. Most colleges will only accept transfer credits from "regionally accredited" institutions.

I transferred all of my credits to one community college and have more than 60 credits. Do I have my associate's degree yet?

Having the right number of credits doesn't automatically mean you've earned a degree. Each degree program has specific course requirements beyond just the total number of credits. You need to fulfill general education requirements and specific major requirements, not just accumulate credits.

Is there anything else I should know?

Most colleges require you to take a certain number of credits from them before they will allow you to graduate, typically 25-50% of your total credits. For example, some four-year universities require you to take your senior year with them. They may also have a cap on the total number of transfer credits they'll accept.

PRO TIP: Save your syllabi!

They provide detailed course information that can help you appeal if credits are denied. Consider sending copies to a trusted family member or friend for safekeeping.

syllabus

/'siləbəs/ (noun)

A syllabus is a document that outlines the contents and requirements of a course. Your professor should give you one at the beginning of the semester.

WRITE TO US!

Let us know your questions about higher education!