COURSE CREDIT AND CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

In order to earn a degree from the College of the University of Chicago, a student must obtain credit for at least forty-two quarter courses, distributed among general education requirements, concentration requirements, and electives, as described in the section on the curriculum at the front of this publication. All students receive credit toward their degrees by taking courses in the College. In addition, students may receive credit in the following ways: by placement test; by Advanced Placement (AP) examinations; by accreditation examination; by International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme; and by advanced standing, which is credit transferred from another institution. The limits and conditions placed on credit earned in these various ways are explained in the following section. A student must complete a minimum of eighteen quarter courses in the College and be in residence for at least six quarters to graduate with a degree from the University of Chicago. At least half of the concentration courses must be taken at the University.

Placement Tests

Placement tests serve to adapt the needs and backgrounds of individual students to the College curriculum. They place entering students at the proper level of study in a given subject and may be used to award academic credit where appropriate. On the one hand, placement tests minimize the repetition of subjects already mastered and, on the other, they reduce the possibility that students might begin their programs with courses for which they are inadequately prepared. Placement tests measure skill in problem solving as well as general knowledge in a subject field. Students who have some background in the areas being tested are urged to review it, but incoming students without such knowledge are not expected to acquire it over the summer preceding entrance.

Placement tests may be taken only at the time of matriculation and each test may be taken only once. Information that describes these tests is sent to incoming first-year and transfer students.

Mathematics Placement Test and Calculus Placement Test. Every student must take *either* the mathematics placement test *or* the calculus placement test during Orientation. Students with no knowledge of calculus take the mathematics test; students who have taken a calculus course take the calculus test. Scores on the mathematics placement test determine the appropriate beginning mathematics course for each student: a precalculus course (MATH 10500) or one of three other courses (MATH 11200, 13100, or 15100). Scores on the calculus placement test also determine which level of mathematics is appropriate, but they also place students into Honors Calculus (MATH 16100-16200-16300) or give placement credit for one, two, or three quarters of calculus.

Scores on the mathematics placement test are also used to place students into CHEM 11101/11102 (General Chemistry).

Scores on the calculus placement test are used to determine placement into CHEM 11101/11102 (General Chemistry), PHYS 13100 (General Physics, Variant B), and PHYS 14100 (General Physics-Honors).

Language Placement Tests. Language placement tests are required of students who plan to continue in or receive credit for languages studied prior to entrance in the College. Placement tests determine in which quarter of study a student begins the College's sequence of introductory, intermediate, or advanced language study. Placement beyond the first quarter confers course credit. Students who place into second year or beyond are still required to meet the College's competency requirement.

Placement tests are offered to entering students during Orientation in the following languages: Arabic, Bangla, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Classical Greek, Modern Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu. Students may petition to take placement tests in languages not offered during Orientation. Language placement petition forms are available at the advisers' reception desk (HM 280). Placement tests are not available in languages not taught at the University of Chicago. For additional information, consult Stephanie Latkovski, Associate Dean for International and Second Language Education, (HM 241), or visit the Web site at *dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/languagerequirement.html.*

Honors Chemistry Placement Test. Students who wish to enroll in Honors General Chemistry (CHEM 12200-12300) must meet one of two criteria. They must either have earned a score of 5 on the AP chemistry test or they must perform well on the honors chemistry placement test. Honors General Chemistry assumes that a student completed a rigorous chemistry course in high school. Students who did not receive a score of 5 on the AP chemistry test but who have completed CHEM 12200-12300 receive one placement credit to be used as the first quarter of the three-quarter general chemistry sequence. For more information, see the Chemistry section of this catalog.

Biological Sciences Placement Test. NOTE: The following information is in effect for students matriculating in Autumn Quarter 2003 and later. The *optional* placement test in the biological sciences measures understanding of basic concepts of ecology, evolution, heredity, and genetics, as well as structure and function at the molecular, cellular, organismic, and population levels. For students who do not plan to concentrate in the biological sciences or prepare for the health professions, a strong performance on the test confers credit for BIOS 10100. These students complete the general education requirement with either one or two topical courses in the biological sciences.

Students who plan to concentrate in the biological sciences or prepare for the health professions should not take the biological sciences placement test because it will not confer credit for such students. These students meet the general education requirement for the biological sciences with either: (1) registration for a BIOS 20180s or 20190s Fundamental Sequence or (2) a score of 5 on the AP biology test and registration for the AP 5 Fundamental Sequence (BIOS 20239 and either 20240, 20242, 20247, or 20248).

Accreditation Examinations

Credit is available by accreditation examinations to those students who have already studied certain subjects at the college level. These examinations, which are optional, are set by the appropriate faculty at the beginning of each quarter in which equivalent Chicago courses are offered. In the case of a course where both experimental and theoretical skills are involved, students may be required to fulfill the laboratory portion along with the rest of the class.

College credit achieved by accreditation examination is entered as units of credit on the student's official academic record. Letter grades are not assigned. An accreditation examination may be taken only once.

Biology Accreditation Examinations. Credit for biology courses may be granted to students upon satisfactory completion of an accreditation examination given during the first week of the quarter in which the course is offered. Students must register for the accreditation examination before classes begin with the senior adviser for the biological sciences (HM 280). No laboratory requirements can be met by accreditation examinations except by special petition with accompanying documentation.

Chemistry Accreditation Examinations. Students who are exceptionally well prepared in chemistry may earn credit for one or more quarters of chemistry on the basis of AP scores or accreditation examinations. Students who have taken the Advanced Placement (AP) test in chemistry and received a grade of 5 will be given credit for General Chemistry I, II, III. The Department of Chemistry also administers accreditation examinations in General Chemistry I, II, III and Organic Chemistry I, II, III. Students may receive credit for chemistry on the basis of their performance on these examinations. The examinations in general chemistry and organic chemistry are offered *only* during Orientation, or at the start of Autumn Quarter by arrangement with Dr. Vera Dragisich, Department of Chemistry, 702-3071.

Physical Sciences Accreditation Examination. For students whose probable field of concentration is in the Humanities, Social Sciences, or New Collegiate divisions, a good performance on this examination will confer two quarters of credit for the general education requirement in the physical sciences. Students with good high school preparation in both chemistry and physics are strongly encouraged to take this examination.

The physical sciences accreditation examination does not give credit for chemistry or physics. Students planning to concentrate in the biological or physical sciences or prepare for the health professions must fulfill their general education requirement in the physical sciences by passing or placing out of a three-quarter sequence of 10000-level courses in either chemistry or physics. (Students who register for chemistry or physics forego credit earned on the physical sciences accreditation examination.) Students who are exceptionally well prepared in chemistry and/or physics should consider taking the chemistry and/or physics accreditation examination(s).

Physics Accreditation Examinations. Accreditation examinations are given for the content of PHYS 12100-12200-12300 and 14100-14200-14300. Students who pass the first examination (for PHYS 12100 or 14100) will receive credit for the lecture part of the course only and will then be invited to try the next examination of the series. Entering students who have taken AP physics in high school but who do not receive AP credit from the College (and who do not plan to concentrate in physics) may wish to take the PHYS 12100 accreditation examination. Students who receive AP credit for PHYS 12100-12200-12300 but whose planned concentration requires PHYS 13100-13200-13300 or 14100-14200-14300 are eligible to take the PHYS 14100 examination. Entering transfer students who choose a concentration requiring physics but who are not granted transfer credit for a completed calculus-based introductory physics sequence may wish to take one of the accreditation examinations.

NOTE: Accreditation examinations in physics confer credit only for the lecture portion of the courses; additional laboratory work may be required.

Advanced Placement Credit

Students who request college credit for Advanced Placement (AP) courses taken in high school (i.e., before a student matriculates in the College) are asked to submit an official report of their scores on the AP tests given by the College Entrance Examination Board. In most cases, credit is granted for a score of 4 or 5. The decision to grant credit is reported at the end of the first year in residence and units of credit awarded appear on the student's official academic record.

The following chart shows how AP credit may be applied to the forty-two credits required for graduation.

While AP scores alone are sometimes used to establish placement or to confer credit, satisfactory performance on the College's own placement tests may supplement AP scores and lead to additional credit.

For further information on AP credit and how it relates to the Chicago degree program, a student should consult his or her College adviser. NOTE: Credit for no more than six electives may be gained by examination.

International Baccalaureate Programme

Credit earned for courses in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme may be applied to certain general education requirements or to electives. Grades of 6 or 7 on Higher-Level IB Examinations **(HL)** will give credit analogous to the AP credit described on the preceding chart. Credit for a score of 6 is equivalent to AP 4; credit for a score of 7 is equivalent to AP 5; and, for languages, a score of 5 is equivalent to AP 3. NOTE: No course credit currently is offered in either the mathematics department or the computer science department for work done in an IB program.

Comments at the bottom of the AP chart regarding AP credit also apply to IB credit. Note in particular the references to biology, chemistry, computer science, and physics credit.