

# Examination Credit and Transfer Credit

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, major program 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 and/or satisfy College requirements 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 be in residence at the University of Chicago for at least six quarters, full or part time, and must successfully complete a minimum of eighteen courses while in residence. More than half of the requirements for a major or minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

## 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 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 calculus placement test are used to determine placement into CHEM 10100 (Introductory General Chemistry), CHEM 11100 (Comprehensive General Chemistry), CHEM 12100 (Honors 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 languages studied prior to entrance in the College. Language placement tests determine where a student begins language study; results do not confer credit or satisfy the language competency requirement.

Beginning with students who matriculate in September 2009, online placement tests may be taken the summer before arrival on campus. Those students will be given instructions in early July on how to access more information.

Placement tests are not available in languages not taught at the University of Chicago. For additional information, visit [www.college.uchicago.edu/academics/language.shtml](http://www.college.uchicago.edu/academics/language.shtml).

**Chemistry Placement Test.** Students who wish to enroll in chemistry must take the online chemistry placement test along with the calculus placement test (or they must have earned a score of 5 on the AP chemistry exam).

**Biological Sciences Placement Test.** Information will be sent to incoming students the summer before they arrive on campus.

## Accreditation Examinations

Credit is available by accreditation examinations, which are optional, to those students who have already studied certain subjects at the college level. See the information below under each subject heading for when these exams 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.

**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 Comprehensive General Chemistry I, II, III. The Department of Chemistry also administers accreditation examinations in Comprehensive 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. Only incoming students (i.e., first-year and transfer students) are eligible to take these examinations.

**Physical Sciences Accreditation Examination.** For students whose probable major 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, which is offered during Orientation only to entering students.

The physical sciences accreditation examination does not give credit for chemistry or physics. Students planning to major 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 forgo 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 administered for the content of PHYS 12100-12200-12300 and 14100-14200-14300. The first examination may be taken by incoming students only at the time of matriculation in the College. 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 major in physics) may take the PHYS 12100 accreditation examination. Students who receive AP credit for PHYS 12100-12200-12300 but whose planned major requires PHYS 13100-13200-13300 or 14100-14200-14300 are eligible to take the PHYS 14100 examination. Entering transfer students who choose a major requiring physics but who are not granted transfer credit for a completed calculus-based introductory physics sequence may 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 or fulfillment of College requirements for Advanced Placement (AP) examinations 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. 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.

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.

Although students may use AP placement to satisfy the language competence requirement, language AP scores do not confer credit.

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

AP EXAM	SCORE	CREDIT AWARDED 2009–10
Biology	4	1 quarter general education (BIOS 10130)
Biology	5	1 quarter general education (BIOS 10130)+
Calculus AB	5	MATH 15100†
Calculus BC	4	MATH 15100†
Calculus BC	5	MATH 15100-15200†
Chemistry	4	2 quarters 10000-level PHSC*
Chemistry	5	CHEM 11100-11200-11300
Computer Science AB	4 or 5	2 quarters general elective credit
Economics		
Micro <i>and</i> Macro	4 or 5	2 quarters general elective credit
French Language and Literature	3, 4, or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
German Language	3, 4, or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
Government and Politics		
Comparative <i>and</i> U.S.	4 or 5	3 quarters elective credit
Italian Language and Culture	3, 4, or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
Japanese Language and Culture	4 or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
Latin Literature or Vergil	3, 4, or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
Physics B	4 or 5	2 quarters 10000-level PHSC*
Physics C		
Mechanics <i>and</i> E&M	3	2 quarters 10000-level PHSC*
Mechanics <i>only</i>	4 or 5	PHYS 12100‡
E&M <i>only</i>	4 or 5	PHYS 12200‡
Mechanics <i>and</i> E&M	4 or 5	PHYS 12100-12200-12300‡
Spanish Language and Literature	3, 4, or 5	Satisfies the Language Competency Requirement
Statistics	4 or 5	STAT 22000++
Other§	4 or 5	3 quarters elective credit

*Credit for no more than six general electives may be gained by any combination of AP, placement, accreditation, IB, or other examinations.*

*AP Chinese: May not be used to meet the Language Competency Requirement.*

*AP Physics or Calculus: Students who register for physics or calculus forgo AP credit.*

*AP Computer Science: Students who register for CMSC 10500, 10600, 15100, 15200 forgo AP credit. Students who enroll in CMSC 12100, 12200, 16100, and 16200 may retain elective credit.*

*AP Chemistry: Students with a score of 5 may accept credit for Comprehensive General Chemistry (CHEM 11100-11200-11300), or they can register for the three-quarter Honors General Chemistry sequence (CHEM 12100-12200-12300, Autumn/Winter/Spring Quarters). Students who complete one to three quarters of Comprehensive General Chemistry or Honors General Chemistry forgo partial or full AP credit.*

† A student who wishes to receive credit for MATH 15300 or to register either for MATH 16100-16200-16300 or for PHYS 14100-14200-14300, or both, is required to take the calculus placement test during Orientation.

‡ Note that a major in physics or chemistry requires PHYS 13100-13200-13300 or PHYS 14100-14200-14300.

+ A biological sciences major requires a "Fundamentals" sequence in general education or an "AP 5" sequence in the major. Students with an AP 5 who complete the three-quarter "AP 5" sequence are

*awarded a second AP credit to meet the general education requirement.*

\* *Students forgo credit when they register for the same subject in which they have AP credit for 10000-level PHSC.*

++ *AP Statistics: Will count for general education mathematics credit. May not be used to meet requirements for the statistics major or minor. Students who register and obtain credit for STAT 20000, 22000, or 23400 forgo AP credit for STAT 22000.*

§ *No credit is given for Computer Science A, Environmental Science, Human Geography, or Psychology.*

## 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.

No course credit is offered in the following departments for work done in an IB program: computer science, economics, mathematics, or physics.

Students with a grade of 6 or 7 on the Higher-Level IB Physics Examination will receive one-quarter of 10000-level PHSC credit and may complete the general education requirement in the physical sciences with PHSC 10900, 11000, 13400, 13500, or 13600. NOTE: Students who register for physics forgo both IB and AP credit for 10000-level PHSC.

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

## British A-Levels and Other Examinations

Credit for A-level work in calculus, physics, and chemistry may be awarded through satisfactory performance on the College's placement or accreditation examinations taken at the time of matriculation. Credit for A-level work in biology may be awarded by petition to the Senior Advisor in the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division; credit for A-levels in other fields except language may be awarded by petition to the Dean of Students in the College. No credit is given for general education requirements in humanities or social science. Elective credit may be given only for grades of *A* in the Advanced Test in liberal arts subjects.

## Transfer Credit

**Courses Taken While in a Degree Program Elsewhere.** Students transferring from other institutions must be in residence at the University of Chicago campus for at least six quarters, full or part time, and must successfully complete a minimum

of eighteen courses while in residence. NOTE: Certain College-sponsored study abroad programs (chiefly the Civilization Studies Abroad programs) may be used to meet this residency and course requirement.

Generally, the College grants transfer credit for liberal arts courses carrying at least three semester hours or four quarter hours of credit and passed with a grade of *C* or better (in some cases, a grade of *B* or better is required) from an accredited institution. Transfer credit is not awarded for foreign language courses. Instead, transfer students are encouraged to take the appropriate language placement test(s) upon completing courses at the 20200 level or higher at Chicago. Students may petition for placement credit for the language courses between 20100 and the course completed.

Transfer credit, referred to as advanced standing, is listed on the student's University of Chicago transcript only as number of credits approved for transfer. Courses and grades are not listed, nor do transferred courses contribute to the student's University of Chicago grade point average for the purpose of computing an overall GPA, Dean's List, departmental honors, or general honors. Credit for courses in precalculus and calculus must be validated by College placement examinations. Depending on the student's major and on the level of work to be evaluated, credit for some courses in chemistry, physics, and biology may also be subject to examination.

Professional or technical courses (e.g., journalism, business, law, musical performance, speech, nursing) do not transfer; only courses similar to those taught in the College may transfer. The College grants credit for some CEEB Advanced Placement examinations with scores of 4 or 5, but not for CLEP, USAFI, or correspondence course work.

Most transfer students can complete their studies with no more than one extra quarter beyond the usual four college years, although this may depend on how course work elsewhere relates to the structure of a Chicago degree program. College housing and financial aid are available to all transfer students. After matriculation in the College, transfer students may not earn additional credits from schools other than the University of Chicago, except for study abroad programs sponsored by the University of Chicago. However, these courses will not count toward the requirement to be in residence at the University of Chicago campus for at least six quarters, full or part time, and to successfully complete a minimum of eighteen courses while in residence. NOTE: Certain College-sponsored study abroad programs (chiefly the civilization studies programs) may be used to meet this residency and course requirement.

More than half of the requirements for a major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

**Courses Taken Elsewhere While in a Degree Program at the University of Chicago.** Students who wish to take courses at other institutions after they enter

the College should read carefully the following regulations for transfer credit and discuss their plans in advance with their College advisers.

Before registering for course work elsewhere, students must submit to the Office of the Dean of Students a petition requesting tentative pre-approval for transfer credit to be applied toward graduation requirements. The petition should include course descriptions and/or syllabi, units of credit, and the name of the institution where courses will be taken. Students who wish to apply transfer credit to requirements in their major or minor must have the approval of their program chair.

Upon completion of the course work, students should have an official transcript sent to their College adviser. Transfer credit is listed on the student's Chicago transcript only as number of credits approved for transfer.

To be eligible for transfer credit, a course:

- must be taken for a quality grade and the grade received must be a *C* or higher; and
- must confer at least three semester hours or four quarter hours of credit, although contact hours may be used for institutions without standard credit models.

No course is eligible for transfer credit if it:

- is taken at an institution that does not grant bachelor's degrees or is unaccredited;
- duplicates college-level course work for which credit has already been granted or appears anywhere in the student's high school record;
- is eligible for placement-test credit (e.g., calculus or precalculus);
- is a foreign language course (literature or advanced courses taught in a foreign language may qualify for transfer credit);
- is a distance learning, independent study, or tutorial course; or
- is a professional or technical course or is otherwise unlike liberal arts courses that are offered by the College (e.g., accounting, business administration, communications, engineering, English composition, leadership, music performance, nursing, public speaking, rhetoric, first-year writing).

Students who wish to take science courses that are eligible for transfer credit must comply with the preceding regulations and also must follow the guidelines below:

- The grade must be a *B* or higher if the student is majoring in science.
- General education courses must have a laboratory component.

- To receive credit in physics at the 12000-, 13000-, or 14000-level, the course must be calculus based.
- To receive credit for chemistry, the course must be taken at an institution that is accredited by the American Chemical Society. Students majoring in chemistry may not receive transfer credit for organic chemistry, although they may take an accreditation test that confers credit.

**College Courses Taken during High School.** Because it is not uncommon for students to graduate from the University of Chicago with more than the required forty-two credits, students should wait to begin the petition process until they determine (in their second year or later) that they will need the credit. However, students may petition earlier if previous course work may serve as a prerequisite for a Chicago course.

Students who wish to receive transfer credit for college courses taken during high school must submit a petition to the Dean of Students. Credit is evaluated on an individual basis. To be considered for transfer credit, petitions must comply with both the preceding regulations and the following guidelines :

- Course work may not have been counted toward high school graduation requirements.
- Credit for science and calculus courses is awarded only by satisfactory performance on the appropriate placement or accreditation examinations taken at the time of matriculation.
- Transfer credit for college-level courses completed prior to matriculation at the University of Chicago may be used only as general elective credit.
- Credit will not be awarded for general education requirements or for foreign language courses.
- Course work must have been completed in a cohort containing undergraduate students, not in a program open only to high school students.