Assignment of Credits for Transfer Students

The University has different policies for transfer credit depending on the school or college to which the student is transferring.

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Elliott School of International Affairs, GW School of Business, Milken Institute School of Public Health, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences admit both incoming freshmen and students who have attended a post-secondary institution after completing a high school diploma. These schools share the same transfer policy for undergraduate students (see below).

The School of Nursing (SON), School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), and College of Professional of Professional Studies (CPS) admit only students who who have attended an institution of higher learning after earning a high school diploma. Each of these schools applies its own transfer policy for undergraduate students (see below).

For the following GW schools:

- Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS)
- Elliott School of International Affairs (ESIA)
- GW School of Business (GWSB)
- Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH)
- School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS)

Provided there is no duplication involved through coursework or examination, domestic transfer credit may be granted for coursework successfully completed at other regionally accredited institutions of higher learning. International transfer credit may be granted for coursework successfully completed at an institution of higher learning recognized by the relevant country’s ministry of education or equivalent body. Transfer credit is not awarded for the Joint Services Transcript (JST) to undergraduate students admitted to these schools. Students admitted to other GW schools (School of Medicine and Health Sciences, School of Nursing, and College of Professional Students) should contact the respective school’s admissions office to inquire about JST credit.

Assignment of transfer credit depends on the grade earned, the appropriateness of the coursework, the standing of the institution at which the coursework was completed, and the regulations of the school or college to which the student is transferring. For CCAS, ESIA, GWSB, GWSPH, and SEAS, coursework completed at another institution must have received a grade of C- or above to be accepted for transfer credit.

While there is no limit to the number of credits that can be transferred to the University, GW’s residence requirement limits the number of transfer credits that can be applied toward a degree. Students must complete at least 60 credits of the total credits required for their degree at or through the University.

Credits earned through GW study abroad, GW satellite campuses, GW distance education, and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area are treated as in residence.

Transfer credit must satisfy the requirements for the degree sought as stated in this Bulletin. The University reserves the right to determine course equivalency and degree applicability. Transfer credit is not assigned for coursework completed in vocational/technical programs (e.g., secretarial studies) or sub-freshman level remedial work. Each GW school or college reserves the right to refuse credit for transfer in whole or in part. If a grade earned in a course is below the minimum to be accepted for transfer credit, the course may satisfy a curriculum requirement.

Transfer credit that is accepted and applied to a student’s GW academic record counts toward the number of credits completed only. The grades from these courses are not used in calculating a student’s GW grade-point average.

Pre-Matriculation Credit for Incoming Freshmen

Assuming there is no duplication of coursework, a maximum of 24 credits may be awarded based on coursework completed while enrolled in high school through examinations such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced Level (A Level). While there is no limit to the number of pre-matriculation credits a high school student may transfer to GW from a post-secondary institution, students must complete at least 60 credits of the total credits required for their degree at or through the University. Coursework taken at another institution must have received a grade of C- or above to be accepted for transfer credit.

School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Transfer credit may be awarded for coursework completed at other accredited institutions provided minimum grade requirements have been met and the coursework is appropriate to the degree. Coursework completed at another institution must have received a grade of C or above to be accepted for transfer credit. Transfer credit also may be considered from Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. Please refer to GW undergraduate admissions for information on maximum credits, minimum scores, and GW course equivalents for AP and IB credits. Advanced standing also may be awarded for non-traditional classroom or clinical experience as determined by each individual program. The School of Medicine and Health Sciences reserves the right to determine course equivalency and degree applicability.

Health sciences degree programs vary in the number of advanced standing credits they will award. For bachelor’s programs, no more than 66 credits will be accepted as advanced standing from a two-year institution. Degree candidates who currently are enrolled at GW and wish to take...
courses at other regionally accredited institutions for transfer credit must first obtain program approval.

Transfer credit that is accepted and applied to a student’s GW academic record counts toward the number of credits completed only. The grades from these courses are not used in calculating a student’s GW grade-point average.

School of Nursing
Transfer credit may be awarded for coursework completed at other accredited institutions provided minimum grade requirements have been met and the coursework is appropriate to the degree. Coursework completed at another institution must have received a grade of C or above to be accepted for transfer credit. Students must complete at least 60 credits of the total credits required for their degree at GW. The School of Nursing reserves the right to determine course equivalency and degree applicability.

Transfer credit that is accepted and applied to a student’s GW academic record counts toward the number of credits completed only. The grades from these courses are not used in calculating a student’s GW grade-point average.

College of Professional Studies
Subject to individual program requirements, transfer credit may be awarded for coursework completed at other accredited institutions provided minimum grade requirements have been met and the coursework is appropriate to the degree. No more than 60 credits from a regionally accredited institution may be accepted for transfer. Coursework completed at another institution must have received a grade of C or above to be accepted for transfer credit.

The College of Professional Studies reserves the right to determine course equivalency and degree applicability. Once enrolled, CPS students are not permitted to transfer credit from coursework taken outside the University, except under extraordinary circumstances and with the advance permission of the Dean.

Transfer credit that is accepted and applied to a student’s GW academic record counts toward the number of credits completed only. The grades from these courses are not used in calculating a student’s GW grade-point average.