MINIMUM TRANSFER STANDARDS

Student course work of comparable content and scope to that of CU Denver curriculum will be considered for transfer credit if it was completed at a college or university with regional accreditation. If coursework was completed at an institution not regionally accredited, the student may specifically request that credit be considered in transfer by initiating a review process that begins with the student's academic advisor. Only courses in which a grade of C- or better (1.700) was earned are considered for transfer. Courses in which a grade of Pass (P) was earned are considered for transfer only if a grade of Pass at the sending institution is defined as a C- or better. Courses identified on transcripts as State of Colorado guaranteed transfer courses (gtPathways) are always accepted in transfer (with C- or better grades) and applied to degree requirements per gtPathways guidelines.

The Office of the Registrar considers course work for general transfer regardless of the age of the academic credit. Certain departments, however, have specific age of credit policies for applying credit to degree requirements and for meeting prerequisites. State-guaranteed general education courses will be accepted in transfer and applied to graduation requirements for a period of at least 10 years after course completion as outlined in gtPathways guidelines.

Credit Hour Conversion

The University of Colorado Denver is on a 16-week fall and spring semester system. Summer terms, study abroad programs, and independent learning vary in length but are reported in semester hours. Students who transfer from a quarter-based institution will receive the following conversion:

1 quarter hour = 0.67 semester hours  
Example: 4 quarter hours = 2.7 semester hours

Maximum Number of Transfer Credit Hours Accepted

School/College Specific Policy

Business School

The Business School generally limits its applicability of business course credits to those that are comparable to lower-division business courses at CU Denver. Students who have taken upper-division business courses from an Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accredited business program may request review of these courses for possible transfer by contacting the Business School advising office. All courses taken in their major must be completed at CU Denver.

For students newly admitted to the Business School and former business students readmitted to the school after an absence of three semesters, applicable credits up to eight years old will be counted toward business degree requirements. Courses more than eight years old will be evaluated individually for their current relevance to the degree program. Students may be required to update their knowledge by taking additional courses when past courses are outdated; in such cases, credit will be given for both courses.

College of Arts & Media

College of Arts & Media (CAM) degree programs involve carefully structured sequences of course work, designed to build student knowledge, skills and dispositions toward academic, artistic and professional outcomes. Students interested in transferring to pursue a CAM degree should contact CAM advising in advance at CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu to plan out their transfer credits and subsequent University of Colorado Denver course work. As part of this discussion, CAM advisors can help students determine the best semester in which to transfer, taking into consideration each student’s desired timeline toward graduation and program requirements.

College of Engineering, Design and Computing

The College of Engineering, Design and Computing, in general, requires that engineering course transfer credit must come from an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited engineering program to be acceptable for degree purposes. Engineering technology courses are not considered equivalent to engineering courses.

Transfer Credit Level Determination

School/College Specific Policy

College of Arts & Media

College of Arts & Media (CAM) degree programs involve carefully structured sequences of course work, designed to build student knowledge, skills and dispositions toward academic, artistic and professional outcomes. Students interested in transferring to pursue a CAM degree should contact CAM advising in advance at CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu to plan out their transfer credits and subsequent University of Colorado Denver course work. As part of this discussion, CAM advisors can help students determine the best semester in which to transfer, taking into consideration each student’s desired timeline toward graduation and program requirements.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The general rule for determining transfer credit is that the level of credit awarded (lower-division or upper-division) will be determined by the level of the course at the sending institution. If the institution of origin listed the course as 1000 (or 100) or 2000 (or 200), or if the numbering system otherwise indicates lower-division credit, then it will automatically receive lower-division credit for fulfilling college requirements.

This rule will apply in all cases other than those where course- or student-specific exceptions have been made as described in the paragraphs below. Also, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis in instances where the sending institution does not use a four-level course numbering system or otherwise indicate lower- and upper-division credit distinctions.

Academic units retain the authority to determine whether an individual transfer course (taken at either upper or lower division) will count as fulfilling an upper-division major requirement. If the transfer course was taken as lower-division but is deemed to fulfill a University of Colorado Denver upper-division major requirement, the academic unit is additionally responsible for determining the course should be awarded upper-division credit toward the CLAS graduation requirement of a minimum of 45 upper-division credit hours. These are separate decisions, thus it is possible for a lower-division transfer course to fulfill an upper-division requirement in the major but not count toward the 45 upper-division hours required by CLAS. In either case, the academic unit’s decision can either be applied to all future students entering with the same transfer course (this is known as course equivalency) or made on a one-time basis (this is known as a course substitution). These decisions will be made by the appropriate department chair or undergraduate major advisor. The academic unit that owns the course prefix for the substituted course holds the authority to make these transfer determinations, even
in cases where the substituted course fulfills a major requirement for a separate academic unit.

Academic units will report all course substitutions and equivalencies using the DATC Universal Form. This form requests that the approving chair or major advisor examine the course description and, if possible, the syllabus from the sending institution. When approving major credit for a transfer course taken at the lower division, the chair or major advisor should indicate whether the course should also count toward the CLAS requirement of 45 upper-division credit hours, or whether the hours should continue to be counted at the lower division. The chair or major advisor should also indicate whether the determination should be applied to all future students entering CU Denver with the same transfer course (equivalency). This indication may result in revisions to the automated transfer-equivalency tables used for degree audit purposes. One exception made for a given course may then become the standard for all future students sending in that same course. The Advising Office will report such exceptions to the Registrar’s Office for consideration of whether or not to revise the transfer equivalency tables.