

TRANSFER CREDIT OVERVIEW

Our goal is to award maximum credit for transfer coursework and knowledge demonstrated through scores on approved exams, while simultaneously ensuring that we maintain the high standards of a Seattle Pacific degree.

Seattle Pacific University endorses the rights and responsibilities of transfer students established by the Washington Student Achievement Council. Your credits earned from a nationally recognized, degree-granting institution of higher education in academic areas offered at Seattle Pacific University usually will be accepted in transfer. (To be “nationally recognized” means that the institution’s accreditor has been reviewed and accepted as a national accreditor by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education.) Your college courses will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis to determine their transferability and to ensure that courses are applied appropriately toward general education requirements and requirements in your intended program of study.

The University reserves the right to deny credit for courses that are not compatible with those offered in SPU’s degree programs in content, depth, or rigor. College courses numbered below college level, technical and vocational courses, developmental education or remedial courses, English as a Second Language, credit for life experience/travel, credit for work experience, and DANTES credit by examination do not transfer, regardless of an institution’s accreditation. Credit for military service is limited to three credits of physical activity awarded for basic training.

Students who have earned a Washington state DTA (Direct Transfer Agreement) associate degree or approved comparable degree from Oregon or California before beginning classes at SPU, enter with all general education requirements complete, except University Foundations (UFDN) coursework, which is determined by a student’s class standing upon entrance. With few exceptions, these students are awarded 90 credits and junior class standing upon entrance.

If you have earned credit from an institution outside the U.S., see how credit from an international institution transfers (<https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/admissions/applying-international-student/transferring-international-credits/>).

Transcript Requirement of Admitted Students

As part of the application process, transfer students must submit an official transcript from each institution of higher education at which credit was earned. First-year students who completed college credits while in high school, through dual-credit programs such as Running Start and College in the High School, or through direct enrollment at a college or university, also must submit official transcripts from each institution at which credit was earned. These college-level transcripts are not required from first-year students until after they have been admitted to SPU. However, official transcripts will be used to award credit for past college-level coursework and to determine placement in some advanced courses, so students are encouraged to submit transcripts as soon as possible.

As a transfer student or first-year student applying for admission to Seattle Pacific University, you must meet the following conditions, regardless of your previous institution, and be aware of the following policies:

- You must present a separate, official transcript from each institution of higher learning at which you completed college-level coursework.
 - Failure to disclose previous coursework taken at an institution with nationally recognized¹ accreditation is a serious offense.
- You must be in good standing at all prior institutions attended.
- Credit for approved standardized exams will be awarded based on official score reports sent directly from the testing program, using SPU’s credit-granting criteria.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that your final, official transcripts reflecting all coursework and degrees completed after your admission to SPU are received by Undergraduate Admissions by the 10th day of your first quarter at SPU.
 - The absence of final coursework will affect your class standing, eligibility for financial aid, and progress toward degree completion.
- If you are a transfer student who has successfully completed 45 college-level quarter credits or 30 college-level semester credits from an institution with nationally recognized accreditation at the time of your application, you are not required to take the American College Test (ACT) or the College Board Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT-I). (Note that SPU is test-optional for the 2024–25 academic year.)

Transfer Student Hub

Find everything you need for your transfer journey (<https://spu.edu/undergraduate-admissions/transfer-students/>) – academics, campus life, financial aid, and more.

Transfer Course Equivalency Guide

Find out how academic credits you received from other institutions and approved testing programs typically transfer to SPU.

Find out now (<https://spu.edu/administration/office-of-the-registrar/transfer-equivalency-guide/>).

Transfer Credit Policies

Seattle Pacific University will normally accept transfer credit from a U.S. institution that:

- Is a degree-granting institution that provides a transcript of academic work.
- Uses a grading system to evaluate learning.
- Is accredited by an accreditor that has national recognition from the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

SPU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), which is on par with the following nationally-recognized¹ accreditors: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges; Higher Learning Commission (HLC); Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

NWCCU and its peer accrediting agencies share similar standards and purposes not necessarily shared by other nationally recognized accrediting agencies. Therefore, SPU applies some transfer policies to schools accredited by the organizations named above that do not apply to institutions with accreditation from other agencies. Where such

differences in transfer policies exist, they will be noted in the sections below.

- Only college-level academic courses will be transferred. Vocational, technical, and practicum/internship courses will be transferred only with faculty approval.
- The grade point average for your combined courses transferred from each school must be "C" (2.0) or higher. This means that for every grade of "D" (1.0) accepted from an institution, there must be another grade of at least "B" (3.0) or its equivalent for an equal number of credits from that school.
- No grade below "D" (1.0) will be accepted from any institution.
- No grade below "C" (2.0) will be accepted from schools outside the U.S., nor from any institution that does not hold accreditation from NWCCU or one of its peer accrediting agencies.
- The minimum grade that can be applied toward a major or minor is C- (1.7). Some majors may require a higher grade in some or all classes.
- Only courses taken for a regular grade (not "pass/fail" or "credit/no credit," etc.) will be applied toward requirements in General Education, the Common Curriculum and Exploratory Curriculum, and toward your major and minor.
- Existing Washington, Oregon, and California community college associate degree transfer agreements will be honored as they apply to General Education requirements, and the University's Foreign Language Competency requirement.
- Transfer associate degrees earned after matriculation at SPU will not be recognized toward fulfillment of the Exploratory Curriculum, University Core requirements, General Education, or the foreign language proficiency requirement, unless you are participating in the Reverse Transfer Agreement (p. 2).
- A combined total of not more than 90 quarter credits will be accepted from all two-year colleges, approved test programs (i.e., AP, Cambridge International Program, CLEP, and IB), and schools not accredited by NWCCU or one of its peer accrediting agencies.
- No more than 45 quarter credits will be accepted from approved testing programs (<https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/admissions/exams-advanced-standing/>) (i.e., AP, Cambridge International, CLEP, and IB).
- In transfer, a course retains the same level assigned by the school that awarded credit.
- Usually, credit will be awarded without regard to the date on which the course was completed.
- You will not be awarded credit twice for the same course material.
- Generally, credits in excess of 20 quarter credits in any one term will not be transferred. This includes courses taken concurrently by media, correspondence, or extension at more than one institution, as well as non-credit courses.
- Independent study, internship, field experience, and practicum courses generally do not transfer unless an SPU faculty member, upon reviewing a course, requests that it transfer toward a specific program.
- Credits will not be transferred for travel, life experience, or work experience.
- No credit will be awarded for credit by exam except through a recognized testing program.
- Credit for military service is limited to three credits of physical activity awarded for basic training.
- To be eligible for a degree, you are required to earn a minimum of 45 credits in residence at SPU, including no fewer than 15 upper-division

credits in your major (more, if specified by the major), and at least 5 credits that fulfill SPU Foundations requirements. See individual majors (<https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/>) for additional degree requirements.

Questions about how courses have transferred to SPU (or not transferred) should be directed to an academic evaluator (<http://spu.edu/administration/office-of-the-registrar/meet-the-staff/>) in the Office of the Registrar.

Policies Specific to Schools Not Accredited by NWCCU or a Peer Accrediting Organization

- To be accepted, a course must have received a grade of C (2.0) or higher.
- A combined total of not more than 90 quarter credits will be accepted from all two-year colleges, approved test programs (such as AP, Cambridge International Program, CLEP, and IB), and schools not accredited by NWCCU or one of its peer accrediting agencies.
- Courses may be applied toward Exploratory Curriculum, University Core, Academic Inquiry and Disciplinary Writing (WRI), foreign language, major, or minor requirements if course content is comparable to that of SPU courses that fulfill these categories, as determined by designated faculty members.
- A maximum of 15 credits in biblical studies, theology, or church history may be accepted by the University, and will transfer as elective credits only.
- No credits may be applied to University Foundations requirements.

Except as noted here, policies in the previous section apply.

DTA and Comparable Degrees Washington Direct Transfer Agreements (DTA)

If you complete an approved Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree from a Washington state two-year public institution before you begin classes at Seattle Pacific, you will enter SPU with all Exploratory Curriculum, Academic and Disciplinary Writing (WRI), and University Core (UCOR) requirements fulfilled, as well as the foreign language proficiency requirement. Generally, you will enter with 90 credits and junior standing, which exempts you from UFDN 1000 The Christian Faith . All students entering with junior or senior standing must complete UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students and UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

SPU also recognizes DTA degrees with corresponding Major-Related Programs (MRPs), and students transfer with all the benefits of a Direct Transfer Agreement.

Oregon Transfer Degrees

The Associate Degrees from Oregon public two-year institutions that transfer directly to SPU to fulfill University Core and Exploratory Curriculum requirements are the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer (AAOT) degree, the Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree-Business (ASOT-B), and the Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree-Computer Science (ASOT-CS).

If you have earned one of these degrees prior to matriculation at SPU, you will enter with all your Exploratory Curriculum, University Core (UCOR), and Academic and Disciplinary (WRI) requirements fulfilled, as well as proficiency requirements in foreign language. Generally, students will

enter with 90 credits and junior standing, which exempts them from UFDN 1000 The Christian Faith, one of the three UFDN courses required for all SPU students. If you enter as a junior or senior, you still will need to complete UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students and UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

California IGETC Curriculum and Associate Degrees

If you earn an associate degree from a regionally accredited public two-year California school, along with the IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum), before you begin classes at Seattle Pacific, you will enter SPU with your Exploratory Curriculum, University Core (UCOR), and Academic and Disciplinary (WRI) requirements fulfilled, as well as proficiency requirements in foreign language.

Generally, that means you will enter with 90 credits and junior standing, which exempts you from UFDN 1000 The Christian Faith. All students entering with junior or senior standing must complete UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students and UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

Other Washington State Associate Degrees

Associate of Science-Transfer Degree Options 1 and 2

While SPU recognizes the Associate of Science-Transfer (AS-T) degree, Option 1 and Option 2, from Washington state community and technical colleges, the AS-T does not fulfill the same general education requirements as the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree. The primary purpose of the AS-T degrees is to help you complete most of the lower-division coursework for your science major before you transfer, so you are prepared to begin taking junior-level courses in your program.

At least 15 credits of your transfer coursework in humanities and social sciences will be used to fulfill SPU's humanities and social science or UCOR (University Core) requirements, whether or not the courses match SPU requirements on a course by course basis. However, you will need to complete additional general education and University requirements prior to graduation.

If you have earned, prior to matriculation at SPU, an Associate of Science-Transfer degree, Option 1 or 2, you will generally enter with junior standing, in which case you will be required to take only two of the three required University Foundations courses, UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students and UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

Associate of Applied Sciences-Transfer and Other Professional/Technical Associate Degrees

If you have earned, prior to matriculation at SPU, an (AAS-T) Associate of Applied Science-Transfer degree from a Washington state community or technical college, you are eligible to apply for admission to the Professional Studies (BA) program. Students in the Professional Studies Program (<https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/interdisciplinary-programs/>) follow an alternative degree curriculum. Transfer classes will be reviewed on a course-by-course basis toward completion of any general education requirements. The Professional Studies major is a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Students admitted to this program must complete an academic minor at SPU and earn a "Professional Studies" major in recognition of their previously-completed associate's degree.

If you have earned a professional or technical degree other than the AAS-T from a Washington state community or technical college, you are eligible to apply for the Professional Studies Program if you have earned a minimum GPA of 2.5 in at least 20 college level liberal arts credits from the academic areas of English Composition, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Mathematics.

Generally, students admitted to the Professional Studies Program enter SPU with 90 credits and junior standing.

Reverse Transfer Agreement

If you are within 20 credits of earning a DTA associate degree at a Washington state two-year school when you transfer to SPU, you may be eligible to participate in SPU's Reverse Transfer DTA Agreement (<https://catalog.spu.edu/pdf/Reverse%20Transfer%20DTA%20Agreement%20Form%20Rev%20Mar%202019.pdf>) (PDF).

Students participating in this program complete their final courses for the DTA associate's degree at SPU and transfer them back to the community or technical college. Once SPU has received an official transcript from the two-year school indicating that the degree has been awarded, students receive the transfer benefits of the DTA degree.

Contact your SPU undergraduate academic counselor (<http://spu.edu/administration/academic-counseling/advising/counselors/>) to discuss this option.

University Foundations Requirement

SPU considers the University Foundations requirements to be at the heart of our approach to higher education. Therefore, each transfer student is expected to complete these requirements at SPU.

Each student who enters SPU with freshman or sophomore standing will complete the full 15-credit Foundations sequence, which includes UFDN 1000 The Christian Faith, UFDN 2000 Christian Scripture, and UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

Transfer students with junior or senior standing upon admission will fulfill the University Foundations requirement by completing 10 credits total, including 5 credits in UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students followed by 5 credits in UFDN 3100 Christian Theology.

If you have just completed the DTA associate degree through the Running Start Program, and entered SPU with junior standing, you are encouraged to complete at least one quarter at SPU before enrolling in UFDN 3001 Christian Scripture for Transfer Students .

If you have taken Bible or theology courses at a member institution of the Christian College Consortium, up to 10 credits may be accepted toward the fulfillment of the University Foundations requirement.¹

Transfer of credit toward Foundations requirements may be granted only by petition process from an ABHE-accredited Bible school, or from a school not in the Christian College Consortium but accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges; Higher Learning Commission (HLC); Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

Credits from other institutions may not fulfill University Foundations requirements.¹

¹ In all cases, students must complete at least five credits of pre-approved coursework in the School of Theology (UFDN or THEO disciplines) at *Seattle Pacific University*.