

Transfer Guide and Checklist

You may have enrolled in community college intending to eventually transfer to a four-year institution. Many students start out at community colleges rather than four-year institutions because they are intimidated by the concept of a four-year degree, would like to save money, or are not yet ready to attend a four-year institution. Community colleges also offer schedules that are sometimes more flexible for working adult students.

Whether or not you've thought about eventually moving from a two-year to a four-year institution, the following guide will help you think about the necessary steps. The decision to transfer is largely an individual one, depending on your academic area of interest and career goals. For some fields, such as computer science, an associate's degree is enough to get a good job. However, if you feel intellectually curious and would like to explore subjects that are unavailable through your community college, or if you know that a bachelor's degree will be necessary to obtain a job in your career field of interest, you should begin thinking about the transfer process.

Try to stay focused on completing your associate's degree and begin early to plan your transfer. You want to be sure that the courses you take will count for credit once you transfer. Websites like www.Transferology.com can assist in finding out what your classes can transfer to.

Credits

Some four-year institutions place limits on the number of transferable credits and have minimum grade requirements for transferring credit. In some cases, it is easier to transfer to a four-year institution once you have already completed an associate's degree. It may be easier for the four-year institution to recognize the credits accumulated from an entire program, rather than from individual courses.

Some community colleges have special transfer arrangements with neighboring four-year institutions. Find out if your institution has any of the following to make your transition process a bit easier:

- **Articulation agreements** – These agreements help ease the transition and maximize the number of transferable credits through established core curricula.
- **Dual admissions agreements** – Dual admissions agreements between community colleges and four-year institutions enroll students who are “special admits” because they do not meet the minimum academic requirements of the four-year institution.
- **Joint admissions agreements** – These are like dual admissions programs in that you enroll both institutions, but the agreements are typically specific to an academic major program.