

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I don't know what I want to major in. What should I take at the community college?

The Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) is a good broad-based preparation for most majors. Be sure to talk to the admissions office at the baccalaureate (four-year) college you want to transfer to as early as possible to get guidance in course selection and to make sure the college accepts the degree with all its benefits.

Is the course work harder at a baccalaureate institution?

Many find that to be true. The volume of work covered in the junior and senior years is much larger. You'll probably spend more time studying. But completing your two-year degree proves you can do it!

Do all colleges accept transfer students?

All Washington four year colleges not only accept transfer students, but welcome them into the community. Transfer students bring a new perspective to the campus and provide diversity of thought enriching the education of all.

I don't understand the vocabulary. Where can I get help?

There are terms that have very specific meanings. www.gearup.wa.gov/resource/college-vocabulary

You can also get some help on types of degrees www.gearup.wa.gov/resource/types-degrees and types of colleges

www.gearup.wa.gov/resource/types-colleges.



What if the college doesn't accept the DTA?

Talk to the admissions people at the college you want to transfer to and get guidance from them about what courses to take. They'll work with you to make sure you transfer well prepared to start into your major if you're accepted.

What if I want to transfer before I complete my associate's degree?

Talk to the admissions people at the college you want to transfer to. They may evaluate your transcript course-by-course. They can help you choose the right classes that will transfer into the right categories in general education.

What if I got my technical degree and now I want to get my baccalaureate degree?

There are some programs that are created to work well with a technical degree. Visit the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/_e-transferassocinappliedsci.aspx) for more information on baccalaureate pathways with the Associate in Applied Science degree.

Will I be eligible for scholarships and/or financial aid as a transfer student?

Check with your baccalaureate college. Financial aid is available to transfer students who complete the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and who qualify for need-based aid. Deadlines for scholarship and FAFSA applications should be noted and adhered to.

Which colleges accept the liberal arts transfer degree (DTA)?

For a list of colleges, go to this web-site: www.hecb.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/AdmissionsAndTransfer/Pathways

Some other resources to check out if you want to start at a community college and transfer to a baccalaureate.

- www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/e_transfer.aspx
- www.projectopportunity.net/transfer
- www.hecb.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/AdmissionsAndTransfer/Pathways

Transfer from a Washington Community College to a University?



Source: Joint Transfer Council
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STUDENT CHOICE

As a student in Washington you have the advantage of a robust higher education system that provides many paths to a four-year degree. Statewide transfer agreements help students acquire the first 90 credits, including general education requirements, at community and technical colleges and transfer those credits to public and most private universities in the state.

* **Direct Transfer Agreement associate's degree (also called "the DTA"):** Provides the general education requirements for most four-year (baccalaureate) colleges. If you complete this path and are accepted at a four year college, you'll be ready for your junior year at all public and participating private colleges.

* **Associate of Science - Transfer (AS-T):** If you're a science major, you will need to take more science in your first two years and defer some other general education requirements until after you transfer. There are two tracks to tailor the degree to different science and engineering majors.

* **Major Related Program (MRPs):** Some majors, like business and nursing, have even more specific requirements that must be taken in the first two years in order to progress on time.

* **Associate in Applied Science (AAS-T):** This degree will transfer to only a very limited set of bachelor's degree programs, including some applied degrees at community colleges or to "upside-down" programs at a few four-year colleges. See Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

* **Students who transfer without an associate degree:** Students who transfer without a degree and take courses similar to those traditionally offered by universities will generally have those transfer courses accepted by the college or university.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

No matter what path you choose after community college, the people you meet along the way can be helpful to you. You'll want to talk to academic advisors at the community or technical college you attend and the four year college to which you would like to transfer. Get to know your advisors and instructors as well. They can help you with a reference in the future. If the college has transfer sessions, attend them and explore your options.



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I'M HAVING PROBLEMS.

You have some rights and responsibilities: www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/education/transfer_student_rights_and_responsibilities_oct09.pdf

It looks like I've lost credits. What happened?

If it looks like you've lost credits in the transfer, you can always ask the registrar's or admissions office to explain your transcript to you. There are a couple of common circumstances that may explain the problem.

a) You're transferring from a college on the quarter system to a college on the semester system. You took 90 quarter credits at the community college, but the college only gave you 60 credits (1.5 quarter credits = 1 semester credit.) They gave you full credit for all your courses. It takes fewer semester credits to complete a degree so you're still on track with 60 semester credits.

b) You took technical courses that won't transfer to the baccalaureate college.

c) The grade in the courses that didn't transfer may not have been high enough to get credit at your transfer college.

d) You might have taken remedial courses, generally numbered below 100. Those courses prepare you for college level work, but are not themselves college level.

If you believe your credits weren't handled appropriately and you've gone through your college's appeal process, contact the Transfer Liaison at the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Start with the Transfer Liaison Issue Report Form located on the HECB website at www.hecb.wa.gov/PreparingForCollege/AdmissionsAndTransfer/Pathways or contact the liaison at transferliaison@hecb.wa.gov.