

What are Pre-major Courses?

Pre-major courses prepare students for their intended majors. Each major has its own list of required and recommended courses. Some of these courses may also be used to meet general education requirements.

When is it best to select a major?

As early as possible. Some students may not be ready to select a major in their freshman year. That is not unusual. However, the longer a student takes to decide on a major, the more likely it is that some of the courses taken may not apply to the major. This could result in the student having to earn more than the maximum number of semester credit hours transferable to a 4-year college or university.

Can you change majors?

Yes. However, changing majors may lengthen the time it takes to earn a degree. Changing majors may also result in the accumulation of more community college semester credit hours than will transfer to a 4-year college or university.

Personal Notes

For more information please contact:

- ★ An academic advisor/counselor at any North Carolina community college
- ★ The Admissions Office at any of the 16 universities of the University of North Carolina
- ★ The Admissions Office of any North Carolina community college

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North Carolina College Transfer Guide For Students



North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA)

Facilitating the Transfer of Students Between The North Carolina Community College System and the Constituent Institutions of The University of North Carolina

www.ncccs.cc.nc.us
www.ga.unc.edu/student_info/caa

What is the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement?

The North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) is a statewide agreement governing the transfer of credits between N.C. community colleges and public universities in North Carolina, and has as its objective the smooth transfer of students. This agreement has been approved by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina and the N.C. State Board of Community Colleges. The CAA provides certain assurances to the transferring student. For example, the CAA identifies community college courses that are appropriate for transfer as electives. It also specifies courses that will satisfy pre-major and general education requirements.

The CAA defines a 44-semester credit hour general education core which, if completed at the community college, is fully transferable to UNC institutions and will satisfy general education requirements. This means that a transfer student who completes the general education core at a North Carolina community college will not be required to take other general education classes at a UNC institution even if his/her 44-semester credit hour core does not completely match the university's. Students should be aware that some universities have graduation requirements that transfer students must satisfy -- such as physical education or a foreign language.

North Carolina community college students who earn an associate's degree according to the guidelines of the CAA will be treated as juniors at any of the UNC institutions providing that they are admitted to the institution. Admission to any university or college is competitive.

Students graduating from North Carolina community colleges under the guidelines of the CAA will have 64 semester hours of credit transferred to the UNC institution to which they are admitted. Because UNC institutions differ in their admission requirements, it is important that students intending to transfer contact the UNC institution(s) of their choice to learn of admissions requirements.

What is a college transfer program?

A college transfer program is a set of courses that has been designed to transfer to most four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina. The set of courses includes a 44-semester hour general education core and 20 additional semester hours of transfer credit. In the North Carolina Community College System, the A.A. and A.S. degree programs are included in the CAA as college transfer programs.

What is a community college transfer student?

Transfer students are those who wish to transfer from community colleges to another community college or to a senior-level college or university.

What is a bachelor's degree?

A bachelor's degree is a four-year degree granted by a college or university. Typically, the community college student does two of the four years of work at his or her community college and transfers that work to the senior-level institution where he or she completes the last two years of work. Agreements that govern the transfer of coursework from community colleges to 4-year colleges and universities are called "articulations."

What makes up a bachelor's degree?

There are three parts to a bachelor's degree. The first is "general education." This consists of courses in English, the humanities, social science, natural science and mathematics designed to give the student a broad academic foundation. General education classes are typically taken during the freshman and sophomore years.

The second part of a bachelor's degree is a "major." This is a set of courses designed to make the student knowledgeable in a particular field of study. Typically, these courses account for one to two years of study and are usually taken in the junior and senior years.

The third part of a bachelor's degree is "elective" coursework. Electives allow students to broaden their academic horizon and explore subjects of interest. These classes may be taken at any time.

What is the difference between the A.A. and A.S. degrees?

The Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree is designed for students who want to pursue a four-year degree in one of the liberal arts disciplines or at a professional school that requires a strong liberal arts background. The mathematics and science requirements for the A.A. degree are usually fewer than for an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree.

The Associate in Science degree is designed for students who want to pursue a four-year degree in areas of study such as mathematics, engineering, computer science, the sciences or professional programs that require strong math and science backgrounds.

What is the General Education Core?

The General Education core is a set of 44 semester hours (S.H.) of courses which when completed will meet the freshman/sophomore general education requirements at all UNC institutions. The core specifically includes the following:

English Composition	6 S.H.
Humanities & Fine Arts	12 S.H.
Social & Behavioral Sciences	12 S.H.
Mathematics	6 S.H.
Natural Sciences	<u>8 S.H.</u>
Total	44 S.H.

Is it necessary to finish the general education core before transferring to a university?

It is not necessary but it is advisable. Students who do not complete the general education core as stated in the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement will have to complete the general education requirements of the college or university to which they transfer.

Is it necessary to finish the associate's degree before transferring to a university?

It is not necessary but it is advisable. Students should talk to an admissions representative of the institution they are interested in attending to determine if they meet its admission requirements.

Is admission to a UNC institution guaranteed?

No, the CAA does not guarantee admission to a UNC institution or to a particular major. Admission requirements may vary among UNC campuses.

What about the Minimum Course Requirements (MCR) that the UNC institutions require of students who apply to them?

Students who complete an associate's degree under the guidelines of the CAA will have met MCR. Students attempting to transfer without an associate's degree must satisfy the MCR. Counselors at the community colleges and UNC institutions' admissions offices will gladly advise students about the MCR and what is necessary to satisfy them. Students who did not satisfy the MCR upon completion of high school must include a sequence of two courses in a foreign language in their A.A. or A.S. general education program of study in order to be considered for admission to a public university beginning Fall 2004.

What courses will transfer to UNC institutions?

The North Carolina Community College common course library lists courses that have been approved for transfer to the constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina. Transferring students must have earned a grade of "C" (including '+' or '-' modifiers) or better in a course in order to get transfer credit for the course.

Will "D" or "F" grades transfer?

No, under the CAA, only courses in which a grade of "C" (including '+' or '-' modifiers) or higher is earned will transfer.

How many semester hours will transfer?

If a student transfers to a University of North Carolina institution under the statewide Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA), a maximum of 64 semester hours will transfer. The student should consult an academic advisor/counselor since special program articulations may exist between community colleges and 4-year colleges or universities in North Carolina or elsewhere that may permit the transfer of additional credit hours.

Will an associate in applied science (A.A.S.), associate in general education (A.G.E.) or an associate in fine arts (A.F.A.) degree transfer?

At present, the CAA does not articulate the A.A.S., A.G.E. or A.F.A. degree for college transfer. Individual universities and community colleges have very specific program articulations which govern the transfer of credit earned in these degree programs. Information on these programs is available from the academic advisor/counselor or the college catalogue.

Is a placement test needed when transferring to a university?

This will be up to the university to which the student transfers. Most senior-level institutions will use successful performance in English and mathematics at the community college as proof of skill level and will not require additional testing.

Does the CAA apply to private colleges and universities?

Some private colleges and universities participate in the CAA: Barber-Scotia, Barton, Belmont Abbey, Bennett, Brevard, Campbell, Catawba, Chowan, Gardner-Webb, Johnson C. Smith, Livingstone, Louisburg, Mars Hill, Mount Olive, Pfeiffer University, Queens, St. Andrews Presbyterian, Warren Wilson, and Wingate. Contact the admissions office of the private institution of interest for information.

When should students apply for transfer?

Admissions deadlines vary from institution to institution. Students should contact the admissions office or consult the catalogue of the particular institution to which they are applying to find out application deadlines. In general, students should begin the application process two semesters before they intend to transfer. Students applying for financial aid and/or scholarships are strongly encouraged to begin the application process as soon as applications are available.

Should I speak with an academic advisor/counselor?

Yes! It is a good idea to speak with an admissions counselor.