

EDUCATION DIFFERENCES

What is the difference between TRANSFER, LIBERAL ARTS, and GENERALS?

Nothing. All three of these terms can be used to describe courses that are typically designed to transfer from a 2-year college to a 4-year college. These can be equated to your freshman and sophomore college-level courses.

What is the difference between TECHNICAL and TRANSFER?

Technical education is typically specific training designed for immediate entry into the workforce (*welding, cosmetology*), while transfer education is typically general in nature and designed for students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Do the terms "2-year" college and "4-year" college refer to how long I will be in school?

Typically, but only if you attend these institutions full-time (16 credits per semester) and follow a consistent plan.

If you need to attend less than full-time, need developmental courses or you change your academic plan, your length of education will increase accordingly.

Are the credits I take at a 2-year college good forever?

Generally, technical credits are valid for up to 5 years. Transfer credits tend to remain valid for longer periods of time if they are general in nature (psychology, history, English). Technical or medical-related majors with older courses in science or technology may be asked to repeat them.

Transferring credits

RIDGEWATER COLLEGE

What is the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum?

The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) is a means by which students can transfer their completed lower division, general education requirements to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) and University of Minnesota schools (along with some select private or out-of-state colleges). This is a package of 40 credits that includes 10 goal areas.

GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER OF CREDITS

What is the benefit of completing the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum or an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree?

The MnTC (40 credits) and the A.A. degree (60 credits) transfer as a package of completed lower division general education requirements. This means the transfer institution does not look course by course to evaluate for transfer, nor do you, as the student, need to meet their liberal arts requirements. By transferring with an A.A., you can transfer as a junior to a four-year college, and by following a plan designed for your major, you will be fully prepared for your upper division major classes.

How much longer will I need to go to college for a bachelor's degree if I have an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree from a two-year school?

Normally, this involves two more years of a full-time credit load. However, this depends on how well you have made decisions and planned your courses. Students who do not follow a specific academic plan when they start may have more than two years left at the transfer university. Also, some bachelor's degrees simply have more content and may take more than four years.

Who decides how my general education credits will transfer, and will my general education credits transfer towards any degree or major?

The institution you are transferring to decides how general education credits will transfer. Depending on your selected major, your transfer institution may also have specific GPA requirements to get into the school and/or prerequisite courses that may need to be taken at your transferring school.

If I don't complete a degree, can I transfer?

Yes, you can transfer at any time. Generally, liberal arts coursework numbered 100 or higher with grades of "C" or better will transfer. There are two major ways a transfer can take place:

1. BY COURSE—Individually, course by course. Go to www.uSelectmn.org to determine equivalencies, or contact the transfer specialist to verify course specifics.

2. BY GOAL AREA—Many courses are assigned to goal areas in the MnTC. If you have completed the goal area criteria at your first MnSCU institution, your transfer institution must also grant completion of the goal area.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Do my technical credits transfer? If so, how and where?

In general, for a four-year college, students can transfer up to 16 credits towards a bachelor's degree (or A.A. at a community college). These credits often transfer as elective credits.

If I receive a technical diploma, will that transfer?

Generally, the diploma will transfer as 16 credits of electives.

If I earn a technical degree (A.A.S.), do four-year colleges accept my two-year program as the first two years?

Several four-year state universities have designated majors of study that use an A.A.S. degree as the first two years of a bachelor's degree. This rule is not all encompassing. In addition, there may be additional pre-requisite courses required. Please check with a college counselor to review these options. Keep in mind that each individual school makes its own decisions regarding transfer of technical credits.

STILL HAVE MORE TRANSFER QUESTIONS?

Check out www.MnTransfer.org for more valuable transfer information

COURSE DIFFERENCES

What are the differences between GOAL AREA COURSES and ELECTIVE courses?

Goal areas are defined in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) as course areas colleges and universities feel give students a broad, general basis of understanding.

Elective courses are chosen by the student to prepare for a specific major or to explore areas of interest, or they may be courses that do not necessarily fit into the MnTC.

What are the differences between LOWER DIVISION and UPPER DIVISION courses?

Lower division courses are those that are numbered as 100 or 200 level courses, and upper division courses are 300 and 400 level courses. Ridgewater College only offers 100 and 200 level courses.

Those courses numbered below 100 are called remedial courses, and they may be needed in order to qualify to take a 100 level course.

Extra Information ...

Are credits taken as a Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) student transferable?

Yes. They are credits from the college and will transfer with the same criteria as other credits do. Check with your transfer college to determine if they have transfer credit policies.

Do Advanced Placement (AP) courses taken in high school transfer to a college or university?

High school students who have taken an AP course must take an AP exam to receive college credit. Students must receive a score of 3 or better to receive this credit (some colleges require higher scores).

What is Tech Prep College Credit, and how does that transfer?

Tech Prep courses are identified courses in high school that are technical or occupational in nature. After completion of these courses, a student is given a certificate listing colleges that will offer credit for these courses if two requirements are met:

1. You attend a participating college.
2. The course is required or is an approved elective in your college program.

What is concurrent enrollment?

Concurrent enrollment students take college courses at their high school. When completed, these courses appear on a college transcript and can be transferred to colleges.

What is a 2+2 program plan?

This is a bachelor's degree program plan shared between two institutions and based on a formal agreement. To obtain a bachelor's degree, students first attend the two-year college to complete the freshman and sophomore course plan, and then transfer to the four-year university to complete the last two years of the bachelor's degree plan.

What is CLEP?

CLEP stands for the College-Level Examination Program. College students can take CLEP exams to earn college credit in specific subject areas. The receiving college will decide which exams it will offer for credit and what score it will require to pass.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

RIDGEWATER COLLEGE:

Hutchinson Campus - Counseling: 320-234-8508

Willmar Campus - Counseling: 320-222-5981

Ridgewater College Transfer Specialists and Counselors are available to assist you.

www.ridgewater.edu