If you are planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree at the University of Arkansas or any other four-year institution in Arkansas or another state, there are a few things you need to know when planning your coursework here at NWACC. This document is intended to shed some light on how transfer credits work and how you should go about learning if your classes will transfer in a way that lets you meet your goals.

Where do I start?

First of all, as a future transfer student, you need to understand that there are three kinds of courses as they relate to your goals:

1. Classes that will transfer to another institution and also fit into your degree plan;
2. Classes that will transfer to another institution but do not fit into your degree plan;
3. Classes that do not transfer to another institution.

Many students, especially when they are starting out in college, do not always understand the difference between the first two, and may not even learn that there is a difference until they have already taken courses that they cannot count toward their degree. To save you time and money spent on classes you cannot use, we are offering you some advice and resources to help make the best decisions for your future.

While we encourage you to use the Transfer Resources web page to organize your efforts, we recommend you begin an ongoing conversation with your academic advisor at NWACC as well as with potential transfer schools. Start work now on deciding your transfer degree with the help of your academic advisor and a Career Development Center advisor.

Even your first semester at NWACC is not too soon to begin the transfer planning process!

How Do I Make Sure My Classes Will Transfer and Count Toward My Degree?

The first thing you need to know about transfer credits is that the receiving institution (for example, the University of Arkansas), not NWACC, decides which courses it will accept as transfer credits, and what degree plans they fit into. The University of Arkansas provides a complete table of which NWACC courses are accepted as transfer credits on their website, which you may access by clicking on the UofA logo to the right or visiting the UofA Registrar’s Website at:


This chart, however, does not detail what degree plans each of these courses will be counted toward. To learn that, you need to consult the Core and Major Requirements for the degree plan you are considering. Here is an example, taken from the University of Arkansas’ degree plan in Psychology:

http://fcac.uark.edu/redesign/documents/11_checksheets/PSYCBA.pdf

Note: You may access most degree plans through the departmental websites at the university you are considering transferring to. They will explain exactly which courses you need to take in order to receive a degree, and combined with the transfer website, you can see which equivalent courses are offered at NWACC that you can take to transfer later.
What if I want to transfer to a University other than the U of A?

Of course, we understand you may be considering attending another university other than the University of Arkansas. If you plan on transferring to another school within Arkansas, you can use the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS), published by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, which allows you to compare the transfer eligibilities of any two-year or four-year institutions in the State of Arkansas. However (as noted above), you still need to make sure the transferred courses will count toward your specific chosen major. A link to the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) can be found below:

![ACTS](http://acts.adhe.edu/studenttransfer.aspx)

Simply select “Northwest Arkansas Community College” under the “From Institution” menu, and the college you are thinking of transferring to under “To Institution.” It will display a table very similar to the one described in the paragraphs above, and you will need to consult a degree plan from the department you are interested in getting a degree from.

Note: If you plan on transferring to a college or university outside of the state of Arkansas, you will want to work very close with your the college that you are planning on transferring to, as well as your NWACC Academic Advisor.

For Students Who Have Not Decided on a Major or Degree Plan

We understand that you may not know exactly what you want to study when you begin college - this is normal and is nothing to panic about.

If you know that you will eventually transfer to a university but are unsure of your final major, it is best to begin with the General Education Core. The General Education Core is a 35-credit group of classes (called “the basics” by most students), that fulfills most lower-level requirements at colleges and universities (they include College Algebra, Composition I and II, General Biology, and other classes that your advisor can tell you about.

However, it is important for you to understand that there are only so many of these general education courses you can take before it is time to decide on a degree plan, so you do need to begin thinking about what you would like your degree in sooner than you may think.

If you are unsure about how many general education courses you need to take, talk to your advisor as soon as possible about next steps in planning your educational future.

What Else?

As mentioned before, only the receiving institution can decide what courses they will accept, and if you are in doubt about how your courses will transfer, you should consider contacting the advisors or departmental representatives at the school you want to transfer to. Remember, academic advisors are here to help prospective students as well as current students.

Still have questions? asktransferservices@nwacc.edu or 479-986-4023
students, so do not be afraid to contact the school you’re interested in. It is the only way to be absolutely sure that your hard work will transfer elsewhere.

**Things to think about:**

- An overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is standard for admission to a university. **Certain programs require higher grade point averages.** Get a good start on your bachelor by hard work and good planning.
- Credits transferred are normally limited to approximately one-half the bachelor’s degree requirements, but no more than 60 - 68 credits (varies). NWACC’s transferable associate degrees are made up of 60 college credit hours.
- Check admission application requirements and deadlines for your receiving institution. You may be required to write an essay or complete other requirements beyond submitting your NWACC transcript (Same goes for scholarships)
- Some universities will award you a scholarship if you complete your associate degree and have a high GPA.

Make sure you check out the additional transfer resources and event calendar available at the [Transfer Resources page](#)!