



HARTNELL
COLLEGE

TRANSFER AND CAREER CENTER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does transfer mean?

The term “transfer” refers to a student’s academic advancement from a community college to a university. Transfer means that you completed the required **general education** and **lower division** major coursework at Hartnell and then transferred to a university to complete your bachelor’s degree.

2. What is the difference between an associate’s degree and a bachelor’s degree?

An *associate’s degree* is a two-year degree granted by a community college to students who complete a specified program of study. A *bachelor’s degree* (or baccalaureate) is a (typically) four-year degree granted upon completion of at least 120 semester units or 180 quarter units. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are offered by the California State Universities, the University of California and many private four-year colleges and universities.

3. How many units do I need to transfer?

Students are advised to complete *60 transferable semester units* in order to be eligible for full junior status at the transfer school. These units include general education requirements as well as lower division major coursework. Students should consult with a counselor for help when developing an educational plan that outlines courses appropriate for admission to a particular major at a specific school. Admissions requirements for private universities and out-of-state universities vary; students should consult with a counselor for specific unit requirements for private and out-of-state colleges in which they are interested in.

4. Which Hartnell College courses transfer?

All courses numbered 1-99 transfer to the California State University (CSU) system. The University of California (UC) system is more selective in which courses they will accept; refer to the Hartnell College Catalog or consult with a counselor to find out which courses are UC transferable.

5. Is there a maximum number of units that I can transfer?

In general, the maximum number of transfer units that a university will accept is 70 semester units. For students who complete more than 70 units, the content of the extra courses can be used to satisfy needed requirements.

6. What is the minimum acceptable GPA for transfer?

The minimum GPA needed to transfer to a CSU is 2.0. The minimum GPA needed to transfer to the UC is 2.4. The GPA needed for transfer to private colleges varies. However, please note that meeting minimum GPA requirements does not guarantee admission for all schools.

7. What is a competitive GPA for transfer?

Some campuses and programs are impacted or in high demand, therefore a student’s GPA for admission should be considerably higher than the minimum requirements. A GPA of 3.0 is typically considered competitive for transfer admission. However, the most selective universities may expect a much higher GPA. The desired GPA will vary each year according to the specific applicant pool at that time. A counselor can provide advice regarding competitive grade point average requirements for specific campuses/majors.

8. Will my high school grades and SAT scores count when I transfer?

Colleges and universities do not take into account high school transcripts or test scores when making admissions decisions for transfer students at the junior level.



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9. What are General Education (GE) requirements?

General Education (GE) is a program of courses in the arts and sciences that provides a broad educational experience. Courses are usually introductory in nature and provide students with fundamental skills and knowledge in English, arts, mathematics, social sciences, physical and biological sciences.

10. What is IGETC?

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) is a general education program that community college students can complete in order to satisfy lower division general education requirements at any CSU and UC. Completion of IGETC is one option for students to use when preparing for transfer. It is not the only general education option and for some majors (such as engineering and science) may not be recommended.

11. What is CSU-GE?

The CSU-GE is the pattern of coursework accepted to meet the GE requirements for a bachelor's degree at any CSU campus. CSU-GE is one way for you to complete the lower division GE requirements for a bachelor's degree from the CSU at Hartnell prior to transfer. Completing the entire CSU-GE pattern is not a requirement for admission. However, the CSU requires that students complete most of their lower division GE before transfer. There is an *upper* division GE requirement of at least 9 units to graduate from a CSU.

12. What are articulation agreements and where can I find them?

Articulation agreements are formal agreements between institutions that define equivalent courses from school to school. These agreements help determine whether coursework completed at Hartnell will meet the requirements at another institution. For UC and CSU articulation agreements, see www.assist.org. For private schools or additional information, see a counselor.

13. What is a major?

A major is a program of study which leads to a degree. It is the primary area of study in which the greatest depth of knowledge will be developed. By reading university catalogs or researching online, students can familiarize themselves with the array of majors offered at each campus and the scope or philosophy of that particular program.

14. Where can I find out what classes to take for my major?

Completing the lower division major coursework at a community college is an important step in the transfer process. To find out specific requirements for different majors and campuses, see www.assist.org and meet with a counselor for further information.

15. Do I need to declare a major before I transfer?

Yes, most institutions require that students apply directly to a major. An important component of admissions decisions is how much of the lower division major preparatory courses a student has completed. Students who have completed all of their major preparation prior to transfer are much stronger candidates for admission.

16. Can I change my major after I transfer?

The ability to change a major completely depends on policies at the institution to which you will transfer.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

17. What is an impacted major?

An impacted major is a very popular major for which more applications for admission are received than the campus can accommodate. The GPA for admission to an impacted major may be higher and it may be required to complete all lower division major preparatory coursework. Students should speak to a counselor to determine whether their major is impacted at a particular campus and how this can affect the transfer process.

18. What is the difference between a CSU and a UC?

Both the California State University (CSU) system and the University of California (UC) are public higher education systems in California. Both systems offer undergraduate and graduate degrees. There are 23 CSU campuses, and 10 UC campuses. The primary difference between the two systems exists within their educational approaches. The approach of the CSU is more practical and career-oriented, in contrast to the UC which has a more theoretical and research-based approach to education. Another difference is that most UC campuses are on a quarter system and all CSUs are on a semester system.

19. When is the application filing period for CSU and UC?

The following are the filing periods for CSU and UC transfer applications. Please keep in mind that applications should be submitted during the academic year prior to transferring (e.g., If you plan on attending a university in fall 2023, you would need to submit your application a year prior, during fall 2022.)

Fall Admission:

CSU	October 1 – November 30
UC	November 1 – November 30
Privates & Out-Of-State	Varies, in general, December 15-February 15

Winter Admission:

CSU	N/A: CSUs are on semester system
UC (Usually available at only UCR, UCM and UCSC)	July 1 – July 30

Spring Admission:

CSU	August 1 – August 31
UC (Usually available at only UCR, UCM and UCSC)	October 1 – October 31

20. What is the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program?

The TAG Program offers students guaranteed admissions to one of the six UCs that participate in the TAG Program - UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz. By participating in a TAG program, you will receive early review of your academic records, early admission notification (by November 15) and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework.

21. What are the requirements for writing a TAG?

Eligibility requirements vary by college and major. In general, students must have completed 30 UC transferrable units by the end of the summer before they apply for TAG, have a minimum GPA of 2.8



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COLLEGE**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(higher GPA required for most majors and colleges), and have completed the lower-division preparation of the major, as well as UC minimum admissions requirements. Consult with a counselor for more specific information or refer to the UC website:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html>

22. When and how do I apply for a TAG?

TAG applications are submitted one year prior to a student's intended year of transfer. Applications are completed online via the UC Transfer Admissions Planner and can be submitted September 1 – September 30 for fall admission.

23. Can I write a TAG contract for all six UC campuses that accept TAGs?

Students can only apply to one (1) TAG campus – one campus, one major.

24. How can I improve my chances of being accepted into a competitive or impacted university/major?

For a better chance of being accepted to competitive programs, you will need to exceed the minimum requirements. Selection criteria may include a competitive GPA (meaning 3.0+), and completion of lower-division preparation courses in your intended major. Some specialized schools or majors (e.g. creative arts) will also require auditions or portfolios.

25. Do I need an Associate in Arts (AA) or Science (AS) degree to transfer?

Colleges and universities in California do not require an AA or and AS to transfer, unless a student plans on competing in athletics at the transfer school. Student athletes are required to have an associate to continue playing the sport at the transfer institution, or they will need to sit-out one season before they can be an active student athlete, but they are not required to have an AA/AS for transfer admission.

26. What are the “Golden 4” courses?

They are the 4 essential general education courses required for transfer admission. A student usually must have 60 transferable units for transfer admission, but if one of these golden 4 courses are missing, even if a student had over 60 transferable units they would still not be admissible to any CSU or UC. The golden 4 include the following at Hartnell College:

Oral Communication- COM 1, 2, 3 (one class)

Written Composition & Reading: ENG 1A or 1AX

27. What is an Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T)?

An [Associate Degree for Transfer](#) (ADT) is a specific degree intended to facilitate the transfer of community college students to the CSU system. Students who earn the transfer degree and meet CSU minimum eligibility are *guaranteed* admission to a CSU, but not necessarily to a particular campus or major. Completing the degree will also provide students with a slight GPA bump, which is helpful in admission to impacted programs. Once at the CSU, students with a transfer degree will be able to complete their bachelor's degree with a maximum of 60 semester units. Hartnell College offers over 25 ADTs, review the [catalog](#) for more information.