

Transfer Students

Planning Your Successful College Transfer



What is a Transfer?

Simply put, a transfer is a change of colleges. A student who begins at one college and then switches to another is considered a transfer student. Transfers come in many forms and can take place at various times during a student's academic career.

KINDS OF TRANSFERS

- **Two-year to four-year colleges**
- **Four-year to four-year colleges**
- **Four-year to two-year colleges**

The majority of students who transfer begin their college career at a community college and then transfer to a four-year college or university. Some two-year degrees are designed to transfer to a four-year institution. Ideally, these transferable programs allow students to transfer to a four-year college as a junior.

Why Transfer?

Students decide to switch colleges for many different reasons:

- To continue education started at a two-year college
- To attend a college or university that better suits their education, career, or personal needs
- To change to a college with features they now prefer (for example, moving from a large college to a small one or from a rural college to an urban college)
- To attend a college or university that is closer to home
- To accommodate changing financial needs
- To change degree programs

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Transferring Credits

Transferring is an individual process that you'll need to plan based on your own goals. Your best first step is to meet with an academic advisor at your current college and discuss your intention to transfer. They can:

- recommend the most transferable courses to take at your current institution,
- point you to transfer articulation agreements that you can take advantage of, and
- suggest the best office to contact at the college to which you want to transfer.

After you have met with an advisor at your current institution, schedule an appointment with an advisor at your transfer institution and take an unofficial copy of your current college transcript. This will ensure that you have the best guidance as you select your courses and seek admission.

You can find in-depth information about transferring credits at CFNC.org/transfer. You'll see two key articulation agreements to review. The Comprehensive Articulation Agreement is for community college students planning to attend one of the 16 UNC institutions. The Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement is for community college students planning to attend one of the participating NC independent colleges and universities.

TIP: Attend a transfer student orientation.

Learning about your new environment will help you feel at home more quickly. Orientation sessions are the best way to learn where things are and how things work at your new college. Orientations can include information on everything from library and computer resources, meal plans, campus ID cards, transportation and parking options, and campus organizations and clubs to the location of the cashier's office for tuition and fee payments. You may discover that your new college has an organization specifically for transfer students.



Explore Financial Aid Options

Although the cost of college may sometimes seem overwhelming, there is plenty of help available to make college possible. Here are a few basic points about financial aid:

- Always assume that you may be eligible for financial aid.
- Consider several colleges, regardless of cost; financial aid may be available to make more than one affordable.
- It is FREE to apply for financial aid with the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA) so go ahead and try.

How to Begin

- There may be many different deadlines or documentation required for financial assistance. Once you have decided where you would like to apply, check with the financial aid office of that college as soon as possible for specific information.
- The first step to apply for most forms of financial aid is to fill out the FAFSA at FAFSA.gov.
- If you are entering in the fall semester, complete and submit the FAFSA as soon after October 1 as possible (that is the first day it will be accepted).

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A Definition of Terms

Articulation Agreement: Agreement between two colleges that allows credit at one college to automatically transfer to another.

Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA): The articulation agreement between the NC Community College System and the University of North Carolina (16 public universities).

Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (ICAA): The articulation agreement between the NC Community College System and participating independent colleges and universities.

Transcript: Official record of a student's educational history.

General Education: Basic courses that cover a broad range of subjects (liberal arts), which prepare students for further study in a major area.

Major: Subject area in which students take many courses in an area of emphasis and earn a degree.

Electives: Courses that are optional in a degree program as opposed to required courses.

Helpful Websites

College Foundation of North Carolina
CFNC.org/transfer

The North Carolina Community College System
www.ncccs.cc.nc.us

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
www.ncicu.org

The University of North Carolina System
www.northcarolina.edu

Two-Year and Four-Year Degree Options

A **bachelor's degree** is granted by colleges and universities after students have completed a prescribed four-year program of study (undergraduate curriculum). It often requires around 120 semester credits.

Students receive either a Bachelor of Science (BS), a Bachelor of Arts (BA), or a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree, depending on their course of study.

An **associate's degree** is a two-year degree normally granted by a community or two-year college. It often requires around 60 semester credits. There are five types of associate's degrees:

1. Associate in Arts (AA): A two-year degree that is designed to allow students to transfer to a senior (four-year) institution. This degree is for students intending to pursue a liberal arts major, such as psychology or English.
2. Associate in Fine Arts (AFA): A two-year degree that is designed to allow students to transfer to a senior institution. The AFA degree is designed for students who would like to pursue careers in music, drama, or art.
3. Associate in Science (AS): A two-year degree that is designed to allow students to transfer to a senior institution. This degree is for students interested in a bachelor's degree in the areas of science, computer science, mathematics, engineering, and pre-med.
4. Associate in Applied Science (AAS): A two-year degree that is not intended for transfer to a senior institution, but many students do transfer through articulation agreements to certain institutions or specific majors. The key is to know your transfer possibilities before you enroll in a program. Students interested in gaining specific skills necessary for the work force should pursue this degree option.
5. Associate in General Education (AGE): A two-year degree that is not intended for transfer to a senior institution. Students interested in gaining specific skills necessary for the work force should pursue this degree option.

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Transfer Checklist

	Date Due	Date Completed
1. Meet with an academic advisor at your current college		
2. Meet with an academic advisor at your new college		
3. Submit application for admission		
4. Contact the financial aid office at your new college		
5. Complete and submit the FAFSA, if applicable		
6. Have your transcripts and records transferred to your new college from your current college		
7. Attend orientation		



CFNC.org 866.866.CFNC

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

CFNC Pathways Form AD11 (06/17)

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