

Transfer Credit Policies

Credits and Grades for Transfer Courses

Idaho State University recognizes, accepts, and requires all college-level coursework attempted at institutions with regional accreditation status be submitted for credit evaluation.

Idaho State University honors the originating institutions course level classifications (i.e., lower division, upper division, professional technical, remedial, etc.). All coursework taken at a Junior/Community College is considered lower-division.

Credits transfer to Idaho State University according to the level at which they were earned in the institution of origin. Transferred lower division (1000- or 2000-level) credits may NOT count as upper division (3000- or 4000-level) credits, regardless of the appropriate course content equivalencies.

The Office of the Registrar initially evaluates lower division coursework to determine transferable credit for incoming undergraduate and post baccalaureate transfer students. Lower division course equivalency decisions are made according to course content and are subject to periodical review by individual departments and by ISU's Office of Academic Affairs. Upper division course content equivalency decisions are made by individual departments at ISU.

Credits awarded for International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), BYU (FLATS), and ACT/SAT exams are reviewed by the Idaho State Board of Education, ISU's Office of Academic Affairs, and departments.

Coursework classified as correspondence, extension, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) or credit by exam by the issuing institution is subject to reclassification in accordance with ISU governing authorities.

Coursework taught under a different system from ISU's will be converted (e.g., quarter hours) to semester hours.

Transferred coursework is subject to university limits as defined in the degree requirements section of the catalog. Where there is a question as to whether transferred courses satisfy specific department requirements, a review of the transfer work will be conducted in consultation with the department concerned.

Transfer course grades are converted to the ISU equivalent with no corresponding grade point average.

The university reserves the right to reclassify repeated credit in accordance with its own policy governing the acceptance and limitation of such credit.

Transfer grades and credits are not used in calculating the Idaho State University grade point average. Students who repeat an ISU course elsewhere may use the transfer course in accordance with ISU's repeat course policy but the ISU grade point average will not be impacted.

Students transferring to ISU with an Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, or Associate of Arts and Science degree, from a regionally accredited institution, or with an Idaho SBOE GEM competency area, will be considered to have met ISU's corresponding general education requirements.

Awarding of Credit from Non-Accredited Institutions

The process for considering possible transfer credits and recognizing undergraduate degrees granted by non-accredited colleges and universities is as follows:

The student must petition the appropriate academic department at Idaho State University. In addition to formal evaluation of the request, the department may - require competency verification.

In the petition, the student must explain how s/he wishes to deviate from university policy. Some scenarios include:

- a) wishing to have certain courses from the non-accredited institutions substitute for courses at Idaho State University that fulfill General Education Objectives;
- b) a request to have designated courses from the non-accredited institution substitute for Idaho State University courses that fulfill requirements in the student's major; and/or
- c) a request that an entire degree from a non-accredited institution be recognized as equivalent to that earned from an accredited institution.

Idaho State Board of Education - GEM Policy

Idaho State University administers the General Education policies established by the Idaho State Board of Education (<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-policies-rules/board-policies/higher-education-affairs-section-iii/iii-n-general-education/>). Students transferring to ISU from a public Idaho institution without a qualifying associate degree will be subject to a GEM course (<https://coursetransfer.idaho.gov/GemSearch.aspx>) review upon transfer.

Transfer Course Repeats

ISU does not bring in a transfer GPA for coursework taken outside of ISU. Per the course repeat (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/academicinformation/creditandgradingpolicies/>) policy, keep in mind ISU will use the last attempt for the purposes of graduation requirements. However, the only way to improve or lower your ISU GPA is to retake the course at ISU.

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State Board of Idaho - General Education Certification

Students who have obtained core certification status from a public institution in Idaho may be eligible for a general education waiver upon transferring to ISU. If you are transferring from an Idaho institution and have not earned a qualifying associate degree, you may still be considered for the general education waiver at the time of transfer, provided that your transcript from a public Idaho institution is officially marked as core certified by the Registrar's Office.

Credit by Exam

Credit by examination is assessed upon receipt of the scores and is subject to the transfer equivalency noted at that time.

ISU does not automatically transfer coursework taken from StraighterLine, Sophia Learning, Study.com, Credly, etc. If a student would like to have a course considered for transfer, please consult with an academic advisor and submit a university petition requesting review of the course from the respective organizations through the official institutional channels. Students may earn credit

by examination only in a course in which they do not have a recorded attempt on an academic record.

- Students should consult an academic advisor before considering credit by exam, if they have previously enrolled in the equivalent course.

Seal of Biliteracy (<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/arts-humanities/seal-of-biliteracy.html>)

Students who complete the Seal of Biliteracy are eligible to earn academic credit for SPAN/FREN 1101 & 1102 upon transfer to ISU.

Extension Centers

Students who enroll in coursework through an extension center will be subject to departmental approval upon transfer to ISU.

International Credit Evaluation

All international post-secondary documents must go through an evaluation service approved by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. (NACES). All evaluations must be sent directly to the Office of Admission from the evaluation service in order to be considered official. We recommend the following services for evaluations:

- International Education Evaluation (IEE) (<https://myiee.org/university/idaho-state-university/>), (704) 772-0109
- Educational Credential Evaluators (<https://www.ece.org/>), 414-289-3400
- World Education Services (<http://www.wes.org/>), 212-966-6311

Important: Please be sure to obtain a Course-by-Course evaluation. Other types of evaluations will not be accepted.

The credential evaluation will be used to determine admission eligibility, and also to transfer all international course credit to Idaho State University as elective credit. Course-by-course credit evaluations are done by ISU faculty in the equivalent courses home department. For more information about the credit transfer process, go to the international_student (<https://www.isu.edu/registrar/transfer-students/international-student/#den222770>) credit transfer page.