Make Your Credits Count

• Over 100 Transfer-Friendly Programs
• Online or On Campus
• Accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission
• Financial Aid Available

Learn More
(855) 355-6288
nu.edu/transfer
Continuing Your Education Beyond Community College

At National University, we strive to making transferring for community college as easy and seamless as possible. That's why we've created this informative, step-by-step guide to help educate you about the transfer process, so you can make the most of your credits and continue your education at the college or university of your choice.

Once you've learned the ins and outs of transferring from community college, make sure to work with your community college advisor, who can determine which credits will transfer and which courses are best for you to complete to reach your educational goals.

California Community College Transfers

In September 2010, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB1440) was signed into California law. This act required state community colleges and California State Universities (CSU) to develop special associate degree programs for students who intend to transfer to four-year institutions. AA-T and AS-T degrees (Associate of Arts-Transfer and Associate of Science-Transfer) were designed to make transfers easier by aligning coursework between community colleges and universities. These programs fulfill basic requirements and guarantee that all credits earned in these programs will transfer to CSU schools.

Transfer programs are available for associate degrees in business administration, early childhood education, journalism, political science, communication studies, psychology, philosophy, sociology, computer science, English, and math, with more being added each term. By enrolling in one of these programs, students only take classes whose credits are transferable, saving time and tuition.
National University participates in the California Community Colleges-Associate Degree for Transfer (CCC-ADT) program. Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements are guaranteed admission and will eventually hold an associate and a bachelor’s degree upon completion of their program at National University.

**Golden Four**

No matter which degree you decide to pursue, a critical requirement for admission to the California State University system is completion of classes known as the Golden Four, which are specific, transferrable classes in four areas:

- **Oral Communication** — Typically a basic public speaking course, but other communication courses may be accepted (ask your advisor)
- **Written Communication** — Composition course that emphasizes reading and essay writing as tools for effective communication
- **Critical Thinking** — Teaches students to make reasoned conclusions using a process of logic and to persuasively argue for that conclusion
- **Mathematics** — Taught at a level above intermediate algebra

Many universities outside of the CSU system, including National University, have adopted this standard as well, so it is important for you to complete these Golden Four courses while in community college, no matter where you decide to transfer. Ask your college advisor how you can complete them as soon as possible; if you aren’t as strong in either math or English, you may need to take pre-requisites to these courses first.

**What is an Articulation Agreement?**

Outside of the state system, many colleges have articulation agreements, or negotiated terms with community colleges. For example, National University has over 110 articulation agreements with California community colleges.

**These agreements:**

- Clarify which courses will transfer with a passing grade or higher (depending on the terms of that particular college).
- Guarantee your credits will transfer if you earned an associate degree, satisfying all freshmen- and sophomore-year general education requirements at the four-year university.
- Specify the community colleges that universities have agreements with on the university websites.

Transfer degrees and articulation agreements were designed to help reduce confusion about transferrable classes. However, private universities each have their own transfer policies, so work with your advisor to determine if your school of interest has an articulation agreement.
A Note for Military Students

When researching colleges, look for one that shows its commitment to military students by being a member of the Yellow Ribbon Program or the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC).

Servicemembers often have a challenging time completing their degrees simply because they may relocate or deploy at any time. The SOC works with a variety of colleges and the Department of Defense to expand and improve education opportunities for servicemembers around the world.

Military students should look for a college that offers:
- Online or on-base classes, in case of relocation or deployment
- Dedicated military advisors and a military support center
- Credits for military education and training
- Tuition discounts or scholarships for military personnel and their dependents

How to Start the Transfer Process

Start planning your transfer at your community college right away. Most community colleges have admissions advisors on staff to assist you and host annual transfer fairs in the fall and spring. Some university representatives visit community colleges on a more regular basis. Find out from your school’s counseling office when these representatives visit your campus.

Once you’ve selected a few schools of interest, do your research on the following topics to help guide your decision-making process:

Open houses and campus tours. Visit the schools you are interested in attending. Universities offer a wealth of resources to help you make your decision, so attend an open house, schedule a tour, and watch webinars or student videos when available.
**Required coursework.** Complete any required classes as early as possible. Ask about the Golden Four transferrable classes in math, English composition, critical thinking, and oral communication, and complete these as soon as possible, particularly if you need to take pre-requisites first.

**Transferrable courses.** Find out which courses will transfer to the schools you are considering. The more credits that are accepted, the more time and tuition you save by not having to repeat courses. If significant time has passed since you completed a class, you will need to confirm that the course is still relevant and valid for transferring.

**Accreditation.** Ask the university about accreditation, as institutions with regional accreditation will more readily accept credits from those that hold the same or similar accreditation, like the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). In California, it’s the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

**GPA requirements.** The minimum grade point average (GPA) accepted for transfer is 2.0. Some universities or majors in high demand will require a higher GPA. This can vary from year to year, depending on the pool of applicants for any given academic year. A 3.0 GPA is generally considered competitive. However, some high-demand programs may require an even higher GPA. Be sure to find out the policy of your prospective university.

**Scholarships and financial aid.** Research scholarship and financial opportunities for transfer students. Many schools offer scholarships specifically for transfer students, and some offer scholarships specifically for community college transfer students. National University is approved to accept federal financial aid and the Post-9/11 GI Bill and offers grants and scholarships to transfer students who qualify.
START PLANNING YOUR TRANSFER EARLY BY WORKING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVISOR.

Roadmap to Your Four-Year Degree
Use this checklist to make your transfer from community college to a university as seamless as possible.

FIRST Semester
☐ Get familiar with your community college transfer center.
☐ Meet with a counselor at your community college as soon as possible, even if you have not chosen a major. Together, you'll create an educational plan to ensure you transfer efficiently, so you won't waste valuable time and financial aid.
☐ Take the required English and math classes right away.
☐ If you haven't done so already, find out if you qualify for financial aid by filling out the FAFSA online form.
☐ Develop a list of universities you're interested in by looking at degree programs offered, locations, class format (online, on campus, length of class, etc.), and class size.
☐ Research the transfer requirements for schools of interest; if they are not in the CSU system, find out what their articulation agreements are at Assist.org for public schools and AICCU for private schools.

SECOND Semester
☐ Check out college websites to get familiar with what the school offers and be prepared to ask questions.
☐ Attend college fairs and open houses.
☐ Meet with your counselor to confirm you're still on the right educational track.
☐ Since programs can change year to year, review any guides and webinars provided by the colleges you are interested in to ensure you are registering for the correct and required courses.
☐ Find out the admission application deadlines, and submit your application on time; this can be six months to a year in advance of your anticipated transfer date.
☐ You need to fill out a new FAFSA application each school year. Submit a FAFSA application even before you know what school you would like to attend, so you can get an idea of what you are eligible for. You can learn about ways to pay for school in the guide, “How to Finance Your College Education.”
☐ Research and apply for any scholarships well in advance of transferring.
THIRD Semester

☐ Early in your third semester, visit potential schools, book a tour, or attend an open house. This will give you the opportunity to meet department heads in the field you are pursuing, chat with current and former students, and discuss your educational plan with an admissions advisor.

☐ Contact admission advisors at your top colleges. One of the most fruitful conversations you will have is that with an admissions advisor. These professionals will help you evaluate what credits will transfer and line you up with financial aid options based on the results of your FAFSA application. They will help develop a class schedule and estimate the cost to attend the school. Their services are free, and they will help determine when you will be ready to attend the school.

FOURTH Semester

☐ Update your financial aid with the name of the school you have chosen.

☐ Contact the financial aid department to make sure all required documentation has been provided.

☐ Check that your new school has your final transcripts.

☐ Take advantage of resources, like counseling services, orientation meetings, or the learning center, at your new school, so you get started on the right path.

WE KNOW THAT ENROLLING IN A UNIVERSITY IS A BIG DECISION, AND WE WANT TO PROVIDE YOU WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DAY YOU START CLASSES THROUGH GRADUATION.
Questions for Admissions Advisors

Here are a few important questions to ask admissions advisors about their university.

• How many of my courses will transfer?
• How long will it take me to finish my degree?
• Are classes offered online, on campus, or a combination of both?
• How long is each class (weeks or months)?
• What is a typical class schedule like?
• When are the application deadlines?
• How many transfer students are accepted at the university?
• Are there any scholarships, financial aid, or transferring aid opportunities available?
• How many terms or classes are offered per academic year?
• When do classes start?

Knowing these facts about any school you are considering will help you compare schools efficiently.

About National University

National University is a San Diego-based nonprofit founded in 1971 by retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander David Chigos. Today, we offer flexible one-month classes across over 100 on-campus and online degree programs.

As a transfer-friendly school, we have articulation agreements with more than 110 community colleges and participate in the CCC-ADT program, so you can get the credit you deserve for your previous coursework.

Here are just a few benefits of transferring to WSCUC-accredited NU:

• Easily transfer your California community college credits
• Start sooner and finish faster with one-month classes
• Take classes online, at over 20 California locations, and on over a dozen military bases nationwide
• Study on campus at night and on weekends or online when it’s convenient for you
• Save on tuition costs with financial aid and scholarship opportunities (available to those who qualify)
• Get dedicated support from your academic advisor and a host of resources, including the Student Academic Success Center and our 24/7 student concierge service
• Attend a military-friendly Yellow Ribbon school with tuition discounts for military personnel and their dependents

82% OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TRANSFER CREDITS FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.
Scholarships available for transfer students include:

• Transfer to Success Scholarship: Up to $5,000 available to students who have completed at least 30 semester units at a California community college (specific criteria apply)
• Presidential Tuition Scholarship: Up to $2,500 available to undergraduate transfer students with special circumstances (specific criteria apply)

We know that enrolling in a university is a big decision, and we want to provide you with support from the day you start classes through graduation. For questions regarding transferring to National University, call (855) 355-6288 to speak with an admissions advisor.

Helpful links:

> National University
> NU articulation agreements
> NU campus open houses
> California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
> American Association of State Colleges and Universities
> FAFSA Online Form
> State Transfer Programs by Community College
> Council of Higher Education Accreditation
> How to Finance Your College Education
> Scholarship Search Tool