

Motion re Transfer Credit Policy (Awarding of Military Credit)

Approved by Admissions & Standards, September 9, 2014

Approved by Senate Executive Committee, October 2014

Motion:

Additions ~~Deletions~~

Section 1320.10 of the Undergraduate Catalog is amended as follows.

1320.10 Transfer Credit Policy

When an applicant is accepted for undergraduate transfer admission, courses that parallel the curriculum of Georgia State University will be accepted for transfer credit. Credit must have been earned at institutions of higher education with full accreditation by one of the following accreditors:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Courses completed at a two-year college will be granted lower-division credit.

The total number of hours that may be earned toward a degree by extension or correspondence courses may not exceed 30 semester hours.

In general, transfer credit will not be awarded for a course that a student has previously attempted at Georgia State (including attempts which resulted in a withdrawal). However, individual departments may waive this rule for their courses.

Joint Services Transcript (JST) credits earned while serving in the Armed Services may also be evaluated for transfer credit on a case by case basis by the student's academic advisor in conjunction with the academic department offering the course.

Because the university has a minimum academic residence requirement, the amount of transfer credit applicable to a degree program may be limited. (See Section 1440.) In addition, Colleges and Departments

have their own transfer credit policies and this may also limit the amount of transfer credit applicable to a degree program. All such policies are stated in this Catalog in the following sections:

- 2000 Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
- 3020 College of Arts and Sciences
- 4050 College of Education
- 5020.10 Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions
- 7020.10 Robinson College of Business

Georgia State maintains a web site, <http://advisement.gsu.edu/transfer-students/equivalency-charts/>, which indicates courses at other institutions that will be accepted as transfer credit (subject to the restrictions noted in this section). If a course at another institution is not on this list, students should consult with the University Advisement Center.

The D Credit Grade Restriction applies to both resident and transfer credit. (See Section 1450.)

A student who takes a course at another institution will not receive transfer credit for that course until the end of the semester following the semester in which the course was taken. Therefore, students may not take courses for degree credit at another institution during the semester they plan to graduate from Georgia State.

Transfer Credit for Core Courses

1. Students will be granted credit for all of Areas A-E of the core and the Regents' Test if they hold one of the following:
 - a. a baccalaureate degree from U.S. institution of higher education accredited by one of the six accreditors listed above
 - b. for those who have graduated from a non-U.S. institution, the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. institution of higher education accredited by one of the six accreditors listed above as certified by Georgia State or a Georgia State-approved agency such as Joseph Silny and Associates, Inc.
 - c. an associate's degree designed to transfer to a baccalaureate program from a University System of Georgia (USG) institution
2. However, there are two exceptions to the policy stated in 1 above.
 - a. Students seeking a baccalaureate degree in biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, physics, science education, or math education who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in one of these fields will only be granted credit for all of Areas B, C, and E. They will be granted credit in Areas A and D on a course-by-course basis.

- b. Students seeking a baccalaureate degree in nursing, nutrition or respiratory therapy will only be granted credit for all of Areas A, B, C, and E. They will be granted credit in Area D on a course-by-course basis.
3. Students who hold any other associate's degree, such as an associate's degree from a non-USG institution or an associate's degree not designed to transfer to a baccalaureate program, will be granted transfer credit for core courses on a course-by-course basis.

Rationale:

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR) has approved USG schools to accept military credit awarded on a Veterans' Joint Services Transcripts (JST). Colleges such as Georgia Perimeter College and Atlanta Metropolitan College accept and apply military credit toward their degree requirements. Other USG institutions which currently accept military credit include, but are not limited to, Georgia Institute of Technology and Columbus State University. These peer institutions are now among the top 20% Military Friendly Schools in the nation. Accepting JST credits will allow Georgia State University to attract military students across the state of Georgia; remain competitive with peer institutions; and receive nationwide recognition for its efforts in helping military students achieve their academic and career goals.

The Board of Regents' Academic & Student Affairs Handbook, section 2.16, provides basic guidelines which can be used in the awarding of military credit:

Academic Credit

When a student requests academic credit based on experience in the military service, the following procedure is recommended:

1. Registrar researches the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to determine the recommendation made by that organization.
2. Registrar advises appropriate academic department head(s) of ACE recommendation(s).
3. The appropriate academic officer advises registrar of what credit, if any, is to be granted in that specific discipline. Credit should not be awarded for course/experiences not offered by that academic institution.
4. Registrar records appropriate credit on official transcript and advises both the student and academic advisor of the credit that has been granted.

Physical Education Credit

The granting of physical education credits should be based upon the following recommendations:

1. Basic military training should serve as substitutes for Physical Conditioning and Marksmanship for a total of two (2) semester hour credits.
2. Experience beyond basic military training should be evaluated based upon length and type of activity and the level of accomplishment in the specific activity. For example:
 - A Navy Seal should receive credit for swimming.
 - A Medic should receive credit for first aid.
 - A Military Policeman should receive credit for self-defense.

3. Credit by examination may be offered to students having mastered a specific area of the basic physical education requirement.
4. If recommendations 1, 2, and 3 are not satisfactory, then the evaluation process will be determined by the appropriate academic office.

Georgia State University's evaluation of JST credits would follow the current policy on transfer credits:

1. The Undergraduate Admissions Office would enter the JST credits as general credit until evaluated by the academic advisor and/or department. The number of hours awarded would be based on ACE recommendations listed on the transcript.
2. Students may be awarded general credit numbered 1099, 2099, 3099, or 4099 for any academic course when Georgia State does not offer a comparable course.
3. It is the student's responsibility to submit a transfer course review form to their advisement office to have core classes reviewed. For major or upper division credit, the student would be responsible for contacting the department that offers the course.
4. Courses listed on the Joint Services Transcript currently deemed as non-transferable to Georgia State University would not be considered for transfer credit (Example: Physical Education or Technical classes).

More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize Joint Services Transcripts and develop programs that increase acceptance of academic credit for military training and occupations in order to increase academic success and decrease time to earn a degree.

The state of Georgia currently has 62,714 active duty and 42,910 Reservist and National Guard members, a number expected to increase substantially over the next few years. Each of these federalized service members has access to \$4,500 per year in tuition assistance for higher education from the Department of Defense. Veteran students can receive an estimated \$15,000 to \$40,000 from VA educational benefits. A large percentage of these service members are within the age cohort of the under-served, non-traditional student. Enlisted personnel must actively work toward obtaining an Associate's or Bachelor's degree to be eligible for promotion or to receive advanced military training. Officers must work toward a Master's degree or higher to be considered for promotion and to receive highly rated Officer Effectiveness Reports.

It is in the best interest of Georgia State University to support a policy that promotes higher education for veterans and members of the Armed Services.