

University of Washington Seattle

Frequently Asked Questions *for Counselors and Advisers*

Regarding Transfer to UW Seattle

Is it true that the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) no longer exists?

No. The Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) is a statewide transfer credit policy. A qualifying DTA associate degree is generally defined as that degree awarded by a community college to students who have completed a transfer curriculum designed to fulfill most general education requirements for a baccalaureate degree program in Washington State. The approved DTA degree programs follow specific guidelines established by the Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC), a commission of the Washington Council. The purpose of this voluntary statewide agreement is to facilitate the transfer of credit. It is not an admission agreement. The UW Seattle continues to honor the DTA associate degree in this context.

How has the transfer admission policy changed?

Under a past admission policy, the University enrolled all community college students who met specific criteria, most significantly a transfer associate degree with a 2.75 GPA. Under the current policy, no single factor guarantees admission. Instead, applicants with a GPA of 2.50 or higher who have satisfied core subject admission requirements ¹ (completed in high school or college) will be assured of consideration for admission based on a comprehensive review of all application materials, including academic records and a personal statement. Among the pool of applicants for each term, many factors – both academic and personal – will be considered in the comprehensive review; decisions will not be based solely on GPA.

How does the UW Seattle choose its transfer students?

The comprehensive review includes the following factors:

- Academic achievement including cumulative transfer GPA based on all transferable college-level courses attempted; rigor of curriculum; and consistency in course completion
- Well defined academic goals
- Preparation for intended major
- Plan for timely completion of a bachelor's degree
- Completion of foreign language study through the 103-level, or equivalent, when applying to the College of Arts and Sciences or the School of Social Work
- Evidence of a need to enroll at the UW Seattle and the availability of the applicant's intended academic program at other Washington public educational institutions
- Academic or artistic awards and achievements, community service, work experience, or research that demonstrates success or potential contributions to the University and community
- Improved grades after an extended absence from college or evidence of a new maturity in approaching college work
- Cultural awareness
- Perseverance in attaining higher education in spite of personal adversity, disability, or economic disadvantage
- Admission test scores, if provided

What are your enrollment goals and priorities?

The University is committed to the following transfer goals and priorities to benefit students from Washington's community and technical colleges:

- The University of Washington Seattle will dedicate at least 30% of the spaces available annually for new undergraduates to Washington community college transfer students.
- Among community college transfer students, the highest admission priority will be given to those with academic associate degrees and those with 90 transferable credits taken in preparation for a professional academic major. Applicants with fewer than 90 credits may also be admitted when early transfer is advisable, but the number of such transfers will remain small.
- The University accepts applicants who have completed fewer than 40 quarter credits (slightly less than one year of college) at the time of application. However, admission for these applicants is highly competitive and, due to enrollment pressures, priority is low.

Why did the UW Seattle revise the community college transfer admission policy in 2003-2004?

Under a past admission policy, the University enrolled all community college students who met specific criteria, most significantly a transfer associate degree with a 2.75 GPA. Due to the combination of increasing numbers of qualified applicants and limited space, UW Seattle could no longer offer admission to all eligible applicants who applied in 2003. Instead, students were offered deferred admission to later quarters. If the guaranteed admission policy was to continue, it would force deferrals farther and farther into future quarters. Under the new policy, applicants receive decisions for the quarter they apply, and there are no deferrals.

Is the UW Seattle reducing the enrollment of community college transfer students?

The University of Washington-Seattle works to establish undergraduate enrollment at state funded levels. It is sometimes necessary to reduce freshman and/or transfer enrollment to match funding. There have not been any significant changes to community college enrollment.

What can prospective students do to be competitive for admission to UW Seattle?

The best academically prepared students are also going to be among the most competitive for admission to the University of Washington-Seattle. Academic preparation includes *curricular and major choices* and *performance*.

- The UW Seattle expects students applying for transfer at the junior level to request an intended major. Therefore, we recommend that students optimize their community college education by choosing courses that will prepare them for their intended major from the beginning of their college career. The UW Seattle will continue to admit a small number of students as premajors. For students who remain undecided about a major, the career direction should inform their curricular choices. In these cases, an appropriate academic associate degree program (e.g., Associate of Arts & Sciences or Associate of Science, etc.) can provide the curricular guidance that best aligns with the direction they are most likely to take. In all cases, completing academic courses that are broadly applicable for general education (e.g., courses that are usually compatible with the general education requirements of an academic associate degree program) will continue to be an important aspect of preparation for baccalaureate programs.
- Applicants should be aware that strong grades in key prerequisite courses, along with the cumulative GPA, will be among the factors considered for entrance to the UW Seattle and to the major. Since grades are an important predictor of future academic success, applicants should take measures to ensure that they perform to the maximum of their ability.

Do transfer associate degrees still matter for admission to the UW Seattle?

Yes. There are most definitely good reasons for most students to pursue an associate degree if they are planning to apply for admission to the UW Seattle. As indicated above, *among community college transfer students*, the highest admission priority will be given to those with academic associate degrees and to those with 90 transferable credits taken in preparation for a professional academic major. Community college applicants with fewer than 90 credits may also be admitted when early transfer is advisable, but the number of such transfers will remain small. Moreover, the UW's participation in the existing Washington state course articulation policy remains valid and, for example, allows the transferability of 5 – 15 restricted credits (depending upon the AA degree program) as part of an approved associate degree program.

Will considering a number of factors in the comprehensive review process make the admission process more competitive and result in more complicated and delayed admission decisions?

- The comprehensive review process does not make the selection process itself more competitive, but it has changed the method of selecting successful candidates for admission. Therefore, someone who may have been admitted under the past transfer admission policy may not be selected for admission under the current policy; however, a community college applicant who may have been denied under the old policy may now be selected under the current policy.
- The autumn application deadline of February 15 allows the necessary time to complete the review and selection process. Most eligible transfer applicants for autumn quarter receive admission notification between May and July.

Is the admission policy counter-productive to student progress legislation passed by the legislature?

The University's transfer program is designed to improve degree completion by giving favorable admission consideration to students who have taken the prerequisites necessary for a UW Seattle major. Washington public baccalaureate institutions work together to develop common prerequisites for majors so students applying to a major on one campus will be eligible to apply to another campus with a similar major. Greater attention to major preparation will be required, however, and community college students should plan for their specific or their several possible major choices from the very beginning of their college studies.

I have heard a rumor that under the current admission policy, community college credit taken by Running Start students will not be transferable and applicable to a UW degree. Is this true?

No. There have been no changes in policy relative to community college credit taken while enrolled in the Running Start (RST) program. Once enrolled at UW Seattle, college credit earned at a community college through RST transfers and applies to UW degrees the same as it does for any other student coming from a Washington community college.

Since Running Start students with 40+ credits are counted in the 30% proportionality agreement as coming from Washington community colleges, should they apply as transfer applicants?

No. Regardless of credit level, Running Start (RST) students will continue to apply as freshman applicants. For reporting purposes, the state of Washington requires that all public baccalaureate institutions report RST students as entering from high school to accurately determine the college participation rate of high school graduates. Additionally, RST applicants are better served by applying as freshmen. One benefit, for example, is that they remain eligible to be considered for scholarships available only to freshmen.

Does counting Running Start students with 40+ credits as part of the 30% coming from Washington community colleges reduce the number of transfer applicants who can be admitted to the UW?

No. In the past, the UW Seattle considered all Running Start students in the 30% proportionality agreement, regardless of credit. The policy now only counts those with 40 or more credits, thereby increasing the space for non-Running Start students.

Are applicants to the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) or School of Social Work (SSW) *required* to have college-level foreign language through the 103-level for admission?

No. The strong recommendation that A&S and SSW-bound students take college language courses through the 103-level is just that, not an admission requirement. Because these colleges have a foreign language graduation requirement through the third-quarter level, the UW Seattle prefers that community college students complete this course work prior to transferring to the UW. This is just one of many factors considered in the comprehensive review process.

How is the cumulative GPA calculated?

GPA is based on all *transferable academic courses*, from *all* regionally accredited colleges a student has attended, in which the student has received grades between 0.0 and 4.0 on a 4.0 grading scale. Community college courses that will transfer only on a restricted basis (e.g., vocational, technical, occupational, or personal development) are not calculated in the GPA, nor are grades such as "I" or "P" when they are not used in the sending institution's GPA.

How does the UW Seattle admissions policy affect students applying to UW Bothell or UW Tacoma?

Both UW Tacoma and UW Bothell have their own admissions standards and requirements. It is important for prospective students to be in contact with the campus they are interested in attending.

How does the UW Seattle admissions policy affect those students applying to the UW Seattle Evening Degree Program?

Applicants to the UW Seattle's Evening Degree Program (EDP) will be reviewed comprehensively. However, because EDP majors are not state-funded and are not overenrolled, students continue to be admitted to those programs if they meet minimum standards.

¹ Core Subject Admission Requirements, expressed in high school years, are as follows:

English - 4 years

Mathematics - 3 years

Social Studies - 3 years

Foreign Language - 2 years

Science - 2 years

Fine, Visual, or Performing Arts - ½ year

Electives in Core Subjects - ½ year