



The General Studies and Course Equivalency Transfer Agreement

§18B-14-2

Title 133 – Series 17

Course List Revised: July 2024

GENERAL STUDIES TRANSFER AGREEMENT

This [transfer agreement](#) permits students to transfer up to **35 credit hours of general studies** coursework between West Virginia institutions of higher education. These credits are not considered direct course equivalencies. Instead, the student receives credit for fulfilling general studies requirements according to the guidelines specified below.

If institutional policy allows, institutions may accept general studies transfer hours above the 35 credits. The hours of core coursework that are acceptable as counting toward fulfillment of general studies requirements are as follows:

- English Composition – 6 hours
- Communication – 3 hours
 - speech/oral communication
- Humanities and Literature – 3 hours
 - Literature, philosophy, religion, logic, foreign language, or ancient language
- Fine Arts Appreciation – 3 hours
 - art, music, drama, or theater appreciation
- Mathematics – 4 hours
 - college math including general math, algebra, trigonometry or calculus

- Natural Science – 8 hours
 - lab science including biology, chemistry, geology, physics or physical science
- Social Science – 9 hours
 - history, political science, psychology, sociology, or economics (only 6 hrs from each)

[These courses are listed under the "Transfer for General Studies" section on the dashboard.](#)

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Community and Technical College System will annually appoint a general studies transfer committee. This committee will provide advice on matters related to the transfer agreement and the listing of courses. It may recommend changes to the agreement or the course list as necessary. Additionally, the committee is responsible for publishing and distributing a transfer guide that includes (1) the state coursework agreement and (2) the list of approved core courses at each institution in an electronic dashboard. The committee will meet at least once a year and submit an annual report to the chancellor.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY TRANSFER AGREEMENT

[West Virginia State Code](#) (§18B-14-2) mandates that courses deemed "**70% similar or the same**" must transfer as equivalent courses among higher education institutions in the state.

A statewide faculty committee has reviewed and vetted these courses for 70% alignment, and faculty at each public institution have approved the learning outcomes. These courses are considered equivalencies and **must be accepted** as prerequisites for specific major or program courses.

[These courses are listed under the "Course Equivalencies" section on the dashboard.](#)

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Community and Technical College System appoints a committee of faculty content experts to develop learning outcomes for course equivalencies. The committee reviews course submissions in accordance with the 70% similarity statute. Each course will undergo review by the committee of content experts every five years. The committee will publish and distribute a transfer guide that includes (1) the state coursework agreement and (2) the list of approved courses at each institution in an electronic dashboard.

For information about the approved learning outcomes and templates for course inventory, please visit: [Course Equivalency - West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission \(wvhepc.edu\)](https://www.wvhepc.edu)

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Each institution shall implement the agreement and distribute the transfer guide to advisors, faculty advisors, and students.
- Institutions shall be responsible for identifying each course listed in its course catalog also listed in this agreement.
- Courses shall be identified on the official and unofficial school transcript with a tilde (~) for general studies or with a caret (^) for course equivalencies on the lead character of the course title.
- Every institution shall review these courses in July of each year for accuracy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

- Students transferring from one in-state college or university to another in-state institution are responsible for understanding the specific program requirements at the receiving institution.
- In academic programs like engineering or other professional fields, there may be a requirement to complete certain general studies courses.
- Courses included in transfer agreement but not listed in bold ensure uniform acceptance of up to 35 credit hours of general studies coursework.
- Despite this, students must still complete all program-specific requirements at the receiving institution.

Click here for the full list of approved courses per institution:

[COURSES FOR GENERAL STUDIES AND/OR COURSE EQUIVALENCIES DASHBOARD](#)

[updated 8/2/2024 by Beez Schell, beez.schell@wvhepc.edu]