

# IGETC ADVICE FOR UC-BOUND TRANSFERS

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This information is intended to serve as a *guideline* for advising UC bound transfers about the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) option. Since each student's circumstances differ, advisors need to evaluate whether using the IGETC makes good sense based on a student's academic background, choice of campus and major.

The purpose of the IGETC is to provide an option for community college transfer students to fulfill lower-division general education/breadth requirements before enrolling at any campus of the California State University or the University of California. As a general rule, the IGETC can be certified for California community college transfers who have also completed transfer units at a CSU, UC or independent college **provided that the student has completed most of the transfer units at one or more California community colleges**...this guideline preserves the use of IGETC for students whose identification is primarily with a California community college and precludes a CSU or UC student from completing a few community college units solely for the purpose of using the IGETC.

It is important to understand the relationship of UC general education/breadth (IGETC or campus-specific), admission, major preparation and graduation requirements. For example, since all courses used for the IGETC must be completed before entering the University, it is sometimes mistakenly considered an admissions requirement. **The IGETC does not change existing University and campus-specific transfer admission or prerequisite requirements. A student does not need to complete IGETC in order to become eligible for UC admission.**

## UNIVERSITYWIDE IGETC INFORMATION

The IGETC is most advantageous for transfers who have not yet decided on a major or a campus. Once a student has identified a major, it is important for the student to work toward fulfilling any required preparatory courses, particularly in professional or "high unit" majors that select applicants on the basis of satisfaction of lower-division major requirements. It is important to note that this does not preclude a student from following the IGETC; however, the IGETC should not be chosen to the exclusion of completing any preparatory courses needed for admission.

In general, it is not advisable for transfer students preparing for engineering and high unit science majors (at any UC campus) to use the IGETC. Students entering high unit majors, such as those in engineering and the sciences, should focus on completing required lower division major preparation courses. Majors in the sciences, for example, not only have specific science prerequisites, but have substantial mathematics requirements as well.

Students should request certification of IGETC when they request their final transcript be sent to the UC campus in which they plan to enroll.

## CAMPUS-SPECIFIC IGETC INFORMATION

The following list specifies the various majors, by campus, that have substantial lower division prerequisites that may make the IGETC option inappropriate for transfers to follow:

**UC BERKELEY:** The Colleges of Engineering, Environmental Design, Chemistry, Natural Resources, and the Haas School of Business have extensive, prescribed major prerequisites that are required for selection purposes. Consequently, IGETC is not appropriate for majors in these areas.

The College of Letters and Science accepts the IGETC. The College selects its admitted students from those applicants who have completed the equivalent of its essential skills breadth requirements. One way of satisfying this selection requirement is to complete IGETC by the end of the spring term before enrolling at Berkeley. Because students should complete as much preparation for their intended major as possible, applicants pursuing majors having many prerequisites, such as the biological and physical sciences, may be best advised to complete the college specific essential skills requirements instead of IGETC.

**UC DAVIS:** All majors at UC Davis honor the IGETC. However, completing the IGETC is secondary to completing lower division work in a major. This is particularly true for majors with substantial preparatory work. IGETC is not recommended for majors with numerous lower division pre-requisites. Examples are: all majors in the Division of Biological Sciences, all majors in the College of Engineering, and majors in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the College of Letters and Science that require substantial math and science preparation, such as: Chemistry, Environmental Toxicology, Food Science, Nutrition Science, Physics, Viticulture and Enology, etc.

Students may wish to consider completing the IGETC if they are planning to transfer in majors with few lower division preparatory courses. Examples of such majors are: Art History, Art Studio, English, History, and Political Science. In general, IGETC is appropriate for majors leading to B.A. degrees. Completion of IGETC satisfies the foreign language requirement toward graduation in the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis.

**UC IRVINE:** Students entering any major can use the IGETC, but should also consider lower division degree requirements and major preparation when planning their programs. Students entering majors that require specific or substantial preparation, such as science majors, may use the IGETC but need to give priority to completion of lower division preparation courses for the major.

**UC MERCED:** IGETC is not recommended for majors in the School of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Students entering any major may use IGETC, but need to give priority to lower division preparation courses when planning their programs.

**UC LOS ANGELES:** The IGETC is not appropriate for students transferring to the School of Engineering and Applied Science or the School of Nursing. All majors in the School of Theater, Film and Television, the School of the Arts and Architecture, and the College of Letters and Science will honor the IGETC. Students entering majors that require specific or substantial preparation, such as science majors, may use the IGETC but need to give priority to completion of lower division preparation courses for the major.

**UC RIVERSIDE:** The IGETC is accepted for students pursuing majors in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, as most of the majors in this College do not require extensive major preparation at the lower-division level. The Psychology and Business Administration majors in this college do have a substantial amount of lower-division preparation, so students interested in these majors should 1) choose courses from their IGETC pattern which also satisfy lower-division major requirements; and 2) complete as many as possible of the remaining lower-division requirements for these majors that exceed IGETC requirements in order to prepare for upper-division standing in these majors. Completion of IGETC (which satisfies Breadth Requirements) is especially important for transfers into Business Administration (along with the required major preparation), as it is part of the selection criteria for transfers applying to this major.

The certified IGETC must be submitted to UCR's Undergraduate Admissions Office, with the student's final transcript. All students should ensure that the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Student Academic Affairs office has received the certified IGETC no later than the end of their first quarter of UCR attendance. IGETC's received after this deadline will **not** be accepted. This deadline also applies to IGETC After Transfer, which must be certified by the community college and received in the Student Academic Affairs office no later than the end of the student's first quarter. Effective Fall 2004,

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students with a certified IGETC After Transfer must complete all the remaining course work for the IGETC during their first quarter of enrollment, by taking the course(s) at UCR or concurrently at a community college. Transcripts for community college work must be forwarded immediately to UCR Undergraduate Admissions Office after grades are available so that the one or two courses that were remaining are entered into the system in a timely manner.

The IGETC is not appropriate for students entering the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences or the Bourns College of Engineering. Students applying to majors in these colleges will need extensive lower-division major preparation in the areas of math and science, which is critical to readiness for upper-division course work at the junior level. Students interested in science and engineering majors should be discouraged from completing IGETC and encouraged to complete lower-division major preparation. Science and engineering majors who present an IGETC certification at the point of admission may be able to apply some IGETC courses towards the College's breadth pattern, as appropriate, but will often be required to complete additional course work in satisfaction of the campus-specific breadth pattern.

**UC SAN DIEGO:** Students entering any UCSD major may use the IGETC. Those choosing majors that require specific and substantial lower division preparation, as in the Jacobs School of Engineering, may also use the IGETC. However, lower division degree requirements should also be emphasized in transfer program planning. The UCSD undergraduate colleges that accept the IGETC are Earl Warren, John Muir, Sixth and Thurgood Marshall. Eleanor Roosevelt and Revelle College also welcome students who follow the IGETC. However, they must satisfy college specific graduation requirements.

**UC SANTA BARBARA:** Students planning to transfer to a major in biological or physical sciences must be careful to complete lower division major prerequisites if they are to make normal, timely progress through the major. IGETC is not appropriate preparation for transfer into the College of Engineering (and the Computer Science major in the College of Letters and Science).

Engineering transfers may use IGETC only to substitute for lower division breadth/general education requirements. These students will be required to complete at least two upper division general education courses after transfer.

**UC SANTA CRUZ:** Although the IGETC is acceptable for all majors at UCSC, students planning to pursue majors that require substantial lower-division preparation, such as those offered in the School of Engineering, the sciences, or environmental studies, should give priority to the completion of major prerequisite courses.

### **OTHER UNIVERSITYWIDE REQUIREMENTS**

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** The University has a common set of requirements that specify minimum eligibility, in terms of subject and scholarship level, for admission as a transfer student. However, several campuses and majors have additional requirements (i.e., "selection criteria") that may go well beyond minimum eligibility, and usually include a higher GPA and/or completion of lower-division major preparation courses. This is particularly true for programs where the number of applications greatly exceeds the number of spaces available. It is imperative that transfers applying to such campuses and majors meet these additional requirements so that they are competitive for admission.

**UC GENERAL EDUCATION/BREADTH REQUIREMENTS:** These requirements are designed to give University undergraduates a broad background in a variety of academic disciplines. Each school and college at every UC campus has its own set of requirements.

**MAJOR PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS:** These requirements stipulate the courses students need in order to have the appropriate academic background for a particular major. Transfer students who have selected a major should work toward completing all lower division requirements for that major. In fact, in many cases, completing a portion of the major requirements is essential to gain admission to the major at the junior level.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:** These requirements are campus-specific and include courses that all students, regardless of major, must complete in order to graduate.

### **“IGETC AFTER TRANSFER”**

The three segments of California higher education (California Community Colleges, CSU, and UC) agreed to revise IGETC so that community college students with good cause would be allowed to complete one or two IGETC courses after transfer to CSU or UC. The previous policy required students to complete all IGETC courses prior to transfer if they wished to have IGETC substitute for a CSU or UC campus GE curriculum. Below are excerpts from a letter by California Community College’s Chancellor Nussbaum and Academic Senate Chair Collins sent to all California Community Colleges concerning the implementation of this new policy (in italics).

**POLICY OVERVIEW:** This policy provides students with a demonstrated need the opportunity to complete one or two IGETC courses after transferring to UC or CSU, provided that those courses are not among those required for admission [for example, math and English composition courses].

**ELIGIBILITY AND “GOOD CAUSE:”** To be eligible for completion of IGETC after transfer, the reason must involve a good cause such as illness, unavailable or canceled courses, military service, or unexpected hardships, such as family or employment problems, experienced in the final term before transfer. Good cause must be stated explicitly on a petition [developed by the community college] and documentation to support the assertion is expected. The integrity of this new process relies on [community] colleges implementing the good cause provision with thoroughness. We recommend that this determination be made by a counseling faculty member or other appropriate college official. Students have the right to appeal this decision, and the petition form should indicate the college official to whom the appeal is to be made.

**IGETC CERTIFICATION (Full or Partial):** The last community college attended by the student prior to transfer must assume the responsibility for certification of IGETC, full or partial, regardless of the number of units the student has taken at that college.

Community college certification of IGETC, full or partial, occurs only once, as the student transfers to UC or CSU. Determination that the courses remaining have been completed after transfer is the responsibility of the receiving UC or CSU campus. Community colleges are NOT required to re-certify a student who is completing IGETC courses...after transferring under this program. Such students need only provide a transcript from the community college to demonstrate to their UC or CSU campus that the requirement has been completed.

**ADVISING TIPS:** An essential part of the discussion between the student and the counselor is the explanations of options the student may have for completing IGETC requirements after transfer...

First, note that some UC and CSU campuses do not allow students to enroll concurrently at a community college. You should be aware of the practices in your area. In those cases, the student will need to limit community college attendance to the summer session.

Second, the possibility of completing a comparable course at the UC or CSU campus is at the discretion of that campus. Recommend that the student meet with a faculty advisor at their UC or CSU campus as soon as possible. That person can clarify this option and assist the student in identifying comparable courses.

Remind the student that IGETC requirements must be completed by the first term of the second year after transfer. The student only has the first two semesters/three quarters plus the summer session before and after that first year to complete the required IGETC course.

Partial certification is allowed only in the student’s final term [at the community college]. The certification form should be sent to the UC or CSU campus with the final transcript.