Determining Courses that Meet the CSULB Major Specific Admission Requirements
Topics:

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- CSULB Major Specific Requirements
- Using ASSIST to Determine Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and California Community Colleges
- Determining Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and Private or Out of State Schools
- Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA
- Additional Assistance
The Purpose of this Guide

- Admission to all majors at CSULB requires academic preparation for the major selected. In order to be considered for admission, transfer applicants must satisfy major specific criteria including lower division major preparation, general education courses, and a minimum GPA.

- The purpose of this guide is to provide the methods and tools that can be used to assist prospective transfer students to identify the courses at their institution that will fulfill these requirements.

- All majors have a minimum transfer GPA as part of their requirement. This guide provides information on how to perform this calculation since many students have attended multiple institutions or have completed courses that should not be included in the calculation.

- Before reviewing the tools available to determine course equivalencies, let’s take a look at an example of the CSULB Major Specific Requirements page which displays the complete list of courses required for transfer to the B.S. in Microbiology major at CSULB.
CSULB Major Specific Requirements

- Each CSULB major has specific requirements located at: [www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/admissions/transfer-major-criteria/index.html](http://www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/admissions/transfer-major-criteria/index.html)

- The example used throughout this guide is the B.S. in Microbiology shown here

- Notice that the requirements are listed in sections:
  - Minimum GPA
  - Lower Division Major Preparation courses
  - Required General Education Courses
  - Recommended Courses.

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**MICROBIOLOGY B.S.**

To be considered for admission to the major, applicants must demonstrate the following:

- Minimum Cumulative GPA: 2.5
- Minimum lower division preparation (grade of C or better required):
  - Major preparation courses:
    - CHEM 111A – General Chemistry
    - CHEM 111B – General Chemistry
    - MATH 119A – Survey of Calculus I; or MATH 122 – Calculus I
  - Required General Education courses not covered by major preparation courses:
    - Written Communication
    - Oral Communication
    - Critical Thinking
- Additional recommended preparation for transfer students (grade of C or better required):
  - BIOL 211 – Introduction to Evolution and Diversity and BIOL 212 – Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology

Explore the [Biological Sciences Department](http://www.csulb.edu/depts/bsc/) for more information on this major.
Using ASSIST to Determine Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and California Community Colleges

- The equivalency determination tool for applicants transferring from a California Community College to a CSU campus is ASSIST which is found at www.assist.org

- ASSIST is an online student-transfer information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California’s public colleges and universities and provides the most accurate and up-to-date information about student transfer in California.

- The following pages will show how ASSIST can be used to find California Community College courses which meet the major specific requirements in our Microbiology example.
An Example of Using ASSIST

- This example uses a student planning to transfer from Long Beach City College to pursue a B.S. in Microbiology at CSULB.

- Notice how the search fields are populated. Once the institutions and the major are entered, ASSIST will directly show the articulation report for that major as shown on the next page.

- To review the courses that will meet General Education requirements, select the “CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses” link.
Using ASSIST: Major Specific Courses

- The articulation agreement includes all courses that can transfer toward the major, not just the ones required or recommended for admission.

- By comparing this report to the major specific requirements from the CSULB website, it is easy to see the Long Beach City College course (on the right) which meets the CSULB course requirement (on the left side). CHEM 111A was the first course in the requirements which is clearly CHEM 1A at LBCC.

- Note the statement at the top of the report which encourages transfer students to take as many of the courses prior to transfer to promote timely completion of the degree!
Using ASSIST: GE Courses

- The major specific requirements include additional general education courses to ensure that the following areas have been satisfied:
  - Oral Communication
  - Written Communication
  - Critical Thinking
  - Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning

- To find courses which satisfy these requirements, select the CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses link.
Using ASSIST: GE Courses (cont’d)

- This resulting report displays the GE area and the courses that satisfy the requirement.

- In addition to the four required areas, the report can also be used to determine courses that can meet the overall General Education unit requirements as well as the other GE areas.

- To promote timely graduation, full GE certification is recommended in most majors.
Determining Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and Private or Out of State Schools

- Students who are transferring from institutions where formal articulation does not exist must compare course descriptions to determine whether courses ‘reasonably’ meet the objectives of the CSULB requirements.

- CSULB Course Descriptions can be found in the University Catalog at [www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/index.html](http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/index.html)

- Although students may be admitted with coursework that reasonably meets the CSULB course objectives, additional coursework may be required for graduation should the course be deemed not fully equivalent upon formal review.
Determining Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and Private or Out of State Schools (cont’d)

➢ In comparing course descriptions, it is important to pay attention to key information such as:
  ▪ Are the unit values the same or greater at the student’s current institution?
  ▪ Does the course have the same or higher pre-requisites to enroll in the course?
  ▪ Does the course contain a lab or other required activity?
  ▪ Does the course cover the key content areas of the CSULB course?

➢ The following example compares our B.S. in Microbiology major example with descriptions from a private California university, Loyola Marymount
Comparison of Course Descriptions

- General Chemistry is one of the requirements for the B.S. in Microbiology.

- The course descriptions for general chemistry from the CSULB and Loyola Marymount catalogs are displayed at the right.

- Notice that the course content topics and pre-requisites are very similar.

- The CSULB course contains a lab for both CHEM 111A and 111B. The Lab is a separate component at Loyola.

- While there is a slight difference in the unit values between the two institutions, if the Lab component is completed at Loyola, the courses would be reasonably similar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemistry Course s required for CSULB B.S. in Microbiology</th>
<th>Loyola Marymount University Chemistry Course Similar to the CSULB requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>111A. General Chemistry (5)</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHEM 110 - General Chemistry I - 3 Semester hours</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First semester of a two-semester sequence (CHEM 111A and 111B). Introduction to principles of chemistry including chemical reactions, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, electronic structure, bonding, and properties of solids, liquids, gases, and solutions. Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture 3 hrs., laboratory and problem session 6 hrs.)</td>
<td>Atomic theory; chemical nomenclature; chemical equations and reactions; stoichiometry; properties of gases, solids, and liquids electronic structure of atoms and periodic properties of the elements; covalent bonding and molecular geometry. Lecture and laboratory, 4 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>111B. General Chemistry (5)</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I Lab 1 Semester Hour</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite: CHEM 111A with a grade of &quot;C&quot; or better. Second semester of a two-semester sequence (CHEM 111A and 111B). Continuation of chemical principles, applications of bonding theories of inorganic molecules, trends and reactivities of elements and their compounds, chemical equilibrium, kinetics and qualitative inorganic analysis. Solving aqueous equilibrium problems are emphasized.</td>
<td>Basic chemical lab technique, conservation of mass, definite composition, molar masses, gravimetric and titrimetric analyses, redox chemistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHEM 112 - General Chemistry - II 3 Semester Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHEM 113 - General Chemistry II Lab - 1 Semester Hour</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite: CHEM 110. Solutions, chemical kinetics, thermodynamics, acids and bases, equilibria, electrochemistry, nuclear reactions, and selected additional topics. Lecture, 3 hours.</td>
<td>Chemical kinetics, equilibrium, complex ions, solubility, visible spectrophotometry, inorganic synthesis, crystallization, inorganic qualitative analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tips for Comparing Course Descriptions

- The course should normally count for at least as many units as the course at CSULB. If the other institution is a quarter based school, multiply the quarter units by 0.66 to convert to CSULB semester units.

- Many CSULB courses have stated prerequisites. Check the prerequisites for the course of the other institution to ensure that they are similar. A course that requires Calculus as a prerequisite is probably at a higher level than a course that only requires College Algebra as the prerequisite.

- Look for similarities between the two course descriptions:
  - Do they use some of the same vocabulary?
  - Do they cover the similar content areas?
Tips for Comparing GE Course Descriptions

Tips for determining General Education coursework equivalency

- When looking for comparable GE courses, it may be helpful to refer to courses that meet GE requirements at the institution attended since the requirements are often similar.

- CSULB General Education requirements as well as courses approved to meet the requirements can be found at [www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/registration/ge_courses/index.html](http://www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/registration/ge_courses/index.html)

- GE courses must be at least 3 semester units or 4 quarter units to meet the four core areas:

  - **Written Communication**- ("Freshman English") a college level course in written English.
Tips for Comparing GE Course Descriptions (cont’d)

- **Oral Communication** - (“Speech”) A college level course in oral communication to include an understanding of the process of communication and experience in communication.

- **Critical Thinking** – (“Logic”) A college level course in critical thinking, designed to develop the ability to reason clearly and logically and to analyze the thinking of others. Topics should include: the nature of critical thinking; models and strategies; common fallacies of reasoning; self-regulation in the thinking process; and application of critical thinking.

- **Math** – A college level course focusing on developing skills and understanding beyond the level of intermediate algebra. Some examples include: College Algebra, Statistics, Calculus, and Finite Math. The course must have a prerequisite of at least Intermediate Algebra to meet the requirement for GE Math.
Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA

- It is very important to calculate the transfer GPA accurately as it will not be the same as the GPA listed on the institution’s transcript if:
  - Non-transferable courses are included
  - The student attended multiple institutions

- The steps to calculate a transfer GPA are:
  1. Identify the courses that should be included in the GPA calculation
  2. Determine the grade points earned for these courses
  3. Determine the total units attempted for these courses
  4. Divide the total grade points by the total units attempted

- Let’s take a closer look...
Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA (cont’d)

Step 1 - Identify the courses that should be included in the GPA calculation

➢ Include:
  • All transferable courses for which a letter grade (or other symbol that earns grade points) is posted
  • Include all grades when a course is repeated unless formal grade forgiveness for an attempt has been granted by the institution and posted on the transcript
  • Include transferable courses from all schools attended

➢ Exclude:
  ▪ Vocational/Trade courses (non-transferable courses)
  ▪ Courses that were taken for Credit/No Credit
  ▪ Courses with a Grade of “W”
  ▪ Remedial coursework (e.g. English preparatory work, intermediate Algebra and below)
Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA (cont’d 3)

Step 2 - Determine the grade points earned for these courses

- Some transcripts will reflect the grade points earned for a course. If not, use the grading scale of the institution or the following scale if one is not available:
  - "A" = 4 points
  - "B" = 3 points
  - "C" = 2 points
  - "D" = 1 point
  - "F" or other penalty grades = 0 points
  - Various penalty grades such as “WU” = 0 points

- Calculate the Grade Points earned for each transferable course by multiplying the # of points for the grade earned by the # of units for the course. For example, a 3 unit course with a grade of A = 12 grade points.
Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA (cont’d 4)

Step 3 - Determine the total units attempted for these courses

➢ Sum the total units attempted for all the identified transferable courses used in step 2.

Step 4 - Divide the total grade points earned from Step 2 by the total units attempted in Step 3

➢ EXAMPLE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
<th># of Units</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course X</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>4 units</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Y</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>4 units</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Z</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3 units</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  Total Grade Points 32

  Total Units Attempted 11

  Cumulative Transferable GPA 2.91
Additional Assistance

- Community College Transfer Centers provide many services to assist students in understanding how their coursework meets requirements and how to use assist.org.

- For questions regarding the Supplemental Application or transfer admissions, contact CSULB Enrollment Services at: 562-985-5471

- International students should contact the Center for International Education at cie-admission@csulb.edu