



# Determining Courses that Meet the CSULB Major Specific Degree Requirements for Admissions



# Topics

---

1. Purpose of This Guide
2. CSULB Major Specific Degree Requirements
3. Using ASSIST to Determine Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and California Community Colleges
4. Determining Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and Private or Out of State Schools
5. Calculating a Cumulative Transferable GPA
6. Additional Assistance



# 1. 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 look at an example of the CSULB Major Specific Degree Requirements page which displays the complete list of courses required for transfer to the B.S. in Microbiology major at CSULB.

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

Major Preparation Courses	Course Number	Course Title
CHEM	111A	General Chemistry
CHEM	111B	General Chemistry
MATH	119A,122	Survey of Calculus I; or Calculus I
BIOL	211	Introduction to Evolution and Diversity

Required General Education courses not covered by major preparation courses:

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Critical Thinking

Additional Recommended Courses for Transfer Applicants Only

Additional Recommended Preparation Courses for Transfer Applicants Only (Grade of "C" or better)	Course Number	Course Title
BIOL	212	Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology
CHEM	220A	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM	223A	Organic Chemistry Laboratory I
CHEM	220B	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM	223B	Organic Chemistry Laboratory II

## 2. CSULB Major Specific Degree Requirements

Each CSULB major has specific requirements located at:

[csulb.edu/admissions/major-specific-degree-requirements-for-transfer-students](https://csulb.edu/admissions/major-specific-degree-requirements-for-transfer-students)

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

Notice that the requirements are listed in sections:

- Minimum Cumulative GPA
- Lower Division Major Preparation Courses
- Required General Education Courses
- Recommended Courses



### 3. Using ASSIST to Determine Course Equivalencies Between CSULB and CA 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](http://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.

**\*NOTE: The 2025-26 Academic Year on Assist will be updated at a later time.**

## 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.

Once the Institution and the Agreement with Other Institution are entered, you will click View Agreements and ASSIST will direct you to view based on Departments.

To review the courses that will meet General Education requirements, select the CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses drop down right under Transferable Courses at LBCC.



The official transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities

## Your transfer resource.

Get the information you need to find the best path to your degree.

[New to ASSIST?](#)

[Frequent Questions](#)

### Transfer Information

Academic Year ?

2019-2020

Institution ?

Long Beach City College

Agreements with Other Institutions ?

To: California State University, Long Beach

[View Agreements](#)

Transferable Courses at  
**Long Beach City College**

CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses

[View Transferability Lists](#)



The official transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities

### Transfer Information

Academic Year



2019-2020

Institution



Long Beach City College

Agreements with Other Institutions



To: California State University, Long Beach

View Agreements

Transferable Courses at

2019-2020

to **California State University, Long Beach**  
from Long Beach City College

View Agreement by:

Department

Search

Business Law

Cambodian

Chemical Engineering

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

Chicano-Latino Studies

Agreement by Department

## Chemistry and Biochemistry

To: California State University, Long Beach | From: Long Beach City College  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

View Agreement

Download Agreement

\* For UC campus and major information not currently available, visit the **UC Admissions website.**

\* For CSU campus and major information not currently available, visit the **CSU Updates website.**

**i** ASSIST does not take the place of a counselor on your campus. It is intended to help students and counselors work together to establish an appropriate path toward transferring from a public California community college to a public California university.

## Articulation Agreement by Department

Effective during the 2019-2020 Academic Year

To: California State University, Long Beach  
2019-2020 General Catalog, Semester

From: Long Beach City College  
2019-2020 General Catalog, Semester

### Chemistry and Biochemistry

CHEM 100 - Chemistry and Today's World (4.00)	←	CHEM 2 - Elementary Chemistry (4.50)
CHEM 111A - GENERAL CHEMISTRY (5.00)	←	CHEM 1A - General Chemistry (5.50)
CHEM 111B - GENERAL CHEMISTRY (5.00)	←	CHEM 1B - General Chemistry (5.50)
CHEM 112A - Advanced General Chemistry (5.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 112B - Advanced General Chemistry (5.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 140 - General, Organic, and Biochemistry (5.00)	←	CHEM 3 - Intro to General, Organic, and Biochemistry (5.00)
CHEM 220A - Organic Chemistry I (3.00)	←	CHEM 12A - Organic Chemistry (5.50) --- And --- CHEM 12B - Organic Chemistry (5.50) • Articulates as a sequence only • Complete entire sequence prior to transfer
• Articulates as a sequence only		
• Complete entire sequence prior to transfer		
CHEM 220A - Organic Chemistry I (3.00) --- And --- CHEM 220B - Organic Chemistry II (3.00) --- And --- CHEM 223A - Organic Chemistry Laboratory I (1.00) --- And --- CHEM 223B - Organic Chemistry Laboratory II (1.00) • Articulates as a sequence only • Complete entire sequence prior to transfer	←	CHEM 12A - Organic Chemistry (5.50) --- And --- CHEM 12B - Organic Chemistry (5.50) • Articulates as a sequence only • Complete entire sequence prior to transfer
CHEM 220B - Organic Chemistry II (3.00)	←	CHEM 12A - Organic Chemistry (5.50) --- And --- CHEM 12B - Organic Chemistry (5.50) • Articulates as a sequence only • Complete entire sequence prior to transfer
• Articulates as a sequence only		
• Complete entire sequence prior to transfer		
CHEM 223A - Organic Chemistry Laboratory I (1.00)	←	CHEM 12A - Organic Chemistry (5.50) --- And --- CHEM 12B - Organic Chemistry (5.50)
• Articulates as a sequence only		
• Complete entire sequence prior to transfer		
CHEM 223B - Organic Chemistry Laboratory II (1.00)	←	CHEM 12A - Organic Chemistry (5.50) --- And --- CHEM 12B - Organic Chemistry (5.50) • Articulates as a sequence only • Complete entire sequence prior to transfer
• Articulates as a sequence only		
• Complete entire sequence prior to transfer		
CHEM 224 - Organic Chemistry Recitation (1.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 224B - Organic Chemistry II Recitation (1.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 227 - Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry (3.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 241 - Explorations in Chemistry (2.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 251 - QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS (4.00)	←	No Course Articulated
CHEM 296 - Research Methods (1.00)	←	No Course Articulated

END OF AGREEMENT

# 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 degree requirements from the CSULB web site, you will see the Long Beach City College course (on the right) which meets the CSULB course requirement (on the left side). For example, CHEM 111A was the first course in the requirements which is CHEM 1A at LBCC.

**Note:** You will have to view each department to locate all courses needed for the major specific requirements.

# Using ASSIST: GE Courses

The major specific degree 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 drop down and click "View Transferability Lists" to see courses based on CSU-GE Breadth Area.



The official transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities

## Your transfer resource.

Get the information you need to find the best path to your degree.

[New to ASSIST?](#)

[Frequent Questions](#)

### Transfer Information

Academic Year ?

2019-2020

Institution ?

Long Beach City College

Agreements with Other Institutions ?

Select an Institution

[View Agreements](#)

### Transferable Courses at Long Beach City College

CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses

[View Transferability Lists](#)



The official transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities

### Transfer Information

Academic Year ?

2019-2020

Institution ?

Long Beach City College

Agreements with Other Institutions ?

To: California State University, Long Beach

[View Agreements](#)

### Transferable Courses at Long Beach City College

CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses

[View Transferability Lists](#)

2019-2020

Long Beach City College

### CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses

View Transferable Courses by:

CSU GE-Breadth Area

Search

All CSU GE-Breadth Areas

A **A1 - Oral Communication**

A2 - Written Communication

A3 - Critical Thinking

B **B1 - Physical Science**

B2 - Life Science

B3 - Laboratory Activity

B4 - Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning

## CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses by CSU GE-Breadth Area

### A1 - Oral Communication

From: Long Beach City College

FOR YEAR: 2019-2020

**i** The A1 - Oral Communication course list is not currently available. The All CSU GE-Breadth Areas course list will be shown instead.

[View Course List](#)

[Download Course List](#)

**i** ASSIST does not take the place of a counselor on your campus. It is intended to help students and counselors work together to establish an appropriate path toward transferring from a public California community college to a public California university.

## CSU GE Certification Course List - All Areas

Long Beach City College

Academic Year 2019-2020

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

The CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth) is a series of courses that California community college (CCC) students may complete to satisfy the lower-division breadth/general education requirements before transferring to the California State University. The CSU GE-Breadth pattern is certified by the CCC and accepted by all CSU campuses.

The following community college courses will satisfy CSU GE-Breadth requirement areas as indicated.

### AREA A - ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING

9 semester or 12-15 quarter units required with at least one course each from A1, A2 and A3

#### A1 - Oral Communication

Course	Title	Semester Units	Other Areas	Date Approved	Date Removed
<b>Communication Studies</b>					
COMM 10	Elements of Public Speaking (Formerly SP 10 prior to F2012)	3.00		F2012	
COMM 10H	Honors Elements of Public Speaking	3.00		F2015	
COMM 20	Elements of Interpersonal Communication (Formerly SP 20 prior to F2012)	3.00		F2012	
COMM 30	Elements of Group Communication (Formerly SP 30 prior to F2012)	3.00		F2012	
COMM 60	Elements of Argumentation and Debate (Formerly SP 60 prior to F2012)	3.00	A3	F2012	F2012
<b>English</b>					
ENGL 11	Reading, Composition, and Speech	6.00	A2		S1988 S1988
<b>Speech Communications</b>					
SP 10	Elements of Public Speaking	3.00			F2012
SP 20	Elements of Interpersonal Communication	3.00			F2012
SP 30	Elements of Group Communication	3.00		F1989	F2012
SP 40	Elem of Organizational Comm	3.00			S1988
SP 60	Elements of Argumentation and Debate	3.00	A3		F2012 F2012

#### A2 - Written Communication

Course	Title	Semester Units	Other Areas	Date Approved	Date Removed
ENGL 1	Reading and Composition	4.00			
ENGL 1H	Honors Reading and Composition	4.00		F1990	

# Using ASSIST: G.E. Courses

This resulting report displays the general education (G.E.) category 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 G.E. areas.

To promote timely graduation, full G.E. certification is recommended in most majors.



## 4. 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:

[csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/index.html](https://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.

Chemistry Courses required for CSULB B.S. in Microbiology	Loyola Marymount University Chemistry Courses Similar to the CSULB requirement
<b>111A General Chemistry (5) Semester Hours</b>	<b>CHEM 110 General Chemistry I (3) Semester Hours</b>
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.)	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.
	<b>CHEM 111 General Chemistry I Lab (1) Semester Hour</b>
	Basic chemical lab technique, conservation of mass, definite composition, molar masses, gravimetric and titrimetric analyses, redox chemistry.
<b>111B General Chemistry (5) Semester Hours</b>	<b>CHEM 112 General Chemistry II (3) Semester Hours</b>
Prerequisite: CHEM 111A with a grade of "C" or better.	Prerequisite: CHEM 110.
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.	Solutions, chemical kinetics, thermodynamics, acids and bases, equilibria, electrochemistry, nuclear reactions, and selected additional topics. Lecture, 3 hours.
	<b>CHEM 113 General Chemistry II Lab (1) Semester Hour</b>
	Chemical kinetics, equilibrium, complex ions, solubility, visible spectrophotometry, inorganic synthesis, crystallization, inorganic qualitative analysis.



# 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:

[csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/registration/ge\\_courses/index.html](https://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, also referred as the golden four:

**Written Communication:** 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 with practical applications in the form of oral presentations in front of an audience.

**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. Examples may include: the nature of critical thinking; models and strategies; common fallacies of reasoning; self-regulation in the thinking process; and application of critical thinking.

**Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning:** A college level course focusing on developing skills and understanding beyond the level of intermediate algebra. Examples may include: College Algebra, Statistics, Calculus, and Finite Math.



# 5. 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

---

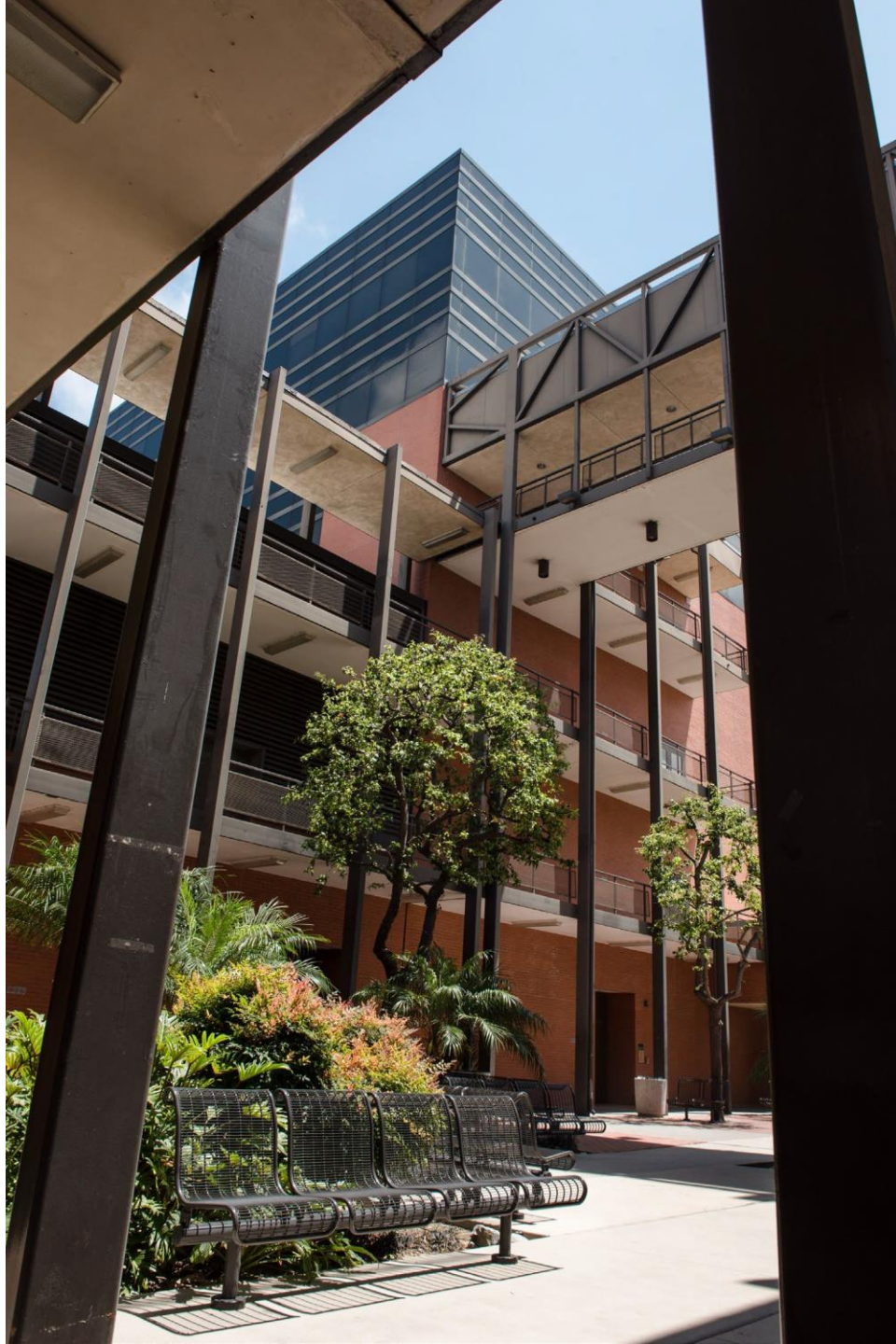
Step 1: Identify the courses that should be included in the GPA calculation

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

---

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

Step 3: Determine the total units attempted for these courses

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

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

Course	Grade Earned	# of Units	Grade Points
Course X	B	4 units	12
Course Y	C	4 units	8
Course Z	A	3 units	12
Total Grade Points			32
Total Units Attempted			11
Cumulative Transferable GPA			2.91



## 6. 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. In addition, assist.org has their own tutorials on how to navigate their website: [resource.assist.org/tutorials](https://resource.assist.org/tutorials)

For questions regarding the Supplemental Application or transfer admissions, contact Admissions by visiting: [csulb.edu/admissions/contact-admissions](https://csulb.edu/admissions/contact-admissions)

International students should e-mail the Center for International Education at [cie-admission@csulb.edu](mailto:cie-admission@csulb.edu)