

ACADEMIC POLICIES

CREDIT NORMALLY ALLOWED

Reduction of Credit

Students are cautioned to check transfer school catalogs often, because course changes are frequently made by universities and colleges, and certain combinations of courses can result in a reduction of unit credit upon transfer.

Non-Institutionally Accredited Institutions

Under specific circumstances, students may transfer up to fifteen (15) semester units of credit from a non-institutionally accredited institution to Santa Monica College. To initiate the request for credit transfer, students should submit a Use of Non-Accredited Coursework petition to the Admissions Office.

Course Limitations

Basic Skills courses may NOT be applied toward the degree. See the Basic Skills Preparation Courses information above for details.

Students may apply as elective units toward any degree or Certificate of Achievement up to six (6) semester units of Independent Study credit.

Students may apply as elective units toward any degree or Certificate of Achievement up to eight (8) semester units of Cooperative Work Experience/Internship credit.

Foreign Coursework

Students who have satisfactorily completed courses from a foreign nation's appropriately accredited university may be able to apply the course credits toward a degree at SMC. Students should consult a counselor BEFORE requesting to have credits evaluated, because the time it takes to evaluate a large number of units can delay enrollment. Courses must first be evaluated by an approved credential evaluation agency, and then reviewed by the SMC Admissions Office. Some courses may also require approval by the department chair. Once courses are approved, their credit(s) may be transferred to SMC.

To have foreign coursework credits evaluated, students should visit smc.edu/foreigncoursework and contact one of the approved credential evaluation agencies listed there.

Please note: Foreign coursework will NOT satisfy general education requirements for Area II, Social Science, Group A (American History/Government) or for Area IV, Language and Rationality, Group A (English Composition).

Credit for Prior Learning

Credit can be awarded for prior experience or learning only for specific courses that match the subject matter of the student's previous learning, and only for courses listed in the College's catalog. This credit can be applied toward a local degree, IGETC, CSU GE, or certificate of achievement, as appropriate.

Credit may also be given to electives for students who do not need additional general education or program credits to meet their goals. This ensures that the credits help students progress toward certificates or degrees. Credits earned through examination or assessment methods listed below will not count toward the 12 semester units of credit required in residence for a degree. Additionally, credits earned through examination or assessment will not count as units enrolled for the term, but will be added to the total units completed.

- Evaluation of a Joint Services Transcripts (JST)
- Satisfactory evaluation of industry recognized documentation
- Satisfactory evaluation of student-created portfolios
- Achievement of an examination administered by other agencies approved by SMC
- Satisfactory completion of an examination administered by SMC in lieu of completion of a course listed in the SMC catalog.

Details concerning requests for Credit from Prior Learning will be posted on the College's website as soon as they become available. SMC will not be able to offer CPL opportunities in all courses.

- Advanced Placement (AP; score of 3 or higher)
- International Baccalaureate (IB; score of 5 or higher on a high-level examination)
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)