

Semester Study Away: Course Credit Basics

TWO TYPES of CREDIT

DUKE CREDIT

Earn Duke letter grades that get factored into your GPA, just like a course on the Durham campus.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Earn "TR" credit towards graduation so long as you earn the U.S. equivalent of a C- or higher. Grades not factored into your GPA.

Some Duke-In programs have a "hybrid" credit structure, offering both Duke credit and transfer credit on the same program.

CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR MAJOR OR MINOR

Please consult with the academic department, as each department sets its own limits on the maximum number of transfer credits that can be applied towards a major, minor, or certificate. The max is usually 2 TR credits towards a major and 1 TR credit towards a minor or certificate, but some departments vary, so it's best to ask.

SATISFYING TRINITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Areas of Knowledge (ALP, CZ, NS, QS, SS):** Can be satisfied via Duke credit or transfer credit (with approval).
- **Modes of Inquiry (CCI, STS, EI, W, R):** Cannot be satisfied via transfer credit, thus you may only get these from Duke courses on Duke-In programs, issuing Duke credit.
- **FL Mode of Inquiry:** Can be retroactively requested after completing a transfer credit course, though FL approval is not guaranteed. For courses bearing Duke credit with an FL designation, the FL code will automatically be applied.

ALWAYS TAKE A FULL COURSE LOAD EQUIVALENT TO 4 DUKE COURSE CREDITS

You must take whatever is considered a normal, full-time course load on your program or at your host institution. If you do not meet the requirements below to transfer back a full load, you are not considered full-time. **You risk having your registration blocked or being put on academic probation, even being dismissed from Duke.**

REQUIREMENTS TO TRANSFER BACK A FULL LOAD

- **Duke considers "full-time" to be *no fewer than* the equivalent of 15-16 U.S. semester credit hours.** See reverse for examples.
- **You must earn the U.S. equivalent of a C- or higher in all courses taken at another institution.**
- **Do not take courses as Pass/Fail.** Credit is not granted for any study away course taken as P/F.
- **Every single study away course you take for transfer credit must be approved and assigned a Duke course equivalent by a specific Duke department.**
- **No underloads or overloads are allowed.**
- **No online courses are allowed.**

A FULL COURSE LOAD COULD BE MORE OR FEWER THAN 4 COURSES

You may end up needing to take more or fewer than four courses at the other institution to reach a full load of 15-16 U.S. semester credit hours. Regardless of how many courses you have to take, **no more than 4 transfer credits per semester will count towards the graduation requirement of 34 semester credits.**

If a full-time load works out to be

3 COURSES

You will still receive 4 credits towards the 34 semester credit graduation requirement.

Example:

Course	Requirements at Duke	Duke Course Credit
Course 1	Major Requirement	1.5
Course 2	Major Requirement	1.5
Course 3	Minor Requirement	1
Total Transfer Credits		4

If a full-time load works out to be

4 COURSES

You will receive 4 credits towards the 34 semester credit graduation requirement.

Example:

Course	Requirements at Duke	Duke Course Credit
Course 1	Major Requirement	1
Course 2	Major Requirement	1
Course 3	Minor Requirement	1
Course 4	ALP	1
Total Transfer Credits		4

If a full-time load works out to be

5-6+ COURSES

You will receive 4 credits towards the 34 semester credit graduation requirement.

The 5th and 6th courses do not confer credit in the total count of 34 semester credits, but any Areas of Knowledge, major, minor, or certificate requirement the courses fulfill will still be applied towards your graduation requirements.

***NOTE: You must get all 5-6+ courses approved and earn the U.S. equivalent of a C- or higher in each course to maintain a full course load.**

Example:

Course	Requirements at Duke	Duke Course Credit
Course 1	Major Requirement	1
Course 2	Major Requirement	1
Course 3	Minor Requirement	1
Course 4	ALP	1
Course 5*	CZ*	0
Course 6*	Certificate Requirement*	0
Total Transfer Credits		4

ALL STUDY AWAY COURSES MUST BE APPROVED BY DUKE

Begin your search for courses by consulting the GEO Approved Course Database, a directory of previously approved study away courses and their Duke course equivalents.

courses.globaled.duke.edu

The GEO Approved Course Database is a tremendous resource, but please remember to **treat it as a starting point**, keeping these details in mind:

COURSE NOT LISTED? Get it added!

The database is only as good as data we have fed it so far. If your search does not yield any results, **do not assume that nothing is approved.**

The next step is to pursue approval for the course(s) you want to take. Not only will this open up more options for study away courses you can take, you'll add to the database, thus benefiting future students.

COURSE FOUND!

Will it work?

Even if your desired courses are listed in the database, you'll still want to investigate these details:

- Will the course(s) be offered in the semester I will be there?
- If I can't get a seat in the course, what would I take instead? Identify several backup course options.

COURSE EQUIVALENTS

Exact Equivalents: Courses that are listed as transferring back to Duke as exact equivalents will be listed as such (e.g., ECON 208D; COMPSCI 316).

Electives: Courses that have no exact equivalent at Duke will be shown as transferring back as electives to the respective department, at the respective level (e.g., PUBPOL 300; PSY 100).