

COURSE CREDIT POLICIES

Credit for Prior Learning

In recognizing that intellectual growth can occur in settings other than the classroom, California State University, Chico provides opportunities for students to earn academic credit by demonstrating prior learning through previous non-classroom experiences, up to a maximum of 30 units for undergraduates. Academic credit for prior learning does not count toward residence requirements of degree programs. Credit may be awarded on the basis of internal "challenge" exams for particular Chico State courses, or evidence of learning acquired through professional experience, non-traditional higher education, or military training and service.

Credit by Challenging Courses

Students may apply to challenge specific University courses by passing a campus-originated examination on the course content. Credit by challenge examination will result in a credit/no credit grade except by advance approval of the Provost. Credit by challenge examination will not count toward University residence requirements. Students may not challenge a course if they have previously received credit for a more advanced course dealing with the same concepts. Students must be enrolled in the course they wish to challenge by examination. The application to challenge a course must be submitted to the chair of the department that offers the course within the first two weeks of the semester. Departments shall determine the criteria for approving or denying these requests.

If the application is approved, the course instructor will administer a written examination on course content. Where skills are involved which are not easily demonstrated by a written examination, a performance test will be required in addition to the written examination and will be counted toward the credit/no credit grade. If the examination is passed, the course will be recorded on the student's record as "passed by examination." If the examination is failed, the student may receive a letter grade upon successful completion of the course. If appropriate, the student may change to a credit/no credit option in accordance with established university procedures.

No more than 30 semester units of credit earned by challenging courses may count towards the bachelor's degree. Certain major requirements may be waived by departmental examination, but no units will accrue.

Credit for Prior Experience

Students may petition to have previous non-classroom experiences evaluated for possible academic credit, up to a maximum of 30 units. Awarded credit may be applied to a particular course, to a specific general education or other graduation requirement, or as elective credit. In order to apply for credit earned through prior experience, the student must be a matriculated Chico State student, have completed in residence at least 15 units of credit toward a bachelor's degree or 3 units toward a master's degree, and be enrolled in the University for the semester in which credit is awarded. Students are responsible for any increase in fees associated with the additional units of credit.

Students may submit a variety of forms of evidence to demonstrate prior learning, including portfolios, professional licensure, interviews, or other appropriate means. Departments may request additional information before recommending credit be awarded. Collectively, the evidence presented must demonstrate a level of competence equivalent to that achieved by a passing grade in a course that would typically confer

such credit. Information about and the application for credit for prior experience are available from the Office of Undergraduate Education and Academic Success (<https://www.csuchico.edu/ued/>).

Credit for Non-traditional Instruction and Military Training

Students may earn credit for learning acquired outside of traditional higher education, through workforce training, certifications, and other non-traditional learning. The University relies on recommendations provided by national organizations that conduct evaluations of such learning experiences, such as the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS) and the American Council on Education (ACE). The University accepts elective course credit as recommended by the ACE National Guide, as appropriate to a student's academic objectives. Students may petition the relevant academic unit to have credit awarded toward specific courses or degree requirements. Independent of these recommendations, students may also petition for course credit for learning acquired in nontraditional settings following the procedures outlined for Credit for Prior Experience.

Chico State follows the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide to award undergraduate or graduate credit for learning acquired through education, training, and service provided by the Armed Forces of the United States. Specific guidance relating to General Education credit for basic military training (Area E) and the Defense Languages Proficiency Test (Area C2) can be found in Executive Order 1036. See Military Credit (<https://www.csuchico.edu/vets/military-credit.shtml/>) on the Chico State Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS) website for more information.

Credit by External Standardized Examination

Chico State grants credit to those students who pass external standardized examinations that have been approved for credit systemwide. These include Advanced Placement (AP) (p. 1) examinations, International Baccalaureate (IB) (p. 3) examinations, and some College Level Examination Program (CLEP) (p. 3) examinations. A maximum of 30 semester units may count towards the bachelor's degree (excluding credit for AP and IB examinations). The chancellor's office announces the passing scores for external examinations (<https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/casper/Pages/external-exam-credit.aspx>) to receive university credit.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Chico State grants credit toward its undergraduate degrees for successful completion of examinations of the Advanced Placement Program of the College Board. The number of units and how they meet specific academic content requirements are specified in the Advanced Placement Examinations Chart.

Advanced Placement Examinations Chart (Minimum Score of 3 Required)

AP Exam	Passing Score	Credit (semester units)	Meets this Chico GE area or course equivalent
Art-Studio Art/2D Design	3	3	---
Art-Studio Art/3D Design	3	3	---

Art-Studio Art/ Drawing	3	3	--	English-- Language and Composition	3	6	Written Communication (A2): ENGL 130W
Art-Art History	3	6	Arts (C1) or Humanities (C2); ARTH 110, ARTH 120	English-- Literature and Composition	3	6	Written Communication (A2) and Humanities (C2): ENGL 130W
Biology (includes lab)	3	8	Life Science (B2 with lab): BIOL 161 and BIOL 162, or BIOL 102/ SCED 102	Environmental Science (includes lab)	3	4	Physical Science (B1 with lab)
Calculus AB	3,4	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4): MATH 119 ²	French-- Language and Culture	3	8	Humanities (C2) FREN 102, FREN 201
Calculus AB	5	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4): MATH 120 ²	German-- Language and Culture	3	8	Humanities (C2): GERM 102, GERM 201
Calculus BC	3,4	8	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4):MATH 119 ²	Government and Politics--U.S.	3	3	Social Sciences (D) or U.S. Constitution (US-2 only) ⁴
Calculus BC	5	8	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4):MATH 121 ²	Government and Politics-- Comparative	3	3	Social Sciences (D)
Calculus AB Subscore on BC Exam	3,4	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4):MATH 119 ²	History-- European	3	6	Humanities (C2) or Social Sciences (D)
Calculus AB Subscore on BC Exam	5	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4):MATH 120 ²	History--U.S.	3	6	Humanities (C2) or Social Sciences (D), U.S. History (US-1): HIST 130
Chemistry (includes lab)	3	8	Physical Science (B1 with lab): CHEM 107	History-- World:Modern	3	3	Humanities (C2) or Social Sciences (D): HIST 102
Chemistry (includes lab)	4	8	Physical Science (B1 with lab): CHEM 111	Human Geography	3	3	Social Sciences (D): GEOG 102
Chinese Language and Culture	3	6	Humanities (C2) ¹	Italian-- Languages and Culture	3	8	Humanities (C2): ITAL 102, ITAL 201
Computer Science A (A only)	3	3	CSCI 111 ³	Japanese-- Languages and Culture	3	8	Humanities (C2): JAPN 102, JAPN 201
Computer Science A and B	3	6	CSCI 111 ³	Latin	3	6	Humanities (C2) ¹
Computer Science Principles	3	6	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4): CSCI 101	Music--Theory	3	6	--- ¹
Economics-- Macro	3	3	Social Sciences (D): ECON 102	Physics 1 (includes lab)	3	4	Physical Science (B1 with lab): PHYS 202A ⁵
Economics-- Micro	3	3	Social Sciences (D): ECON 103	Physics 2 (includes lab)	3	4	Physical Science (B1 with lab): PHYS 202B ⁵
				Physics C-- Mechanics (includes lab)	3	4	Physical Science (B1 with lab): PHYS 204A ⁵

Physics C– Electricity & Magnetism (includes lab)	3	4	Physical Science (B1 with lab): PHYS 204B ⁵
Precalculus	3	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
Precalculus	4,5	4	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4): MATH 119
Psychology	3	3	Social Sciences (D) or Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E): PSYC 101
Seminar	3	3	---
Spanish– Language and Culture	3	8	Humanities (C2): SPAN 102, SPAN 201
Spanish– Literature and Culture	3	6	Humanities (C2): Spanish major/ minor elective credit (3 units only)
Statistics	3	3	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4): MATH 105

Either 3 or 6 units of credit will be allowed for all other exams and applied to meet lower-division breadth requirements as appropriate.

- ¹ Department requires formal assessment for placement into appropriate courses.
- ² If both AP Calculus exams are passed, a maximum of eight units will be awarded.
- ³ If both AP Computer Science exams are passed, a maximum of six units will be awarded.
- ⁴ Does not meet California state and local government content requirement.
- ⁵ If more than one AP Physics exam is passed, a maximum of eight units will be awarded.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

As recommended by the California State University Chancellor’s Office, Chico State grants credit toward its undergraduate degrees for successful completion of specific Higher Level (HL) International Baccalaureate examinations. Students who present the following passing scores will be granted up to six semester units of credit for each exam applied to the appropriate General Education requirements. Consult the IB Chart for specific details.

International Baccalaureate Examinations Chart (Higher Level Exams only)

IB Exam (July 2001 version)	Passing Score	Credit (semester units)	Meets this Chico GE area or course equivalent
Biology HL	5	6	Life Science (B2 with lab)

Chemistry HL	5	6	Physical Science (B1 with lab)
Economics HL	5	6	Social Sciences (D)
Geography HL	5	6	Social Sciences (D)
History (any region) HL	5	6	Humanities (C2) or Social Sciences (D)
History of the Americas HL	5	6	Social Sciences (D), HIST 130, GC
Language (any language) A: Literature HL	4	6	Humanities (C2)
Language (English) A: Literature HL	4	6	Humanities (C2), GC
Language (any language) A: Language and Literature HL	4	6	Humanities (C2)
Language (any language) B HL	4	6	---
Mathematics HL	4	6	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
Mathematics HL: Analysis and Approaches	4	6	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
Mathematics HL: Applications and Interpretation	4	6	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
Physics HL	5	6	Physical Science (B1 with lab)
Psychology HL	5	3	Social Sciences (D) or Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Theatre HL	4	6	Arts (C1)

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Chico State grants credit and/or fulfills requirements for certain CLEP Exams taken July 2001 or later as indicated in the chart below. For CLEP Exams taken prior to July 2001, consult a graduation advisor in Graduation Advising (<https://www.csuchico.edu/gradadvising/>) at 530-898-5957.

For more information about the CLEP visit the College Level Examination Program (<https://clep.collegeboard.org/>) website.

College Level Examination Programs (CLEP) Chart

CLEP Exam (July 2001 version)	Passing Score	Credit (semester units)	Meets this Chico GE area or course equivalent
Accounting, Principles of	50	3	---
American Government	50	3	Social Sciences (D)

American Literature	50	3	Humanities (C2)	Information Systems and Computer Applications	50	3	---
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	50	3	Humanities (C2)	Macroeconomics, Principles of	50	3	Social Sciences (D)
Biology	50	3	Life Science (B2 no lab)	Management, Principles of	50	3	---
Business Law, Intro	50	3	---	Marketing, Principles of	50	3	---
Calculus	50	3	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4)	Microeconomics, Principles of	50	3	Social Sciences (D)
Chemistry	50	3	Physical Science (B1 no lab)	Natural Sciences	50	3	Physical Science (B1 no lab) or Life Science (B2 no lab)
College Algebra	50	3	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4)	Precalculus	50	3	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
College Algebra-Trigonometry	50	3	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4)	Psychology, Intro	50	3	Social Sciences (D) or Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
College Composition	50	0	---	Social Sciences and History	50	0	---
College Composition-Freshman	50	0	---	Sociology, Intro	50	3	Social Sciences (D)
College Composition-Modular	50	0	---	Spanish, Level I	50	6	--- ²
College Mathematics	50	0	---	Spanish, Level II	63	9	Humanities (C2) ²
Educational Psychology, Intro	50	3	---	Spanish with Writing I	50	6	--- ²
English Composition (no essay)	50	0	---	Spanish with Writing II	63	9	Humanities (C2) ²
English Composition with Essay	50	0	---	Western Civilization I	50	3	Humanities (C2) or Social Sciences (D)
English Literature	50	3	---	Western Civilization II	50	3	Social Sciences (D)
Financial Accounting	50	3	---				
French, Level I	50	6	--- ²				
French, Level II	59	9	Humanities (C2) ²				
German, Level I	50	6	--- ²				
German, Level II	60	9	Humanities (C2) ²				
History, United States I	50	3	Social Sciences (D), U.S. History (US-1)				
History, United States II	50	3	Social Sciences (D), U.S. History (US-1)				
Human Growth and Development	50	3	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)				
Humanities	50	3	Humanities (C2)				

¹ Contact the Information Systems, Finance, and Accounting Department for course equivalents.

² If more than one exam in the same language other than English is passed, a maximum of nine units will be awarded.

There are some limits to the amount of credit that will be granted for results on external examinations. First, no more than 30 semester units of such credit may count toward degree requirements. Credit for Advanced Placement examinations is not included in this limit. Where credit has already been awarded at the equivalent or at a more advanced level, additional credit shall not be awarded. Where partial overlap exists, credit in the amounts indicated above will be reduced accordingly.

Credit by examination is not considered residence credit for purposes of residency requirements for the bachelor's degree.

Transfer Credit

To obtain transfer credit for courses completed elsewhere, be sure to send final official transcripts from all schools you have previously

attended to the Office of Admissions. If you attend summer school away from Chico State, be sure to also send that transcript to the Office of Admissions. The transfer credit will then appear on your Degree Progress Report, which you can access through your Student Center in the Portal. We encourage you to meet with a graduation advisor in SSC 110 if you have any questions regarding your transfer credit.