

# “How to Transfer to a Four-Year University”

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# Agenda

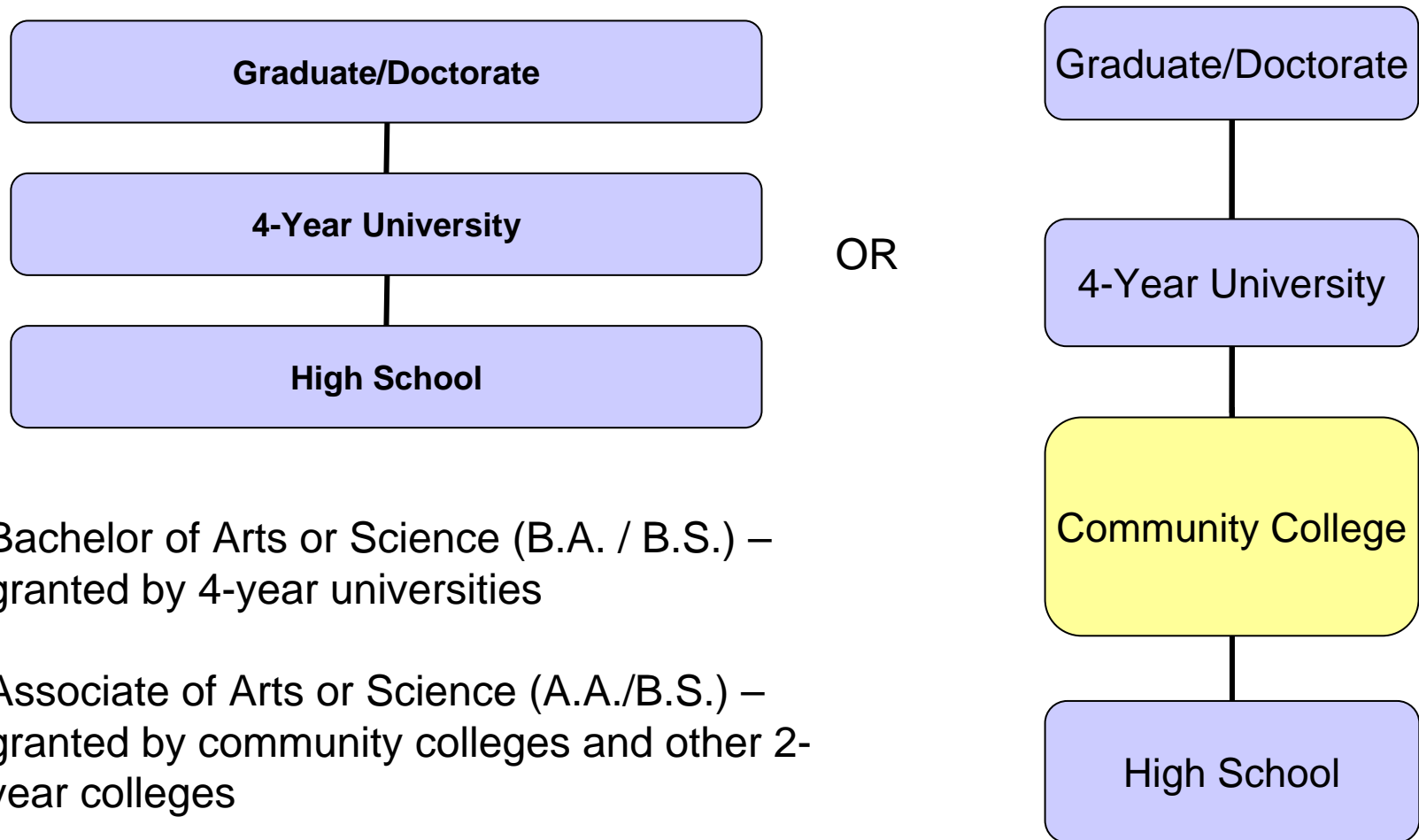
- Overview of Transfer Center services
- The U.S. Higher Education system
  - Paths to a 4-year university
  - Difference between public & private universities
  - Difference between UC & CSU systems
- The Successful Transfer Plan
  - What do I need to transfer?
  - Frequently Asked Transfer Questions



# Merritt College Transfer Center Services

- Assist students with the transfer process
- Provide transfer counseling/information, educational planning, workshops, application assistance, college tours, etc.
- Provide opportunities for students to meet college admission representative through appointments, drop-in, and info tables
- Responsible for Transfer Day, an annual college fair with over 40 colleges represented

# The U.S. Higher Education System





# Public vs. Private

## 4-YEAR PUBLIC

University of California  
(UC)

California State University  
(CSU)

## 4-YEAR PRIVATE

Ex: Mills College  
Holy Names University  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
California College of Arts  
National University

Public universities are subsidized by the State of California, which means they are subsidized by the taxpayers of California. As a result, public university fees are less than those of private universities.

Private universities are not subsidized by the State of California.

Other differences: areas of emphases (ex: liberal arts, art), approach, admissions

# What is the difference between the UC and CSU system?

California has two public university systems:

- The **UC system** emphasizes a theory based approach to learning and offers doctorate programs in most disciplines, along with graduate opportunities in medicine, dentistry, business, law, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. *Guarantees admission to top 12% of California high school students.*
- The **CSU system** offers traditional and career specific majors, with graduate opportunities at the Master's level.



# The Transfer Process

## Key Terms

- Upper Division Transfer – generally a student who transfers with 60+ transferable units
- Lower Division Transfer – generally a student who transfers with less than 60 transferable units (*note: student must determine if the 4-year institution will accept lower division transfers*)
- Articulation – the process that links two educational institutions to help students make a smooth transition from the community college to the university or college without experiencing a delay or duplication of coursework.
- General Education Certification – the process completed by the student's last community college of attendance to verify completion of general education requirements for transfer

# What are the most important factors in transfer admission?

- **UNITS**

- 60+ units completed generally by the end of Spring semester prior to Fall semester start – \*upper division status

- **GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

- eligibility vs. selectivity

- **GENERAL EDUCATION**

- fulfilled via university's breadth requirements or articulated general education pattern with the community college

- **LOWER DIVISION MAJOR PREPARATION**

- for UC and CSU – visit [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org)

*\*Some 4-year universities will accept lower division transfer students.*



# GPA – Eligibility vs. Selectivity

- **Eligibility** – the minimum GPA requirement to be considered for admission (Ex: UC – 2.4 for residents)
- **Selectivity** – When the number of applicants greatly exceed the number of spaces available, the school or department applies more demanding standards than the minimum requirements. (Ex: UCB – 3.7-3.8 to be competitive) *Note: Some programs will set a specific GPA for consideration.*



# What other factors are considered in admission?

If a school/major is impacted, other factors are considered beyond the 4 factors mentioned:

- Special talents, achievements, awards, skills, interests, experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus
- Academic rigor
- Academic accomplishments in light of life experiences and special circumstances
- Location of college and residence

# General Education Requirements

- UC/CSU

- English Composition/Critical Thinking (2 courses)
- Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)
- Oral Communication (CSU only)
- 4 courses from at least 2 of these subject areas: arts and humanities, social & behavioral sciences, physical and biological sciences

- Private – will vary

# THE IGETC & CSU GE BREADTH

- To fulfill the general education requirements for the UC, most majors prefer completion of the **Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)**.
- To fulfill the general education requirements for the CSU, the IGETC or **CSU General Education Breadth Pattern** are accepted.
- If a student completes the appropriate general education pattern and is **certified** by the last community college of attendance, the student will NOT have to complete additional lower division general education courses at the transfer institution.
- If a student is not certified, the student will then be bound by the lower division general education requirements of the transfer institution.

# What are the most competitive majors?

- This will vary at every school. The more selective the school in general, the more impacted the majors will be.
- **“Impacted”** – the percentage of those applying greatly exceeds the available slots for admission
- Typically, the following majors are impacted:
  - Business Administration
  - Nursing
  - Film/Cinema
  - Life Sciences (Biology, etc.)
  - Engineering
  - Psychology, Political Science, History, Sociology (at competitive UCs)

☺ TIP: THIS INFORMATION IS GENERALLY ACCESSIBLE VIA THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSIONS WEBSITES.

# What are the least competitive majors?

- Majors that are not commonly known or non-traditional majors (Ex: UCB's Rhetoric – What is that? 😊 )
- Foreign Languages
- In some schools, Humanities-type majors
- 😊 TIP: Always take a look at list of majors offered at the school.

# What major should I follow if I'm pre-med, pre-law, etc.?

- Graduate programs such as medical school, law school, business school do NOT require specific majors but do require prerequisites.
  - For most careers, there is no correlation between major and the actual job/profession.
- 😊 Did you know that the top majors of medical students are English and History?



# How can I find out the requirements for my major?

- For the UC and CSUs, go to [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org). Select “Merritt College”, the transfer institution, then the “major.”
- Schedule an appointment with your Transfer Counselor.



# Sample Major Preparation

## Psychology Lower Division Major Prep

### CSU East Bay

Psych 1A  
Psych 1B  
Math 13  
Biol 10

### UC Berkeley

Psych 1A, 1B

Two courses from:

Biol 1A, 1B, 10, 4, 20A&B, 2, 25  
and

Anthro 1 & 1L

Two courses from:

Soc 1, Posci 1 or 2, Anth 3  
and  
Math 13 or 3d



Do I need an Associate's degree  
to transfer?

No, an Associates Degree is not required to transfer to a California 4-year university.

However, courses you take to complete your Associate's Degree may also fulfill transfer requirements. The most ideal educational plan is one that fulfills the Associate's Degree and transfer requirements. Please schedule an appointment with a Counselor.

# How long will it take me to transfer then graduate once I transfer?

- The time it takes to transfer depends on the number of units completed each term, the minimum number of units that a transfer institution requires for admission, lower division major preparation, and prerequisite courses required.
- If a student is enrolled full-time (12+ units per semester) and starts with a college-level English and Math class, the student can generally **transfer between 2-3 years**. The student would then be at the transfer institution for another 2-3 years. Majors in Engineering, Life Science (Biology), Nursing, Psychology (UCB, UCD) generally have more lower division major preparation than other majors.

# Sample Educational Plan

## Fall 2007

English 1A – 4

Math 13 – 4

Psych 1A – 3

Couns 24 - 3

14 units

## Fall 2008

Geog 1 - 3

Posci 1 - 3

Afram 31 - 3

Music 10 - 3

12 units

APPLY FOR FALL 2008 ADMISSION

## Fall 2009

START AT UCB, CSUEB

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

## Spring 2008

English 5 – 3

Biol 10 – 4

Afram 30 – 3

Psych 1B - 3

13 units

## Summer 2007

Comm 45 – 3

(CSU)

Elective – 3

6 units

## TOTAL UNITS

60

## Spring 2009

Anthro 1 – 3

Anthro 1L – 1

CIS 1 – 4 units (AA

Elective – 3

Elective – 3

15 units

GRADUATE WITH A.A.LIBERAL ARTS



# When do I need to apply?

- UC Fall admission
  - November 1-30 of the previous year
- CSU Fall admission
  - October 1-November 30 of the previous year
- Some UCs and CSUs will accept Spring and/or Winter admission
- Privates – generally February – April of the same year of Fall admission