



## **Transfer Tips For Nondegree Students**

If you are enrolled at Trident as a nondegree student, you will not be assigned to a program advisor, so if you have plans to transfer to a four-year college or university, you will need to learn how to select the best courses to fit your plans. These suggestions should help you get started.

### **Identify Your goal. Which College?**

Most students at Trident can find transferable courses that will match the general education requirements at most four-year colleges, but you need to know which college you will be transferring to if you are going to make every credit count. Your chosen four-year college will determine which history courses you should take, how much foreign language, which math course, how many hours of lab science, and a number of other decisions.

### **Which Major?**

Even at a single university, the requirements for freshmen and sophomores can be different for different majors. For example, a business major usually takes different math courses than an engineering major; a psychology major takes different social sciences than an accounting major. If you are undecided which major you will pursue, you can usually find a list of general education requirements to pick from, but the choices within that list may be determined by major.

### **Find Out General Education Requirements**

Use a catalog from the university you have selected to find out what distribution of hours that college requires. This information is usually under a heading of "General Education Requirements," "Core Curriculum," or "Graduation Requirements." This list will not include the courses in your intended major, just the college's requirements in humanities, science, math, English, social science, etc.

Then check the section of the catalog that describes requirements for your intended major. There you will probably find more information about which courses are best to take in your first two years. For example, if the general education requirement calls for six hours of social science, the section on the accounting major will tell you that those six hours should be in economics.

### **Use Articulation Lists**

If you are transferring to an in-state college, you will probably be able to find a list of courses that transfer from the technical colleges in South Carolina. Many of these lists are available in

the Orientation Centers at Trident; they should also be on the web sites of the colleges and universities. Be careful when using these lists; just because a course transfers does not mean that it is the appropriate course for you to take. You do not want to transfer and then find out that you have not met any requirements but instead have only elective credit. These lists are to help you find which courses at Trident correspond to courses or other credit categories at the four-year college, not to be used without knowing the general education requirements.

If you are transferring out-of-state, you will need to get a catalog from the four-year college and find out from **that school** which courses they will accept from Trident. Because Trident is an accredited college, most transfer-level courses will be accepted, but you should make sure.

## **Look Up Transfer Policies**

Every college has policies on admissions and transfer of credit that you should learn about as soon as possible. Using a catalog, web site, or transfer brochure from the four-year college, you should be able to find the answers to the following questions:

- What GPA do you need at Trident?

Sometimes the GPA required for transfer to a college is different than the GPA required for admission to a particular program at that college. Sometimes the four-year college will calculate GPA in a different way than Trident does. Find out if the GPA on your Trident transcript is the same as the one the four-year college will be using for admissions. (Some schools average in every attempt at a course; others only average together certain courses.)

- What grades do you need for a course to transfer?

Most colleges require a C or better to give transfer credit for a course.

- How many hours do you need to take before you can be admitted as a transfer student?

You can transfer credit to most colleges even if you have only taken one course, But you will have to meet freshman admissions standards. Most colleges will waive some freshman admissions standards if you have earned a minimum number of transferable hours, usually 30. Find out how the number of hours you take at Trident will affect your admissions requirements.

- Is there a maximum number of hours that you can transfer?

Most college catalogs specify a maximum number of hours that will transfer from a two-year college.

**Make Every Credit Count! Choose Courses Carefully!**