Transfer Work Policy

If you already have completed some post-secondary studies, your credits will transfer to St. Ambrose University according to the following policies:

- As long as you meet the residency requirements, you can earn up to 64 semester credits at two year colleges. Quarter units will be converted into semester units. Students may take courses at a two year college regardless of academic standing, e.g., a senior could take a lower level course at a community college. Credit for college-level work is granted in all areas that correspond to courses offered at St. Ambrose University with a grade of a “C” or better. (*Pass grades are not accepted unless evidence can be provided that the grade would have been a C or better.) The individual departments at St. Ambrose University determine whether a transferred course may be substituted for a major requirement. Grades that you earned at other college and universities may be considered for admittance to the university and specific academic programs, but your SAU cumulative grade point average is based solely upon course work taken at St. Ambrose University. The SAU cumulative GPA will be reported on the transcript and will be used to determine graduation honors.

- If you have graduated from a two-year regionally accredited college with a 2.00 grade average, your Associate in Arts Degree or Associate in Science Degree will be accepted at St. Ambrose University as fulfilling 64 semester credits of baccalaureate requirements, and you will be given Junior status. You are still required to meet degree and residency requirements. The residency requirement is “the last 30 hours or 45 out of the last 60 credits to be taken at SAU.”

- If you have earned 64 semester credits from a two year college, you may still take additional courses to complete a lower level general education requirement, but the hours will not count toward your degree. Transfer credits to be applied toward General Education must meet the requirements listed in the catalog under General Education Degree Requirements.

- Credits from other colleges may be transferable in whole or in part, and are evaluated on a course by course basis. Likewise, courses successfully completed through the United States Armed Forces may be transferable and applicable to a bachelor’s degree at St. Ambrose University.

- A maximum of 90 semester credits may be applied to degree requirements from a combination of 2-year institutions, 4-year institutions, credit by exams, military credit and experiential learning credits.

Transfer Work FAQ’s

Q: What courses will be accepted as transfer credit?
A: Generally, college-level courses completed at regionally-accredited institutions will transfer, provided the course is similar in scope, content and level to courses offered at SAU and a grade of "C" or higher is earned.
A maximum of 64 credits from 2-year institutions can be applied to degree requirements at SAU. No more than 90 credits can be applied to degree requirements from a combination of 2-year institutions, 4-year institutions, credit by exams, military credit, and experiential learning credits. Students are required to complete at least their final 30 credits or 45 of the last 60 semester hours to earn a degree from St. Ambrose University.

Q: Do my grades transfer?
A: Although your grades from transfer courses are used in making decisions for admission to the University, entry into specific academic programs, and for satisfying degree requirements, grades from transfer courses are not used in the calculation of your SAU Cumulative GPA. The transfer courses SAU accepted and applied toward your degree requirements will appear on your official transcript, but the grades you received in these courses will not.

Q: Can I get credit for courses that were taken Pass/Fail status?
A: SAU will award credit when it can be determined that the grade earned is equivalent to at least a "C" grade or higher.

Q: What if the course at my previous institution(s) is more or fewer credits than the equivalent course at SAU?
A: The semester credit hours earned at your transfer institution are the number of credits you will receive at SAU. If you took a 4 semester credit sociology course that equates to our SOC 101 which is a 3 semester credit hour class here, you will receive 4 semester credits for this course. We do however convert quarter units into semester hour units.

Q: Can I repeat a class completed at SAU elsewhere to improve my GPA?
A: No. The transfer grade will not impact your SAU Cumulative GPA and no additional credit will be awarded as credit has already been earned for the class at SAU. A student does have the option of retaking a course at SAU utilizing the Second Grade Option as noted on the Office of the Registrar website.

Q: Can I take a course(s) back at my hometown community college over the summer?
A: SAU students should discuss the pros/cons of taking classes over the summer with their academic advisor. For additional information regarding equivalent coursework, visit the Transfer Course Equivalency page on the Office of the Registrar website.