



To: SUNY Cortland Faculty Senate
From: Educational Policy Committee
Date: March 28, 2025
Re: Transfer Credit and Minimum Grade Proposal

EPC is proposing that students transferring without a degree be granted credit based on the same criteria as those student transferring in with a degree completed prior to starting at SUNY Cortland.

Background and Rationale

The current policy for transfer credit differentiates between:

- students who complete an associate's degree before enrolling at SUNY Cortland
- students who enroll before completing an associate's degree

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) has looked at SUNY Cortland's current practices, reviewed transfer credit policies from peer institutions, and vetted a policy proposal that would allow transfer students (without a degree) to petition to bring in credit for courses with D grades.

After reviewing the campus feedback, EPC voted to propose that our current policy for transfer students with a degree apply to all transfer students. This will be more equitable for the students and, as noted in feedback, will avoid creating unnecessary processes for the students and faculty and staff.

The guiding rationale for this change includes:

1. There are many reasons why a student may decide not to complete an associate's degree including financial barriers, reducing time to their bachelor's degree, and availability of relevant coursework at their two-year campus.
2. Allowing transfer students the opportunity to leverage their prior educational experience and investment to make meaningful progress towards their bachelor's degree.
3. Transfer students and other underserved students face barriers that increase time to degree and the proposed policy will support transfer mobility.

Proposed Change

The recommended change would allow all transfer students, regardless of prior degrees, to earn credit for courses with D grades. The proposed change would be in the University Catalog, Academic Policies, E.01, second paragraph. A comparison of the current and proposed policy is provided here:

Current Catalog – E.01 Sources of Transfer Credit	Proposed changes
<p>Credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of C- or better has been earned.</p> <p>Students who at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland have an associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.), associate of applied science (A.A.S.) or any bachelor's degree will be granted credit for D grades earned in courses completed prior to matriculation at SUNY Cortland. Accepted transfer credit will be counted as meeting the necessary minimum grade for Cortland courses or the required prerequisite course.</p>	<p>Credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of C- or better has been earned with the following exception for incoming transfer students.</p> <p>Transfer students who at the time of first enrollment to SUNY Cortland have an associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.), associate of applied science (A.A.S.) or any bachelor's degree will be granted credit for D grades earned in courses completed prior to matriculation at SUNY Cortland. Accepted transfer credit will be counted as meeting the necessary minimum grade for Cortland courses or the required prerequisite course.</p> <p>Faculty and staff may advise students on their level of preparation for subsequent coursework based on their prior coursework and grades. This may include the suggestion to petition to retake transfer coursework (see E.05 Retaking Transfer Courses).</p>