
PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT PHILOSOPHY

American InterContinental University (AIU) has a defined policy for the evaluation and awarding of college transfer credit, military transfer credit, advanced placement/standardized examinations, experiential learning, and professional training/certification credit. AIU recognizes that collegiate-level learning can take place outside of the college classroom or laboratory and remain relevant to AIU degree programs, consistent with AIU's academic policies and standards, and that adult learners generally have educational needs that differ from those of traditional college and university students. AIU's philosophy is a reflection of its mission, which is to foster educational success and meet the needs of a culturally diverse and geographically dispersed student body. The preparation of students academically, personally, and professionally for successful careers is the central focus of AIU's mission. The procedures relative to the evaluation and awarding of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit ensure that only collegiate-level, degree-applicable course work is eligible for transfer credit; that military transfer credit is considered only for demonstrated competencies deemed comparable to collegiate-level learning by the American Council on Education; that both proprietary and external advanced placement methods, standardized examinations, and professional training/certification credit represent and demonstrate collegiate-level learning; and that such demonstrated competencies are comparable to student learning outcomes at AIU and consistent with the University's academic policies and standards. AIU employs Prior Learning Assessment Specialists, Faculty, and Subject Matter Experts in the evaluation of prior-learning credentials.

Transfer credit may be awarded by AIU for course work completed by a student at a postsecondary, degree-granting institution that is accredited by an institutional accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. In accordance with AIU's residency requirement, students may transfer a maximum of 50% of the required program credits. A maximum of 75 % is allowable for students transferring under the requirements of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium. In addition, AIU will review transcripts from non-U.S. international institutions (see International Transcripts policy).

Courses under consideration from a postsecondary, degree-granting institution must be comparable to coursework at AIU and consistent with AIU's academic policies and standards before transfer credit will be approved. Students enrolled at AIU ground campuses must have all official transcripts from other institutions on file by the end of their first academic year. Due to the accelerated nature of programs at AIU Online, official transcripts from other institutions must be on file by the end of the first term. This is required for all transcripts, including transcripts from international postsecondary institutions. The following are general policies for the evaluation and award of transfer credit at each AIU campus:

1. Only earned degrees from accredited institutions that meet all of the criteria set forth in AIU's block transfer policy or institutions with articulation agreements with AIU can be evaluated for block transfer.
2. All other official college and military transcripts are evaluated on a course-by course basis in accordance with AIU policies.

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3. Only courses completed with a “C” (or equivalent) or above will be eligible for transfer credit.
 4. Only courses representing freshman-level or higher collegiate, degree applicable course work will be eligible for transfer credit which excludes pre-college level or remedial level courses.
 5. Except as defined above, students may transfer in no more than half of the credits required for graduation from the AIU program in which they enroll. (See AIU Residency Requirement).
 6. Students transferring to AIU under the requirements of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium or into specified degree-completion programs may transfer in a maximum of 75% of the required credits for graduation from the AIU program in which they enroll.
 7. Comparable course-to-course transfer may be approved from accredited institutions based on demonstrated learning competencies consistent with AIU’s academic policies and standards in lieu of credit requirements
 8. Students must provide unofficial transcript(s) prior to the commencement of the first class. If the unofficial transcript(s) are not received prior to the start of the first class, the student will be required to take the appropriate ramp-in course for that degree program.
 9. No transfer credit is allowed for 300 and 400 level courses.
 10. Notwithstanding the above policies and procedures, all transferred course credit is subject to review and approval by Academic Affairs.

A maximum of twelve transfer credits may be allowed at the graduate level.

Students enrolled at AIU Online must have all official transcripts from other institutions on file by the end of their first term of study. All degree plans or schedules are tentative based upon the receipt of official transcripts.

The following table indicates the thresholds which exist regarding the grade level a student may achieve through the use of approved transfer credit and other PLA options. Please note AIU is on a quarter credit hours system. Calculating the number of quarter credit hours when prior credit has been earned in semester credit hours requires multiplying the number of semester credit hours times 1.5.

Grade Level	Quarter Hours Earned
Freshman	0 to 35

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Sophomore	36 to 71
Junior	72 or above

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

AIU accepts transfer credit from postsecondary, degree-granting institutions accredited by institutional accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. AIU's transfer credit policy is based on established transfer-evaluation and prior-learning assessment practices used by other colleges and universities. In the interest of maintaining the standards of higher education excellence and to honor its institutional mission, AIU maintains memberships with several organizations, including:

- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
- Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES—Online campus only)
- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium (SOC)

COHERENCY OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

To ensure academic integrity, prior learning assessment is acceptable only for AIU's lower division baccalaureate degree requirements. The awarding of baccalaureate degrees is based on demonstrated learning in the major program of study—the upper division. This separation of the divisions ensures that the major programs of study remain intact and, therefore, coherent.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Graduates of AIU baccalaureate programs possess competency in the following six General Education areas:

- Information Systems
- English/Communications
- Humanities/Fine Arts
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Mathematics/Natural Sciences
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

The six General Education competencies are evaluated within the program major courses. These culminate in a capstone course or course sequence in which the attainment of the competencies is assessed prior to graduation.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT METHODS

AIU recognizes the following prior learning assessment methods:

- **TRANSFER CREDIT**
 - College Transfer Credit
 - Military Transfer Credit

- **PROFICIENCY CREDIT**
 - Course Challenge Examinations
 - Standardized Assessments (College Level Examination Program Tests, DSST, AP)
 - Professional Training/Certification Credit
 - Experiential Learning Portfolio

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT STANDARDS

- College Transfer Credit must be:
 - From an institution accredited by an institutional accrediting organization
 - College-level
 - Non-remedial, non-developmental
 - Degree-applicable at its source institution

- Military Transfer Credit must be:
 - Recommended for associate- or baccalaureate-level credit by the American Council on Education (ACE)

- Course Challenge Examinations are:
 - Based on the outcomes of the courses they represent (CSM 101, ENG 105, and MTH 132/MTH 133)

- Standardized Assessments must:
 - Carry an ACE credit recommendation

- Professional Training/Certification Credit must:
 - Carry an ACE credit recommendation, or
 - If not ACE recommended, must pertain to an AIU major program of study and be comparable to an AIU degree requirement

All trainings and certifications must always be:

- Verifiable and documented
- Approved by a Subject Matter Expert (faculty member) and determined to be equivalent to the learning that occurs in comparable AIU course(s) when an ACE credit recommendation does not exist.

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- Experiential Learning must be:
 - Career experience that directly relates to the objectives of courses taught at AIU
 - Verifiable and documented
 - A demonstration of student's mastery of the learning outcomes
 - Evaluated by a Subject Matter Expert (faculty member) and determined to be equivalent to the learning that occurs in comparable AIU course(s)

DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAMS

AIU's Degree Completion programs are:

- Intentionally designed to use students' college-level prior learning experiences as a foundation on the pathway to the upper-level degree program, as do our peer institutions

Degree Completion Programs can be fulfilled by:

- Evaluation of courses on a course to course basis
- Block transfer (see Block Transfer policy)

Students who transfer Associate degree credit without appropriate prerequisite courses must fulfill the following courses prior to entering the upper division to ensure they are adequately prepared for the program they are entering.

(Online)

Bachelor of Business Administration

BUS 210 Business Communications
BUS255 Fundamentals of Business Law
MGT260 Entrepreneurship

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communications

VCD215 Visual Literacy
VCD260 Research and Design Solutions
VCD275 Business Skills for Visual Communication

Bachelor of Information Technology

CSM220 Computer Concepts
CSM240 Introduction to Operating System Interfaces
CSM260 Relational Database Concepts

Bachelor of Criminal Justice

CRJ101 Introduction to Criminal Justice

CRJ206 Administration of Criminal Justice
CRJ216 Technology in Criminal Justice Administration

Degree specific electives may be substituted for prerequisite courses when determined appropriate with Academic Affairs approval.