

Transfer Terminology

Articulation

Articulation is the process of evaluating courses to determine whether coursework completed at one institution (Palomar College) will meet the requirements at another (UC, CSU or private university). The best and most current articulations within the public higher education schools in California are on the ASSIST website: www.assist.org

GE

General Education is one of three groups of classes that students will typically take in preparation to transfer along with major preparation and electives. GE classes are required by all students regardless of their major. They include classes such as English composition, college level math, humanities, social sciences, life and physical sciences, etc.

GPA

Grade Point Average is the main indicator of your academic performance in college. Each grade is given a numerical equivalent as follows:

A=4

B=3

C=2

D= 1

F=0

Each class grade is multiplied by the number of units in that class to get the grade points for that class. The grade points are added together and then divided by the number of units attempted.

There are different types of GPAs. A cumulative GPA includes everything ever done at the college level. A transferable GPA includes only the classes that will transfer to a college/university (remember that some classes may transfer to a CSU but not to a UC- always check assist.org, be sure to put in the correct year and institution in which you took the course). Sometimes a GPA includes only the preparation for the major classes.

Lower Division Transfer

Transfer students are considered to fall into 2 categories- lower division transfer or upper division transfer. Lower division transfers are those with less than 60 semester units or 90 quarter units. Upper division transfers will have 60 or more semester units (90 or more quarter units) at the time of transfer.

Major preparation

These are the required courses taken at the lower division (freshman, sophomore) level in preparation for the major (taken at the upper division- junior/senior level). The number of major preparation classes vary significantly depending on a student's intended major. In most cases students may use major preparation classes towards their GE requirements as well.

Semester

A time period by which a college or university runs its academic calendar that runs 15-17 weeks. Typically these schools will offer a fall and spring semester with an optional summer session. Palomar runs a 16 week semester system. Most CSU campuses are on a semester system.

Quarter

A time period by which a college or university runs its academic calendar that runs 10 weeks where there are Fall, Winter, Spring and an optional summer quarter in an academic year. Most UC campuses are on the quarter system.