Guide for Transfer Applicants
We have compiled this information to answer your questions about the transfer process at the University of Pennsylvania. The most current information on transferring to Penn is available at the Office of Admissions website at www.admissions.upenn.edu. We also recommend that you visit the Penn website at www.upenn.edu to gain a full understanding of the University.

Each year about 200 students transfer into Penn’s four undergraduate schools, selected from approximately 2,000 applicants. Students from many educational backgrounds ranging from community colleges, state schools, private liberal arts colleges, as well as other Ivy League institutions, seek transfer admission to the University of Pennsylvania. Some have found interests that their present institutions cannot satisfy. Many are drawn by the diversity of the course offerings, students, and cultural opportunities available at Penn and in our community-at-large. All seek intellectual challenge and are intrigued by the depth and breadth of academic opportunities at Penn.

The Admissions Selection Committee gives careful consideration to academic preparation and achievement, and all candidates for admission will be expected to have demonstrated rigor in their undergraduate curriculum at their current higher education institution and in high school. In accordance with our desire to maintain diversity of background, intellectual interests, and accomplishments within the student body, the Committee pays close attention to all aspects of the application for admission. Penn is among the most highly selective institutions; as such the most competitive applicant for transfer is the student whose college and high school records and testing demonstrate academic excellence.

The decision to transfer is a difficult one.

A university in motion, Penn is ever more dynamic, diverse, affordable, far reaching, and forward looking. Founded by Ben Franklin to push the frontiers of knowledge, teaching, and problem solving to benefit society, Penn combines—in one institution—opportunities for pre-professional education with rich exploration of the liberal arts and sciences. This intellectually flexible and useful education is accessible to talented students of all backgrounds who are inspired to use their knowledge to make an impact on the world. We may be the oldest university in America, but we feel like we’re just getting started.

Today, Penn places the study of liberal arts and sciences at the center of all undergraduate programs—promoting rich exploration of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities alongside education in business, nursing, and engineering. A beautiful and cohesive campus encourages learning and discovery across traditional boundaries as students and professors come together to question, imagine, and invent.

Access to Penn’s 12 schools allows students and faculty to cross traditional academic boundaries and integrate knowledge. Students then take their learning and put it to use. Whether generating new knowledge at the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF), pushing the frontiers of nanotechnology, working with community schools to improve nutrition, creating and marketing the next social media app, or exploring Shakespeare’s construction of identity, Penn students gain the skills to apply what they learn to the real world.

Visit www.admissions.upenn.edu/apply/transfer-admission for updates and additional information on transferring to Penn. View FAQs, video and more at www.admissions.upenn.edu.
Undergraduate Schools

At Penn, you apply to a specific undergraduate school.

Transfer applicants to the University of Pennsylvania apply to one of Penn’s four undergraduate schools: the College of Arts and Sciences, the Wharton School, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of Nursing. Transfer applicants are not eligible for coordinated dual-degree programs.

Official approval of transfer credit takes place after matriculation and must be granted by the department from which you are seeking credit. Specific information about courses can be found on respective department websites and is available in the Course Register at www.upenn.edu/registrar/register/.

If admitted to the University of Pennsylvania as transfer applicants, students are not then eligible to transfer between schools.

Penn requires that half of all courses counted toward graduation must be completed while at the University of Pennsylvania.

The College of Arts and Sciences

Penn’s College of Arts and Sciences provides an education that will lay a durable foundation for critical and creative thinking for one’s entire life. Graduates of the College become knowledgeable about the world and the complexities of today’s society, aware of moral, ethical, and social issues, are prepared to exercise intellectual leadership, and are enlivened by the use of their minds.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students normally take four or five courses per semester. The total number of course units required to complete a major varies from program to program, but is never less than twelve. In addition to the major, students must complete the College’s General Education requirements and twenty electives. This means that the total number of courses needed for graduation varies between thirty-two and thirty-six depending upon the number required in a particular major. No student is required to complete more than thirty-six course units for graduation, but students may take additional courses should they wish to do so.

MAJOR RESTRICTIONS:

The individualized major is available only to students applying as freshmen to study in their sophomore year at Penn, and whose proposed course of study is approved before their junior year once enrolled at the University. Prospective transfer students who will study the natural sciences or economics should have adequate preparation in college-level calculus in order to be successful in these fields at Penn. Prospective communication majors should note that specific courses must be completed at Penn prior to declaring this major, and that admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the major.

Please note that the major in architecture is only an option for students applying as freshmen to study in their sophomore year at Penn. A portfolio is required for transfer applicants to architecture to ensure a fit with the design studio sequence. All students should consult the web pages of specific majors to apprise themselves of prerequisites and course requirements before applying to the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more details, please explore the School’s website:
www.college.upenn.edu
www.college.upenn.edu/transfer-students

Between classes on Locust Walk, at the heart of Penn’s campus.
The Wharton School

At the Wharton School, the world’s first collegiate business school, the undergraduate program integrates the intellectual enrichment of a liberal arts education with a comprehensive business curriculum. Wharton students take courses in the arts, sciences and humanities, while learning business fundamentals and pursuing a business concentration.

REQUIREMENTS:
All applicants must meet specific academic requirements by the end of the term in which they are enrolled at the time of transfer application. In addition to the academic requirements, all applicants should have demonstrated leadership skills through involvement in their current college community.

Students are strongly encouraged to transfer after their freshman year to enter for their sophomore year. There are very few spaces available for entering juniors.

Applicants who wish to enter after the freshman year for their sophomore year, must have completed:

- One semester of calculus which can be fulfilled by:
  — A score of “5” on the AP Calculus BC exam (no credit is awarded for the AB exam),
  — A score of “7” on the IB Higher Level Mathematics with Further Mathematics exam,
  — A course deemed by the Department of Mathematics to be equivalent to MATH 104. Please see the department website at www.math.upenn.edu/ugrad for specific information about the math requirement and transfer credit information.

**Please note that math classes below the level of calculus will not transfer to Penn.**

- One semester of introductory microeconomics which can be fulfilled by:
  — A score of “5” on the AP Microeconomics exam,
  — A score of “6” or “7” on the IB Higher Level Economics exam,
  — A course deemed by the Department of Economics to be equivalent to ECON 001. Please see the department website at www.econ.upenn.edu for specific information about economics courses.

- One semester of introductory macroeconomics which can be fulfilled by:
  — A score of “5” on the AP Macroeconomics exam,
  — A score of “6” or “7” on the IB Higher Level Economics exam,
  — A course deemed by the Department of Economics to be equivalent to ECON 002.

Please see the department website at www.econ.upenn.edu for specific information about economics courses.

OR in lieu of separate introductory courses in micro and macroeconomics:
- One semester of a combined introductory micro and macroeconomics course which can be fulfilled by a course deemed by the Department of Economics to be equivalent to ECON 010. Please see the department website at www.econ.upenn.edu for specific information about economics courses.

**In addition to the above, incoming juniors must have already completed:**

- A one-semester financial accounting course deemed by the Accounting Department to be equivalent to ACCT 101. Please see the Accounting Department website at https://accounting.wharton.upenn.edu for specific information about accounting courses.

- A one-semester managerial accounting course deemed by the Accounting Department to be equivalent to ACCT 102. Please see the Accounting Department website at https://accounting.wharton.upenn.edu for specific information about accounting courses.

- Two semesters of statistics (with a calculus prerequisite) which can be fulfilled by courses deemed by the Statistics Department to be equivalent to STAT 101 and 102. Please see the Statistics Department website at https://statistics.wharton.upenn.edu for specific information about statistics courses.

**Note that statistics courses without a calculus prerequisite will not transfer to Penn and a score of “5” on the AP Statistics exam will only fulfill the STAT 101 requirement.**

- One semester of intermediate microeconomics which can be fulfilled by:
  — A course deemed by the Department of Economics to be equivalent to ECON 101. Please see the department website at www.econ.upenn.edu for specific information about economics courses.

- A course deemed by the Business Economics and Public Policy Department to be equivalent to BPUB 250. Please see the department website at https://bepp.wharton.upenn.edu for specific information about business economics and public policy courses.
It is also recommended that all applicants gain proficiency in a foreign language by the time they enroll at Penn. Proficiency is usually equal to four semesters of college-level language courses and must be demonstrated by passing a proficiency exam at Penn before graduation.

For more details, please email or explore the Wharton School website:
undergradinfo@wharton.upenn.edu
www.wharton.upenn.edu/undergrad

The School of Nursing
The School of Nursing prepares students for clinical, research and leadership roles in nursing. A liberal arts program encompassing many disciplines is an integral part of the nursing curriculum. In addition, clinical experiences in all areas of nursing practice offer students a wide variety of health care settings in which to learn. Penn Nursing students graduate with the clinical competence, knowledge and passion to become leaders in the field of nursing and health care.

REQUIREMENTS:
Transfer applicants must have completed a minimum of eight transferable college courses and the following prerequisite courses:
- Introductory to Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab,
- Introductory to Chemistry I with lab, Introduction to Biology I with lab and Introduction to Microbiology with lab are recommended, but can be incorporated into the program after enrollment.

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline, and applicants who are RN Return students (those who have completed a Diploma RN program or an Associate's Degree RN program) must apply to the Accelerated BSN Second Degree or BSN/MSN program.

The School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Interviews are required for the School of Nursing. All transfer applicants should contact the School directly for more information and to discuss previous academic work, after submitting the application.

For more details, please email or explore the School of Nursing website:
admissions@nursing.upenn.edu
www.nursing.upenn.edu

The School of Engineering and Applied Science
The objective of the School of Engineering and Applied Science is to educate students to become professionals who consider the human as well as the scientific and economic aspects of societal problems. Students therefore combine fundamentals of engineering and technology with a variety of courses in the arts and sciences, and in other disciplines in a manner individually suited to their career goals.

REQUIREMENTS:
The School of Engineering and Applied Science website (www.seas.upenn.edu/under) provides the suggested schedule for each engineering area of concentration. Applicants should follow, as closely as possible, the schedule outlined for the major. All transfer applicants to Penn Engineering need to select a major when applying. Incoming sophomore transfer students are eligible to apply for a dual-degree program after completing one year (eight course units) at Penn. Students holding undergraduate degrees in science-related fields are inadmissible and are encouraged to contact the Graduate Admissions Office www.seas.upenn.edu/prospective-students/graduate/admissions.php.

Students transferring into the School of Engineering and Applied Science after one year of college should have completed at least:
- one course in chemistry,
- one course in physics (involving the use of calculus),
- one course in computer programming,
- two courses in calculus,
- if possible, two courses in the social sciences and humanities.

Students pursuing a major in Bioengineering, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Materials Science and Engineering, Systems Science Engineering, and Electrical Engineering, and Networked and Social Systems Engineering should also complete a second course in physics.

Depending on their desired discipline, students transferring into the School of Engineering and Applied Science after two years of college should have completed:
- a total of four courses in math (calculus through differential equations),
- two courses in physics (involving the use of calculus),
- one course in chemistry,
- one course in computer programming,
- three or four courses in the social sciences and humanities, and
• as many engineering and applied science courses as possible (e.g., mechanics, electrical circuits, materials, thermodynamics, etc.).

In addition, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Digital Media Design and Networked and Social Systems Engineering students must take a second computer programming course. Please see the website for further details about specific curricula.

**MAJOR RESTRICTIONS:**
Rising juniors applying to Networked and Social Systems Engineering must be Computer Science majors at their current institution.

For more details, please explore the School of Engineering and Applied Science website:
www.seas.upenn.edu/under
www.seas.upenn.edu/prospective-students/undergrad/transfer.php

**The College of Liberal and Professional Studies**

Penn’s College of Liberal and Professional Studies, housed in the School of Arts and Sciences, offers a Bachelor of Arts program specifically designed for highly qualified adult students who choose to earn their degree through rigorous courses at a pace that suits their schedules. Students earn the same degree as students in the College of Arts and Sciences and are able to choose from more than 50 majors. Courses are offered in the evenings or during the day, and students attend part time or full time. Please note that some majors may be completed in their entirety through evening attendance, while others may require attendance in day and evening courses.

Students who have been away from a formal academic environment for some time and are interested in liberal arts studies may wish to apply directly to LPS.

Students who have been denied admissions to any Bachelor’s degree program at the University of Pennsylvania must wait one year before applying to the LPS Bachelor of Arts program.

For more details, please explore the College of Liberal and Professional Studies website:
www.sas.upenn.edu/lps


Policies and Procedures

The Transfer Application Deadline is March 15.

Application Requirements

The deadline to apply for September admission is March 15, although your application may be submitted as early as January 1. Decisions will be released in mid-May. Detailed information about how to apply to Penn may be obtained at www.admissions.upenn.edu. You must apply using the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) and the Penn Application Supplement.

At least one full year of transferable academic coursework (8 courses) must be completed by the close of the spring term prior to the September of anticipated enrollment at Penn. All transcripts are due in the Admissions Office by the March 15 deadline, and it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that all credentials have been received by the Admissions Office (with official certified English translations if applicable). Once an applicant’s Common Application and Penn Application Supplement are received, they are emailed a User Name and Password to access their MyPenn Applicant Portal. The portal allows applicants to track receipt of documents. Decisions are released online. Decisions will not be released over the telephone. Admitted students are notified by mail.

ELIGIBILITY

Students' records must be free of all “failure,” “conditional,” and “incomplete” grades. In addition, records from summer school, study-abroad programs, or special college programs must be submitted in official transcript form with official certified English translations if applicable. These records will be considered along with other credentials. If you have taken courses on a PASS/FAIL or CREDIT/NO CREDIT basis, please have grades, or written evaluations of your performance, sent by the professors of these courses. If you attend a school that records only PASS/FAIL on your transcript for your first semester or first year courses, please request that your grades be released on the transcript sent to our office. Due to the competitive nature of Penn's admissions process, it is imperative that we receive these grades or written evaluations.

Students who are completing their senior year of high school concurrently with their first year of college should apply as freshmen. The freshman application deadline is January 1.

The University does not admit freshmen or transfers at mid-year. Students who leave college at the end of the first term may apply to the freshman class entering in the subsequent September. Once the application has been submitted, a student may not enroll in additional college level courses.

Penn maintains a two-year academic enrollment requirement. One-half of the total number of courses required for the degree must be completed here, regardless of the number of transferable credits completed elsewhere. Total courses completed at other schools may not exceed the equivalent of two years of college credit.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The University's transfer credit policy attempts to integrate, as fully as possible, a student's previous coursework with the normal degree sequences at Penn. In general, transfer credit may be awarded for academically-based courses which were taken at a regionally accredited institution, passed with a grade...
of C or better, and are similar in content and classroom meeting hours to the curriculum on this campus.

At Penn, credit is awarded in “course units.” The normal course load results in eight to nine course units each year. Courses taken for fewer than forty contact-hours each term will not transfer but, when appropriate, will be combined with other courses to give credit. Credits transferred from other institutions will become a part of the student’s official record, but grades will not be placed on the transcript nor used in determining the student’s cumulative grade point average.

A preliminary evaluation of transfer credits will be available within three weeks of admission. Admitted students will be able to access this information online. Prospective applicants desiring an approximate determination of which courses will transfer should compare the course descriptions of their home institution to those of Penn. Full credit evaluations are completed for admitted transfer students only. Please visit our online course register at www.upenn.edu/register/register. If any questions remain, please email info@admissions.upenn.edu.

**Transfer Application Deadlines, Notifications, and Reply Dates**

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<td><strong>Student Reply Date</strong></td>
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A student is not an applicant to the University of Pennsylvania until both the Common Application and the Penn Application Supplement have been received.

Please Note: All deadline dates listed above are for postmark dates. For electronic submission the deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the listed deadline date. Penn reserves the right to evaluate an application and render a final decision even if all pieces of the application have not been received.

**FINANCIAL AID POLICIES**

**Need-Blind Admissions**

Penn’s need-blind admissions policy ensures that no U.S., Canadian, or Mexican citizen or permanent resident is denied admission because of financial constraints. In accordance with this policy, admissions decisions are not affected by a family’s ability to pay, or by the decision to apply for financial aid.

**Need-Based Aid Meets 100% Demonstrated Need**

Aid is based solely on financial need and Penn will meet 100% of your family’s need, as determined by Student Financial Services (SFS). Like other Ivy League universities, Penn does not award academic-based or athletic scholarships.

**No Loan Packages**

Penn is one of the few schools in the country with a no loan policy. Dependent undergraduates pursuing first degrees in the College, Wharton, Engineering or Nursing schools, receive financial aid packages without loans. Penn’s no loan policy makes it possible to graduate debt-free.

**How to Apply for Financial Aid**

Visit the SFS website www.sfs.upenn.edu for complete instructions and deadlines.

**Notification of Eligibility**

Financial aid eligibility notification will be available on PennPlan online beginning in Mid-May. SFS will also mail paper notifications. For applications received after the deadline, notification will be available three to four weeks after the application is complete.

**International Students**

Admission for international students (other than Canadian and Mexican citizens) is not need-blind. Since the offer of admission for non-citizens is directly linked to the ability to meet expenses, candidates whose families have the financial means to afford educational costs are encouraged not to apply for financial aid.

If your family cannot afford the total cost of Penn, then you must apply for financial aid at the time you apply for admission. (If you do not apply when submitting your application, you are not eligible to apply for financial aid later.) The University provides over $6 million in financial assistance each year to international students, so you will be in competition for very limited funds.
Additional Information
Visit the Student Financial Services website at www.sfs.upenn.edu or type your question into askBEN at the top of each page.

The College of Liberal and Professional Studies
The College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS) has separate tuition and financial aid policies, including the assumption students will borrow to help pay for their educational expenses. Please visit SFS at www.sfs.upenn.edu to learn more.

College Houses
On campus housing is available in Penn’s College Houses, which offer a wide variety of room types and architectural styles—from the historic Quadrangle to modern high-rise apartments. They offer an enriched academic environment with year round programming, faculty in residence, and numerous opportunities for community involvement.

While housing cannot be guaranteed, space is generally available for those who apply in early summer and who remain flexible in their requested room preferences. To learn more about Penn’s College Houses, visit the website at www.upenn.edu/housing.

Penn’s eleven College Houses include both the historic Quad (below) and modern high-rises.

Visit Penn

Explore the Penn community.
We encourage you to visit the Penn campus. Information sessions and tours are available weekdays and some weekends throughout the year. The information session and campus tour are designed to provide an introduction to Penn, as well as to allow for personal and specific questions. Transfer-specific information sessions are offered on Fridays from mid-January to mid-March. This 30-minute talk will cover the admissions process, financial aid, residential life, and our transfer credit policies. Please note we do not provide pre-evaluation of transfer credit.

Please visit our website at www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit for the most up-to-date information regarding visiting opportunities which include class visits and overnight stays. We understand that not all applicants are able to visit campus, as such attendance at any of our programs does not increase chances of admission.

Transfer Applicant Information Sessions
Transfer-specific information sessions are offered on select Fridays in January, February, and March. To register, go to www.admissions.upenn.edu/calendar/.