

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE EQUIVALENCE POLICY

COMPUTER SCIENCE

This document describes policies related to course equivalence and placement into computer science courses. Any specific case that is not covered by this policy will be handled by the department chair. University policies also apply and may impose additional limitations beyond the policies described in this document

Course equivalence refers to the act of satisfying the degree or minor requirement for taking that course. The registrar's office determines which courses are transferred over by credit and which courses are transferred by equivalence only (no credit). Courses transferred by equivalence only generally lower the number of major credits necessary but do not lower the number of overall credits (180) needed to graduate. This document only concerns course equivalencies.

Placement, in this document, is defined as “being eligible to take into a course”. It is always possible to be eligible to take a course by meeting the posted prerequisites. Depending on demand and staffing, the department may place registration restrictions on certain course sections. As such, placement into a course does not automatically guarantee a student a spot in the course the next time it is offered.

PART 1: COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

1. For placement into CPSC 1220: The student must have either received course equivalence for UCOR 1200, course equivalence for MATH 1010, or received placement into a math class higher than MATH 1010 (which means placement into MATH 1130, 1210, 1230, 1331, or 1334).
2. For placement into CPSC 1420: The student must have either received course equivalence for MATH 1021 or received placement into a math class higher than MATH 1021 (which means placement into MATH 1130, 1210, 1230, 1331, or 1334).
3. The registrar's office with direction from the department will maintain a list of acceptable equivalent courses.
 - a. If the course appears on the list, they will be granted course equivalence for those courses and the course can be used a prerequisite when appropriate.
 - b. If the course does not appear on the list, the department will evaluate the course to determine if it is equivalent in content and rigor. More information may be requested by the student.
4. For students who have not taken an equivalent course but feel that they learned the material on their own should consult the “credit by examination” policy.
5. Students may not start directly in senior project (CPSC 4870 and CPSC 4800). They must take at least one computer science course at Seattle University before taking project.

PART 2: NON-CS COURSES TAKEN BY CS MAJORS

For courses taken by CS majors outside the department, the department offering the course determines equivalencies. If a student takes a course that is considered to be equivalent to that course, then it is

considered equivalent. The policies here outline additional cases where a course may be considered equivalent by the computer science department when equivalence granted by the department offering the course. Most of these cases will need to be satisfied using a Petition to Exception for Policy form.

1. (BS / BS math) Physics courses that are calculus-based will be considered equivalent to the corresponding physics course. Courses that are not calculus-based will not be accepted.
 - For Washington colleges using the common numbering, these are acceptable physics courses: PHYS& 221, 222, 223. (Also: PHYS& 221 satisfies the required Physics 1210).
 - For Washington colleges using the common numbering, these are unacceptable physics courses: PHYS& 114, 115, 116.
2. (BS) Biology and chemistry courses need to have appropriate rigor and geared toward science students.
 - For Washington colleges using the common numbering, these are acceptable courses: BIOL& 160*, 211, 212, 213, CHEM& 141/151, 142/152, 143/153, 161, 162, 163.
 - For Washington colleges using the common numbering, these are unacceptable courses: BIOL& 100, CHEM& 110, 121, 139, 140
 - Courses not listed above, including courses from other institutions and courses that do not exactly correspond to one of the approved courses, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a student takes two similar courses but at different but acceptable level, they only get equivalence for one course. BIOL& 160 and 211 is one such example.
 - Students that receive equivalency from the computer science department are not guaranteed to have prerequisites for subsequent biology and chemistry courses.
 - Courses taken by transfer students from other institutions in other science disciplines may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a student earns a computer science DTA and thus have taken the first two quarters of calculus based physics, the third science course can be any lab science course.
3. (BS Business / BA) In these tracks, the science requirement is met by meeting the university CORE science requirement. Any course that meets those requirements is sufficient. The department will not consider any courses that does not meet this requirement.

REVISION HISTORY

First published on February 9, 2024