

Full Degree Transfer Proposal

A taskforce examining transfer processes formally began work in the 2020-2021 academic year. The goal of the group was to examine work that had already been started with our closest technical school partner York Technical College (YTC). However, this work has the potential to benefit transfer students from a variety of SC two-year institutions. The group was comprised of Winthrop and YTC faculty, staff, and administrators.

The group collectively accomplished a number of first level steps in making Winthrop more transfer friendly while making more transparent the opportunities that exist under current policies and expectations. Examining <https://www.winthrop.edu/admissions/transfer/pathways.aspx> will allow for an exploration of pathways into a variety of majors, co-branding of our work, and general information on transfer. Although the pathways are a significant step forward with the possibility of further expansion, one of the most valuable aspects of the work was the space to share across institutions processes, needs, ideas, and goals.

With the current (and future) pathways as an important first step, the subcommittee on policies presents a proposal for a Full Degree Transfer Policy. Such a policy is not unique in high education, but allows students holding an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree the ability to waive the vast majority of requirements in the general education program without the need for a course-by-course comparison.

Full Degree Transfer Policy

General Education coursework provides opportunities for students to use their talents to achieve excellence; take responsibility for the integrity and quality of their own work; and engage in meaningful practices that prepare them to fulfill their obligations as students in an academic community and as responsible global and local citizens. Transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited two-year institution in South Carolina are eligible to automatically waive most requirements of the General Education Program at Winthrop University. There a small number of Winthrop specific experiences and state specific guidelines that may or may not be included in the associate degree, but are required to earn a Winthrop degree.

General expectations for the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from an accredited two-year institution in South Carolina.

1. Degree must include at least 60 credits of degree-level coursework. ~~Please note that students may transfer a maximum of 65 credits from a two-year institution.~~
2. Degree must include at least 6 credits of composition or writing intensive coursework (typically ENG 101 and ENG 102).

Winthrop specific requirements that may or may not be fulfilled in the full-degree transfer.

3. All graduates must earn credit for a course that meets the SC State Constitution Requirement outlined in the REACH Act. This may occur through transfer credits or an approved Winthrop course (example courses include HIS 201, HIS 202, and PSC 201)
4. A third writing intensive course for the core-writing requirement at Winthrop. Most transfer students will meet this expectation through HXCT 301: Human Experience and Critical Thinking taken while in residence at Winthrop.

5. Only courses in which a grade of C- or better was earned will count toward the total number of hours required for graduation from Winthrop.
6. All degree specific requirements must be met regardless of connection to general education.

Academic Forgiveness Policy

At the time of admission or readmission to Winthrop, a student may choose to evoke the “academic forgiveness policy” for coursework taken five or more years previously at Winthrop or another institution [a.k.a. exempted coursework].

Under this policy the following allowances are made for exempted coursework.

- The GPA required for admission to the institution will exclude exempted coursework. In other words, performance five or more years before application to Winthrop can be removed from the calculation of the admission GPA if such coursework is negatively impacting the applicant’s overall GPA.
- Exempted coursework is treated as transfer credit for purposes of granting credit toward graduation and degree requirements. As with all transfer credit, the exempted coursework is not used in computing the student’s Winthrop grade-point average. However, all exempted coursework and the grades earned remain on the student’s official transcript and are counted in computing eligibility for academic honors.

Limitations related to this policy include:

- This policy does not supersede degree specific requirements, such as, considerations associated with the age of coursework and requirements per regulations set by the program or external body.
- Students seeking financial aid must meet all stated guidelines and policies, such as but not limited to, degree progress and policies on repeated coursework.
- Repeat exemptions used during the exempted coursework will be used to determine available remaining exemptions.

The student must exercise or waive the “academic forgiveness” option by the end of the first week of the second semester in which they were admitted or readmitted to Winthrop University. Students who have already utilized all their repeat exemptions do not receive additional repeat exemptions.