



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

University Transfer Office

Incoming non-identical course equivalencies with fewer credits

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CONTEXT: Its standard practice for course credits to be equal upon transfer. A three (3) credit course comes in as a three (3) credit equivalency. However there are times when this is not the case. This guidance document provides boundaries for credits acceptance and application.

GUIDANCE: Occasional questions arise on equating an external course with fewer credits than the IU internal course. In such instances, every effort should be made to enable the transfer student to not gain or lose credits during the process. If the course is reviewed by faculty and is equivalent in content, the direct equivalent(s) should be applied. The degree granting school is ultimately responsible for how the credits are applied.

EXAMPLE:

For example, an external 4 credit General Chemistry course (or course sequence) transferring to IU's 5 credit course should be articulated to 4 credits (or 3 credits for CHEM-C 105 and 1 credit (instead of 2) of CHEM-C 106). If the course is reviewed by faculty and is equivalent in content, the direct equivalent(s) should be applied. This leaves the student short 1 credit for that particular course (or sequence). This situation can be handled in the following ways.

1. If a lab has been equated to IU's, but the credits are not equivalent, IU waives the missing General Chemistry Lab credit hour and shows the requirement as SATISFIED. *This may be the same with other majors where chemistry is required.*
2. In some cases, when credits don't equate, a student is required to make up the missing hours within the major. E.g. Forty (40) credit hours required in CHEM courses for the chemistry major.
3. Although there are options to waive credits, this is not applicable in the 120 credit hour requirement for graduation. The student must reach 120 credits when combining transfer credit (at the original credit hours earned + IU credits).

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*If you have any questions or concerns with this guidance document,
contact the UTO at uto@iu.edu.*