



# Southwestern Michigan College

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## Transfer Tips

At a two-year college such as Southwestern Michigan College, a transfer program is a series of courses designed for students who wish to transfer into a Baccalaureate degree program at a four-year college or university.

### **What is a transfer program?**

Courses are selected to be equivalent to the same ones you would take at the four-year school and include all of the general education courses you would need for the first two years at that school.

### **How do I know which of my courses from SMC will transfer?**

The transfer programs at SMC Associate in Arts and Associate in Science are designed with maximum transferability in mind. We have prepared Transfer Equivalencies and/or Transfer Guides for most Michigan colleges and universities as well as several Indiana colleges and universities. Contact your SMC advisor.

### **How do I actually transfer credits to another institution?**

You will need to have an “official transcript” sent to the transfer institution. But remember, you will need to fill out an admissions application for the transfer institution (and often times be accepted) BEFORE your credits can be transferred.

After the institution does the credit evaluation, you should receive a copy of what credits have transferred. Be sure to check this for accuracy. If you have a question, be sure to contact an advisor/evaluator at the transfer institution.

### **Do all classes offered at SMC transfer?**

No. There is an important distinction between occupational and transfer degrees. Occupational degrees and courses are designed to be technical in nature, and are very specific. As a result they do not transfer as easily as the general education courses. Our transfer degrees (Associate in Arts and Associate in Science) are designed to accommodate a broad-base education which comprises the first two years of the bachelor’s degree.

### **Do I have to complete an Associate degree before I transfer?**

No. You may choose to take anywhere from one course to an entire associate degree, about 62 credits, before you transfer. As a result of the MACRAO Agreement, for many schools in Michigan, you have a distinct advantage if you transfer with the associate degree.

### **How soon do I need to speak with an advisor at the school where I plan to transfer?**

As soon as you have selected a transfer school, you should contact an advisor at that institution. In this way, you can be sure that you completely understand and meet the admission and transfer requirements of the college or university you have selected.