

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Academic Officers  
From: Jane Bowers, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost **JB**  
Subject: Guidelines for Granting Transfer Credit for SUNY General Education Courses toward  
CUNY General Education Requirements  
Date: June 25, 2018

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Since fall 2013, The City University of New York's (CUNY) Pathways Initiative has been in effect across our 19 undergraduate colleges. A key component of Pathways is the 30-credit Common Core requirement for general education. Similarly, The State University of New York (SUNY) also has a standardized 30-credit General Education Requirement (GER). At the core of both the CUNY and SUNY general education frameworks is the guarantee that if a student completes a general education area at one campus in the system, that area will be deemed complete upon transfer to any other campus.

The CUNY and SUNY general education frameworks both consist of ten 3-credit courses distributed across areas. Both frameworks require courses in communication and mathematics and include a broad array of offerings across history, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and foreign languages. CUNY's Pathways learning outcomes emphasize critical thinking, communication, and information literacy management, and SUNY includes these areas in its framework as competencies embedded throughout the general education curriculum. Within both systems, faculty adopted learning outcomes for general education requirements, and an approval process is in place for general education course offerings. Each year CUNY admits a large number of students transferring from a SUNY college. For the summer and fall 2017 semesters, CUNY admitted more than 6,400 students who previously attended SUNY. Due to the close working relationship between the two public university systems in New York, the frequency of student transfer between the two systems, and the similarities between the CUNY and SUNY general education frameworks, CUNY will expand existing transfer guarantees to students who transfer from SUNY.

Transfer guarantees will apply to all SUNY GER courses, regardless of exact course equivalency, consistent with grade requirements and residency rules. This policy will help to streamline the process of transferring credits from SUNY to CUNY and will ensure greater parity in the credit transfer process. SUNY transfer students who completed the entire 30-credit GER requirement will be deemed to have completed the 30-credit Pathways requirement. SUNY transfer students who completed a portion of the 30-credit GER requirement will have the completed GER credits applied to the Pathways areas as appropriate. CUNY faculty will continue to determine course equivalencies, which will continue to be used to award academic credit for other degree and major requirements.

Guidelines for the procedures for Transfer Credit Evaluation will be provided by the Office of University Registrar for the application of SUNY general education courses toward CUNY general education requirements.

The policy to accept SUNY GER credits toward the CUNY Pathways is as follows:

- SUNY transfer students who have completed a bachelor's, AA or AS degree from SUNY will be deemed to have completed Pathways Common Core requirements.
- SUNY transfer students who completed the entire 30-credit GER requirement will be deemed to have completed Pathways Common Core requirements.
- In cases where a SUNY GER course has been deemed equivalent to a CUNY Pathways course, the Pathways requirement would be marked as fulfilled.
- In cases where a SUNY GER course is not equivalent to a CUNY Pathways course the transfer credit evaluator will utilize pseudo course codes or update the Pathways area manually to apply the course toward the Pathways Common Core.
- In cases where a SUNY GER course may apply to more than one CUNY Pathways area, courses will be applied to maximize the number of Pathways areas that are fulfilled.
- Coursework completed as part of local general education requirements, for a student's major, or for elective credit may also be applied to Pathways requirements based on whether the course meets the area requirements.
- CUNY's Pathways College Option requirements will be maintained for students who transfer from SUNY in accordance with the Board Resolution.

CUNY will update Pathways websites and policy documents to reflect this policy change. If there are any questions about the implementation guidelines, please contact University Executive Registrar, Vivek Upadhyay at [our@cuny.edu](mailto:our@cuny.edu). The new policy is effective for transfer credit evaluation for fall 2018 transfer students.

Cc:

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