

Course Planning Session for Arts & Science University Transfer Students

Presented by the Langara College Counselling Department

Welcome to Langara!

This session has been designed to help prospective and new students understand how the university transfer process works. You will learn about resources available on campus and online to help you with your studies and with planning for transfer to university.

Q: How does university transfer work?

A: Rather than taking all 4 years of a bachelor's degree at university, students are allowed to transfer up to half of their credits from other post-secondary institutions. Most bachelor degrees are made up of 120 credits (40 courses) and students can transfer up to 60 credits (20 courses) from Langara.

Year 1 30 credits	Year 2 30 credits	← Can be done at Langara
Year 3 30 credits	Year 4 30 credits	← Must be done at university

Q: How do I know if the courses I'm taking transfer to the university I want to go to?

A: Not all courses get transfer credit at every university, so it's important to check that each specific course you take is transferable. You can click on the "**Check if this course is Transferable**" link beside each course description or visit www.bctransferguide.ca and the BC Transfer Guide listing will indicate if this course gets transfer credit at various post-secondary institutions in BC.

Q: How many courses do I have to take?

A: The minimum number of credits required to transfer to university is 24 (8 courses) and the maximum number of credits that students can transfer to university is 60 (20 courses). Students wanting to transfer to second year of university typically take 27 to 30 credits and those wanting to transfer to third year of university typically take 54 to 60 credits. Students are allowed to take more than 60 credits at Langara but 60 is the maximum number of credits that can be transferred, as universities require students to complete at least the last half of their degree at the university.

Q: How do I know which courses to take?

A: For most degree programs at university, students don't start to "major" or specialize in a particular subject until their third year. There are usually a number of specific required courses you have to take within the first 60 credits (or the first 2 years) in order to be eligible to start university as a third-year student majoring in a subject. On Langara's Counselling website, you'll find **university planning guides** for UBC, SFU and UVIC. These guides outline which Langara courses are required within the first 60 credits in order to "major" in a particular subject. Find the planning guides by following this path:

www.langara.bc.ca → Student Services → Counselling → University Planning

Q: Do I have to finish all of my transfer courses within 2 years?

A: It's common to hear about "2-year university transfer programs" but students don't have to complete the transfer credits within 2 years. It can be helpful to think about how many credits you want/need to take at Langara and how much time you'd like to take to complete those credits. Students usually take anywhere from 24 to 60 credits (8 to 20 courses) before transferring to university. Langara has 3 semesters per year and students can take up to 5 courses per semester. A student wanting to transfer to university as quickly as possible could take 5 courses over 4 consecutive semesters and finish a "2-year transfer program" in 16 months. A student studying part-time could take many years to complete 2 years' worth of coursework at Langara.

Q: What factors should I keep in mind when planning for university transfer?

A: There are five key factors to consider when planning for a university transfer: a) grade point average (GPA), b) number of credits, c) required courses, d) elective courses, and e) graduation requirements.

a) GPA: Your grade point average is what we call *the average of your grades*. Most university programs admit students largely based on the strength of their GPA. The general rule is the higher the GPA, the better. Individual faculties and programs might have their own GPA requirements so it is important to find out what is required for the faculty and program(s) you are applying for. Some universities only consider the GPA on the most recent 30 credits while other universities will consider the GPA for all credits a student has taken. Some programs will only calculate the GPA on certain required (or "core") courses while others will include a student's elective courses in their calculations. GPA requirements may vary in some schools for domestic and international students.

b) Number of Credits: For most university programs, you have the choice to transfer into second or third year. As mentioned above, second-year admission typically requires 27 to 30 credits, while third-year admission typically requires 54 to 60 credits. Many students choose

to take the maximum number of credits (60) at Langara because tuition is less expensive and classes are smaller compared to most universities.

c) Required Courses: To enter a particular degree program at a particular university, certain courses have to be taken beforehand. Required courses for many programs can be found on our online **university planning guides** (instructions for locating these guides are listed above).

d) Elective Courses: In addition to required courses, most degree programs also require students to take elective courses. Electives are courses that you choose, usually based on your interest in that subject, that go towards the total number of credits you need to earn your degree. Some university programs will specify that electives must be taken from a certain range of subjects, while others leave students free to choose any course they wish to take. When choosing elective courses, it's important to **remember to check the BC Transfer Guide** to ensure that those courses will get credit at the university you want to transfer to.

e) Graduation Requirements: Many university programs specify that students need to meet certain requirements before they can graduate with their degree. While graduation requirements do not need to be completed before you transfer to university, it can be helpful to keep these requirements in mind when selecting your elective courses. Many students like to get all or most of their graduation requirements done during their time at Langara.

Q. What if I'm not sure what degree program I want to transfer into?

A: Many students start at Langara without knowing which degree program they want to transfer into. Taking courses in a variety of subjects can be a good way to find out which areas interest you. You can make a counselling appointment (room B111) to do some career exploration and discuss different educational and career options. In the meantime, it's important to make sure that the courses you're taking at Langara are university transferable (instructions are listed above). If the courses you're taking transfer to the university you want to go to, then your courses will count towards your degree (as a required course, a graduation requirement, or an elective course).

Q. What's the difference between an Associate Degree and a Diploma?

A: Associate Degrees and Diplomas are similar in that they both require a minimum of 60 credits. Associate Degrees require students to take courses from various subject areas and disciplines, while Diplomas typically allow for more flexibility in course selection. Students can earn a *general* Associate Degree or Diploma or they can choose a *specialization area*; Associate Degrees and Diplomas with a concentration in a particular subject will have more specified course requirements.

Q. I think I've taken all of the courses I need to graduate with a Diploma or an Associate Degree but I'm not sure. How can I check to see if I've met graduation requirements?

A: Log in to your myLangara account and click on the “**Student Records**” tab. From there click on “**Graduation Evaluation**” and follow steps 1 through 4 to indicate which semester you started at Langara and which credential you have been working towards. If you have met the *program* requirements, you will see the word “**Met**” in black print at the top of the graduation evaluation. If you have met each *course* requirement, you will see the word “**Yes**” in black print to the left of each listed course. If you haven’t met the program requirements, you will see “**Not Met**” in red print at the top of the page. Seeing “**No**” in red print to the left of any course means that you have not yet completed this requirement. It can be helpful to run this graduation evaluation each semester to make sure that all of the courses you’re taking are eligible to be used towards your credential; those that aren’t eligible will be listed at the bottom of the graduation evaluation as “**Non-Program Courses**”.

Q: The graduation evaluation resource indicates that I need to take a Lab Science and six credits of Humanities. How do I know which courses fulfill these requirements?

A: Following these steps will lead you to the **course descriptions**:

Programs & Courses → Courses → Click on the course subject → Click on the course name or number

Beneath each course description, you will see a link that says “**Course Attributes (New Window)**”. Clicking on this link opens up a grid that lists course attributes. Beside the course number you will see seven columns. From left to right, a “Y” in that column signifies if the course gets the following designations: 2AR = second-year Arts; 2SC = second-year Science; HUM = Humanities; LSC = Lab Science; SCI = Science; SOC = Social Science; UT = transferable to at least one of UBC, SFU, UVIC and UNBC. Any course that gets the Lab Science designation will have a “Y” in the LSC column beside the course number, just as any course that gets the Humanities designation will have a “Y” in the HUM column.

Q: Should I complete a credential at Langara or can I just take transfer courses?

A: You can do either, or both. If you’d like to graduate from Langara with a credential (for example, a **Diploma** or an **Associate of Arts Degree** or **Associate of Science Degree**), you can complete the required courses and apply to graduate with that credential. If you’d rather just take the courses you need to transfer into a particular degree program at university, you can take the courses listed on the university planning guide and transfer on without ever earning a credential from Langara. Many students take the transfer courses they need for university and make sure to fit those courses into the framework of one of our Langara credentials.

Q: What should I do if the course I want to register in is full?

A: If a particular section of a course is full there may be the option to get on the waitlist for that course. If someone who is registered in the course drops the course during the registration period or up to a week after classes start, the first student on the waitlist is offered that seat in the course. Students will be notified via email and have **24 hours** (or less time, once classes have started) to complete the registration process through their myLangara account. For more information about Waitlisting for courses, see:

Langara Home Page → Registration & Records → Registration Guide → When you Register → Waitlist for Courses

Q: How do I find out about important dates and deadlines?

A: Before the start of each semester, there are several **important dates** to make note of. Several weeks before registration starts each semester, you can activate and get your **registration date and time** (this is when you can start registering online for your courses for the upcoming semester); this can be done through your myLangara account under the **Registration** link. Other important dates include: the deadline for paying tuition fees; when classes start; the last date to withdraw from classes to get 100% tuition refund; the last day to withdraw from classes to get an 80% tuition refund; and the last day to withdraw to receive a “W” (withdrawal) on your transcript. This latter information can be found online at:

Langara Home Page → Registration & Records → Important Dates.

Q: Where can I find course descriptions and other information such as prerequisites and course attributes?

A: Go to:

Home page → Programs and Courses → Courses → Click on Subject → Click on Course Name or Number

English 1127: Essay Writing and Short Prose Selections

Course Format	Lecture 3.0 h + Seminar 1.0 h + Lab. 0.0 h
Credits	3.0

Course Description

This course emphasizes the principles of composition through the study and writing of various kinds of essays, including the research essay. As a secondary aim, it encourages an appreciation of modern literature through a study of the short story.

Students will receive credit for only one of ENGL 1126, 1127, and 1128.

Prerequisite(s): One of LET 4 (or LET 3 with strong recommendation of concurrent registration in ENGL 1121) or LPI equivalent; a minimum 80% in one of BC English 12 or BC English Literature 12 or BC English First Peoples 12; or a minimum "C" in ENGL 1120; or an "S" in one of ENGL 1107, 1108, or 1110.

[Course Attributes \(New Window\)](#)

Q: What should I do if I do not have the prerequisite to get into the courses?

A: If you do not have the course prerequisite, there are a few options. 1) You can take the Langara course(s) listed as acceptable prerequisites, as long as you have the prerequisites to get into that lower-level course. 2) You can write a diagnostic test at Langara. These tests are designed to assist in placing you in the appropriate course. You can find information about the diagnostic tests here:

Home page → Admissions → Diagnostic Tests

3) You can take or upgrade high school courses at local educational institutions including:

- Vancouver Community College, www.vcc.ca Tel: 604-871-7000
- Thompson Rivers University, www.tru.ca Tel: 1-800-663-9711
- Athabasca University, www.athabascau.ca Tel: 1-800-788-9041
- Vancouver School Board, Adult Education Centres
 - Downtown East Education Centre, 604-713-5760
 - Gathering Place Learning Centre, 604-257-3849
 - Hastings Education Centre, 604-713-5735
 - Main Street Education Centre, 604-713-5731
 - Roberts Education Centre, 604-713-5752
 - South Hill Education Centre, 604-713-5770