

TRANSFER STUDENT FAQ's

We're glad you're interested in continuing your undergraduate education here at UCSD. Be sure to review the extensive information for transfer students provided in the Admissions and Relations with Schools website (<http://admissions.ucsd.edu/dev3/transfers>). You should also read the Overview of the Undergraduate Program on the Chemistry and Biochemistry website (<http://www-chem.ucsd.edu/Academic/Ugrad>), to acquaint yourself with our nine majors.

Here are some highlights pertinent to Chemistry and Biochemistry undergraduate transfer majors:

1. How soon should I contact the department?

As soon as you start seriously considering a transfer to UCSD, you can contact us. You don't need to wait to get accepted here to see us. The earlier you contact us, the better.

2. Who should I contact?

Contact the Department Undergraduate Advisors, Richard Gopez at (858) 534-0220, e-mail address rgopez@ucsd.edu or Ruben Escobar at (858) 534-6870, e-mail address rgescobar@ucsd.edu. They will develop an academic plan for you. Bring with you a copy of your transcripts, or a list of courses that you have taken already, for review of course equivalencies for UCSD credit.

3. Is there a limit to how many students you will accept into the nine majors offered by Chemistry and Biochemistry?

None of our majors are impacted. There are no limits on the number of students we will accept to the Biochemistry/Chemistry, Chemical Education, Chemical Physics, Chemistry, Chemistry with Specialization in Earth Sciences, Environmental Chemistry, Molecular Synthesis, and Pharmacological Chemistry majors. The pre-major for our Bioinformatics from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry degree has no limits. However, Bioinformatics is offered jointly with computer science and engineering, bioengineering, and biological sciences, and there is a 50-student limit on the number of combined bioinformatics majors on campus. As a result, admission to the Bioinformatics major is not guaranteed, but is based on a screening process that evaluates potential majors based on academic excellence.

4. How will the classes I've taken elsewhere transfer to UCSD and to the major?

Sometimes courses will transfer in as equivalent to specific UCSD courses. For example, Chem. X and Y might transfer here as equivalent to Chem. 6A, 6B, and 6C. A web tool you may use to determine exact course equivalencies between California schools is ASSIST (www.assist.org). If you do not find an equivalent on ASSIST, or if you completed courses outside of California, then you must petition for equivalencies.

Another possibility is that the course(s) may be petitioned to fulfill a requirement. For example, you might petition for two semesters of biology with lab completed at a community college to fulfill the lower-division biology requirement at UCSD, or two semesters of calculus to fulfill the lower-division math requirement, or two semesters of calculus-based physics with lab to fulfill the lower-division physics requirement.

5. How do I petition?

Please contact the department for assistance. When petitioning, you must have the following information:

- * The name of the other college.
- * The number of the course(s).
- * The year and term of the course.
- * A copy of the course description from the catalog.
- * A copy of the syllabus or the outline of the courses that you completed.
- * Lab notebook, if requesting a lab equivalency.
- * The number of hours spent in lecture, recitation, and lab (if applicable).
- * Grade received (if the course was already completed).

6. Chemistry lectures and labs were taught as one course where I took them. However, at UCSD, they are taught separately. How will my classes transfer to UCSD?

ASSIST may provide the answer. If not, you will need to petition. See number 5 above.

7. How many classes or units for the major must I complete at UCSD?

You need to complete at least 48 upper-division units, or 12 upper-division classes, of the required major courses to earn your bachelor's degree from the department. Lower-division courses that satisfy upper-division requirements do not satisfy this unit requirement. Students who took organic chemistry at community college should see the Department Undergraduate Coordinator.

Be sure to check with your college on the number of upper-division units they require.

8. Are there courses you recommend I complete before I transfer to UCSD?

Yes. It is recommended that you complete:

- a. One year of general chemistry with lab (equivalent to UCSD Chem. 6A, 6B, 6C, and 6BL).
- b. One year of calculus (equivalent to UCSD Math. 20A, 20B, 20C), plus one course in differential equations (equivalent to UCSD Math 20D), if available.
- c. One year of calculus-based physics with lab (equivalent to UCSD Phys. 2A, 2B, 2D, and either Phys. 2BL, 2CL, or 2DL. Phys. 2CL is recommended).

9. What if I can't take all those courses - which ones are the most important?

Focus on general chemistry and calculus first since these are pre-requisites for all other chemistry, physics, and math courses you will need for the degree.

Pharmacological Chemistry majors should then try to take one year of biology with lab (equivalent to UCSD BILD 1, 2, 3 + lab), and one course in economics (equivalent to UCSD Econ.1A or 1B). Chemical Physics majors should then try to take more math or physics.