

## 6 Credit by External Exams

There is no limit on the number of external exams that can be applied to Cal-GETC. External exams may be used regardless of when the exam was taken. Cal-GETC certification does not determine applicability towards meeting program requirements at the receiving institution.

### 6.1 Advanced Placement (AP)

A score of 3, 4 or 5 is required to grant credit for Cal-GETC certification. Students who have earned credit from an AP exam should not take a comparable college course because transfer credit will not be granted for both.

- There is no equivalent AP exam for Cal-GETC Area 1B (*Critical Thinking and Composition*).
- Where more than one area of Cal-GETC is possible (cf., 3B or 4) the AP exam may be used in either area (either Cal-GETC Area 3B or Cal-GETC Area 4) regardless of where the certifying CCC's comparable course is located.
- Students earning a score of 3, 4 or 5 in a Physical or Biological science AP examination earn credit toward Cal-GETC Area 5A (*Physical Science*) or 5B (*Biological Science*) and also meet the Cal-GETC 5C (*Laboratory*) requirement. With this exception, each AP exam may only be applied to one Cal-GETC area.
- Generally, an acceptable AP score for Cal-GETC equates to either 3 semester or 4 quarter units for certification purposes.

An exception is that AP exams in Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, or Physics 2 allow CCC campuses to apply 4 semester or 5 quarter units to Cal-GETC Area 5 certification.

AP exams in Environmental Science, Physics C: Mechanics and Physics C: Electricity/Magnetism only allow CCC campuses to apply 3 semester or 4 quarter units to Cal-GETC certification<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> All students must meet the minimum unit requirements for Cal-GETC Area 5 (Physical and Biological Sciences) (see Section 9.5).

## Advanced Placement Table

AP EXAMINATION	CAL-GETC AREA	AP EXAMINATION	CAL-GETC AREA
Art History	3A or 3B	Japanese Language & Culture	3B
Biology	5B and 5C	Latin	3B
Calculus AB	2	Macroeconomics	4
Calculus BC	2	Microeconomics	4
Calculus BC/ AB sub score	2	Physics 1: Algebra-Based	5A and 5C
Chemistry	5A and 5C	Physics 2: Algebra-Based	5A and 5C
Chinese Language & Culture	3B	Physics C: Mechanics	5A and 5C
Comparative Government & Politics	4	Physics C: Electricity /Magnetism	5A and 5C
English Language/Composition	1A	Psychology	4
English Literature/Composition	1A or 3B	Spanish Language & Culture	3B
Environmental Science	5A and 5C	Spanish Literature & Culture	3B
European History	3B or 4	Statistics	2
French Language & Culture	3B	U.S. Government & Politics	4
German Language & Culture	3B	U.S. History	3B or 4
Human Geography	4	World History: Modern	3B or 4
Italian Language & Culture	3B		

Note: AP exams that have been discontinued are not shown on this table. A student with catalog rights may be able to use the now discontinued exam if accepted under the comparable area of IGETC or under Cal-GETC at the time the exam was taken.

Example: If a U.S. History at a CCC is approved for Cal-GETC Area 3B (*Humanities*), then the U.S. History AP exam may be used for Cal-GETC Area 3B (*Humanities*, via local articulation) or Area 4 (*Social and Behavioral Sciences*, via Cal-GETC credit by exam equivalency).

Actual AP transfer credit (including possible differences in units to be awarded beyond those used for Cal-GETC certification) awarded for these and other AP exams at admission is determined by the CSU and UC.

- The [UC Policy for AP credit](#)
- The [CSU Systemwide Credit for External Examinations](#) governing the use of these and other AP exams for awarding general education

## 6.2 International Baccalaureate (IB)

Credit for International Baccalaureate (IB) High Level exams is similar to AP exams. Students who have earned credit from an IB exam should not take a comparable college course because transfer credit will not be granted for both.

- A score of 5, 6 or 7 on Higher Level exams is required to grant credit for Cal-GETC certification.
- An acceptable IB score for Cal-GETC equates to either 3 semester or 4 quarter units for certification purposes.

### International Baccalaureate (HL) Table

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)	CAL-GETC AREA
IB Biology HL	5B
IB Chemistry HL	5A
IB Economics HL	4
IB Geography HL	4
IB History (any region) HL	3B or 4
IB Language A: Literature (any language, except English) HL	3B
IB Language A: Language and Literature (any language, except English) HL	3B
IB Language A: Literature (any language) HL	3B
IB Language A: Language and Literature (any language) HL	3B
IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL	2
IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL	2 (may not be at all UC)
IB Physics HL	5A
IB Psychology HL	4
IB Theatre HL	3A

*1 Note: IB courses that have been discontinued are not shown on this table. A student with catalog rights may be able to use a now discontinued course if accepted under the directly comparable area of IGETC or under Cal-GETC at the time the course was taken.*

Example: History IB HL at a CCC is approved for Cal-GETC Area 3B (*Humanities*). History IB HL may be used in Cal-GETC Area 3B (*Humanities*) or Cal-GETC Area 4 (*Social and Behavioral Sciences*).

Actual IB transfer credit (including possible differences in units to be awarded beyond those used for Cal-GETC certification) awarded for these and other IB exams at admission is determined by the CSU and UC.

- The [UC Policy for IB credit](#)
- The CSU system-wide minimums policy, [CSU Systemwide Credit for External Examinations](#) governing the use of these and other IB exams for awarding general education credit

## 6.3 College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

CLEP cannot be used for Cal-GETC.

## 6.4 Other Exams

Other College Board and ACT exams cannot be used to satisfy Cal-GETC requirements (e.g., SAT I, SAT II, Subject Tests, Achievement Tests).

Credit by exam is acceptable provided that a transcript from a United States college or university with accreditation from ICAS approved accreditors specifies the course title, unit value, grade and is posted to a specific term. A “Credit/Pass” designation is acceptable provided that the institution’s policy states that a “Credit/Pass” designation is equivalent to a “C” grade or higher (2.0 grade points on a 4.0 scale). The course must be deemed comparable by the CCC faculty in the discipline or its designee (e.g., Articulation Officer) as defined in Section 5.1.

# 7 Unit Value

A course must have a minimum unit value of 3 semester or 4 quarter units to meet the requirements for Cal-GETC. Laboratory courses intended to accompany lecture courses are an exception to this guideline (e.g., Section 9.5.3). It is not allowable to take three 1 semester unit courses to fulfill a 3-semester unit requirement. As a rule, the content of a sequence of 1-unit courses will not provide the depth, scope and rigor of a single 3-unit course (see exception below).

Exception: 3 quarter unit or 2 semester unit Math and English courses that satisfy Cal-GETC Area 1A (*English Composition*) or Cal-GETC Area 2 (*Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning*) may be applied if:

1. they are a part of a sequence,
2. at least two of the 3 quarter unit or 2 semester unit courses as part of the same sequence have each been completed with “C” grade or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 scale), and
3. the course sequence meets the rigor and breadth of Cal-GETC Standards (see Section/s 9.1.1 and/or 9.2).

Example 1: If a student takes English 101, 102, and 103 (3 quarter units each). The CCC certifying college may apply any combination of 101, 102, or 103 that have been completed with a “C” grade or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for a total of six quarter units to satisfy Cal-GETC Area 1A (*English Composition*) as long as the combination of courses meet the rigor and breadth of the Cal-GETC Standards in Section 9.1.1.

Example 2: Student takes Math 121 - Calculus A (3 quarter units) and Math 122 - Calculus B (3 quarter units) and completes each course with a “C” grade or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 scale). Calculus 121 and 122 are the same as Calculus 120 - Calculus (6 quarter units). The certifying CCC campus may apply Math 121 and 122, for a total of 6 quarter units, to Cal-GETC Area 2 (*Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning*) as long as the courses meet the rigor and breadth of the Cal-GETC Standards in Section 9.2.

Example 3: Student takes English 100 and 105 (2 semester units each and each course requires students to write a minimum of 3,000 words). The CCC certifying college may apply English 100 and 105, for a total of 4 semester units, to satisfy Cal-GETC Area 1A (*English Composition*) as long as the courses meet the rigor and breadth of the Cal-GETC Standards in Section 9.1.1.

## 7.1 Combining Quarter and Semester Units

When combining quarter and semester unit values within a Cal-GETC area, units shall be converted to either all quarter units or all semester units to benefit the student. For example, for Cal-GETC Area 4 (*Social and Behavioral Sciences*), a student needs either a minimum of 6 semester units or 8 quarter units. If a student has satisfactorily completed (C grade or higher, 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) one 4-quarter unit course and one 3-semester unit courses, convert the semester units to quarter units (3 units x 1.5 quarter units = 4.5 quarter units). The student will be credited with 8.5 quarter units in Area 4 and will have satisfied the requirement (>8 quarter units).

The conversion of units from semester to quarter for meeting minimum unit requirement may result in a student needing additional coursework to meet CSU graduation requirements.

Example: two four quarter unit courses would be  $2 \times 4 = 8$  quarter units;  $8 \times 2/3 = 5.33$  semester units (i.e., < 6). Unless the to-be-transferred-to program already included “extra” units a “fully prescribed” semester unit major program might then require an additional 0.67 semester units to achieve the 120-semester unit minimum for CSU graduation.

# 8 Grades

## 8.1 Minimum Grade Requirements

A minimum “C” grade is required in each college course for Cal-GETC. A “C” is defined as a minimum of 2.0 grade points on a 4.0 scale. A “C-” grade valued at less than 2.0 grade points on a 4.0 scale cannot be used for Cal-GETC certification.

## 8.2 Credit/No Credit-Pass/No Pass

Courses in which a student receives a “Credit/Pass” grade may be used towards Cal-GETC certification if the community college’s policy states that a “Credit or Pass” designation is equivalent to a “C” grade or higher (2.0 grade points on a 4.0 scale). It is important to keep in mind that CSU and UC campuses may have limitations on the number of “Credit/No Credit” (“Pass/No Pass”) courses and units accepted towards transfer, graduation, and major requirements. For example, the UC system allows a maximum of 14 semester units of courses graded “Pass/No Pass” (Credit/No Credit) toward the 60 transferable semester units required for transfer admission.

No more than 14 semester units (21 quarter units) of Pass/No Pass (Credit/No Credit), excluding credit by examination, may be used toward Cal-GETC certification.