Transfer Students

Oberlin welcomes the applications of transfer students, a group that characteristically brings a range of varied experiences to the College and to the Conservatory. Coming from colleges and universities across the nation and beyond, transfer students ordinarily make up about 5% of the fall class. In the past three years, Oberlin College has enrolled approximately 30 transfer students per year.

ADMISSION

A transfer applicant is considered to be a student who has been enrolled in a degree program at another university or college OR who has earned more than 30 semester hours of college course credit.

The criteria for selecting transfer students focus primarily on the college academic record; however, the high school record, personal recommendations, and standardized test scores are also taken into account. Candidates should be earning a B average or better in a variety of courses and present compelling reasons for wanting to leave their institution to enter Oberlin. It is advantageous for transfer applicants to have completed at least one full year at their present institution prior to applying to Oberlin. A campus interview is strongly recommended of all applicants.

Every transfer student should plan to complete a minimum of four semesters in residence and 56 semester hours of course work (for Arts & Sciences majors) or 62 hours (for Conservatory of Music majors) at Oberlin. Candidates should submit official transcripts of all college work completed and evidence of good standing, personally and academically.

Oberlin accepts the Common Application for transfer admission for both spring and fall semesters. For spring admission, the review of applications begins on a rolling basis in November with priority given to applications completed by the November 15 application deadline. Applications completed after these deadlines will be considered as space allows. We attempt to notify all candidates for spring admission by December 15 and all candidates for fall admission by May 1. Applicants have two weeks from receipt of their admission to submit an enrollment deposit.

FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid policy at Oberlin is to meet the evaluated need of full-time transfer students working toward their undergraduate degrees and who file their financial aid applications by the appropriate deadlines. The evaluated financial need equals the difference between the total cost of attending Oberlin (including all college charges, room and board, books and supplies, personal and allowable travel expenses) and the ability of the family and the student to contribute to those educational costs. The financial aid application process begins with the submission of the CSS PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The deadline for submitting the PROFILE and the FAFSA for spring admission is November 15 and February 15 for fall admission.

Complete financial aid application instructions may be found on our website at www.new.oberlin.edu/arts-and-sciences/admissions/finances. Foreign transfer students should be aware that scholarship and grant monies are not available.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

General Policy for the College of Arts & Sciences
Except for work in the field of music and within the limits stated below, Oberlin College permits credit earned at other fully accredited colleges and universities to be applied to the requirements for the Oberlin degree. The College applies two criteria to courses taken at other colleges: the grade transcript should show C level work or better, and courses to be counted should fall within the scope of a liberal arts curriculum.
In the cases where eligibility for a particular Oberlin course is unclear, the final decision is made by the chairperson of the appropriate Oberlin department, program, or curricular committee.

Work done in other countries at non-degree-granting institutions will be evaluated by the Registrar's Office.

Oberlin does not allow credits earned through CLEP, college extension or continuing education courses, and regional college-affiliated courses (such as KAP, SCAP, SUPA) taken through high school to be considered for transfer.

*Guidelines for Credits Applicable toward Major*

Normally students may transfer no more than 16 semester hours credit for each semester, 32 semester hours for each academic year, or one semester hour for each week of summer school spent away from Oberlin. The total transferable semester hours of course credit toward an Oberlin degree may not exceed 56.

Credit accepted for transfer may not automatically be applied toward the major. Transfer students need to gain the approval of the particular department, program, or Individual Major Committee for the acceptance of these credits toward major requirements.

Students have a time limit of one calendar year from the date of entry into Oberlin to request transfer of credit and to furnish appropriate documentation to Oberlin.

*Music Credit*

All requests for transfer of music credit to both the College of Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory of Music need to be approved by the Assistant Dean of the Conservatory of Music. For detailed information on this process, see "Transfer of Credit" in the Conservatory section of the course catalog.

*Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Credit*

Advanced Placement Credit is possible in several subject areas for transfer students who have taken the College Board's Advanced Placement Examinations or higher-level IB courses in their high schools. Individual departments make the final decision on standards to be met. Complete information on transfer of credit can be found in the course catalog.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

*Graduation*

All transfer students must satisfy all graduation requirements effective at the time of their enrollment. Consult the catalog for an explanation of all requirements necessary for graduation.

*Residence*

Transfer students are expected to spend at least four semesters in residence at Oberlin or on Oberlin College programs, while completing at least 56 hours of course work. In particular, when completing greater than four semesters, the last semester should be spent in residence at Oberlin or on an Oberlin College program. An "Oberlin College program" is one listed in the Oberlin course catalog with a course and schedule number.

*Winter Term*

Transfer students must earn one credit in each Winter Term during their enrollment at Oberlin, unless this would result in more than three credits, the maximum credit allowance applicable to graduation requirements.

**ADVISING**

The College recognizes the special needs of incoming transfer students and provides a special orientation for transfer students at the start of each semester.

All Oberlin students are assigned advisors. Juniors and seniors generally select their own advisors from among the faculty of their major departments; freshmen and sophomores are assigned an advisor based on the Dean...
of Studies’ sense of the student's chief academic interest and the pool of available faculty members. In making these decisions, considerable weight is attached to the student's interest in a particular major.

**HOUSING**

Oberlin students are expected to live in college housing. Normally an incoming transfer student who is not married, younger than 23 years of age, and does not intend to commute from home should expect to live in a residence hall, program house, or co-op. A variety of housing options are set aside for incoming students and, whenever possible, preferences are honored. Information may be obtained directly from the Department of Residential Education.