

# Credit for Prior Learning

NDSU recognizes the valuable knowledge and skills students have attained through exams, certifications, workforce experience, military service, volunteer activities, and life experiences. Students may receive college credit for college level learning outside that has occurred outside of a college or university setting.

## Advanced Placement Examination (AP)

Students from high schools that participate in the Advanced Placement Program may earn credit through examinations provided by the CollegeBoard. The examinations are administered at the conclusion of a college-level course taught in participating high schools. AP Score Reports are sent to the colleges or universities designated on your exam answer sheet. Students who do not designate NDSU on their answer sheet may contact AP Services (see below) to have scores sent to NDSU. **The code for NDSU is 6474.**

In accordance with North Dakota University System policy, a minimum score of three is required to receive credit for Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. If NDSU does not have an equivalent course, free elective credit may be awarded. Credit earned through AP is not residence credit and may not be used to satisfy residence-credit requirements for graduation. A listing of AP exams and current NDSU equivalent courses are listed below.

Examination	Score	Equivalent NDSU Course	Credit Hours	Gen Ed Category
Art-History	3	ART 210 & ART 211	6	A & A
Biology	3	BIOL 111 & BIOL 100L	4	S & S
Biology	4	BIOL 150, BIOL 150L, BIOL 151, & BIOL 151L	8	S, S, S, & S
Precalculus	3	MATH 107	4	R
Calculus AB	3	MATH 165	4	R
Calculus BC	3	MATH 165 & MATH 166	8	R & R
Chemistry	3	Free Elective (CHEM 1XX)*	4	S
Chemistry	4	CHEM 121, CHEM 121L, CHEM 122, & CHEM 122L	8	S, S, S, & S
Chinese Language & Culture	3	Free Elective (TRANSFR 1XX)*	3	A/D
Comparative Government & Politics	3	POLS 225	3	B
Computer Science A	3	CSCI 160	4	S
Computer Science AB	3	CSCI 160 & CSCI 161	8	S & S
Computer Science Principles	4	CSCI 159	3	R
English Language & Composition	3	ENGL 110 (or ENGL 112)	3	C
English Literature & Composition	3	ENGL 220	3	A/D
English Literature & Composition	4	ENGL 110 & ENGL 220	6	C & A/D
Environmental Science	3	BIOL 124 & BIOL 100L	4	S/G & S
European History	3	HIST 101 & HIST 102	6	A & A
French Language & Culture	3	FREN 101 & FREN 102	8	A/D & A/G
German Language	3	GERM 101 & GERM 102	8	A/D & A/G
Human Geography	3	GEOG 151	3	B/G
Italian Language & Culture	3	Free Elective (TRANSFR 1XX)*	3	A/D
Japanese Language & Culture	3	Free Elective (TRANSFR 1XX)*	3	A/D
Latin	3	Free Elective (TRANSFR 1XX)*	3	A/D
Macroeconomics	3	ECON 202	3	B/G
Microeconomics	3	ECON 201	3	B/G
Music Theory	3	Free Elective (MUSC 1XX)*	6	A
Physics I: Algebra-Based	3	Free Elective (PHYS 1XX)*	4	S
Physics I: Algebra-Based	4	PHYS 211 & PHYS 211L	4	S & S
Physics II: Algebra-Based	4	PHYS 212 & PHYS 212L	4	S & S

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Physics C - Electricity & Magnetism	3	PHYS 212 & PHYS 212L	4	S & S
Physics C - Electricity & Magnetism	4	PHYS 252 & PHYS 252L	5	S & S
Physics C - Mechanics	3	PHYS 211 & PHYS 211L	4	S & S
Physics C - Mechanics	4	PHYS 251 & PHYS 251L	5	S & S
Psychology	3	PSYC 111	3	B
Research	3	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)	3	
Seminar	3	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)	3	
Spanish Language	3	SPAN 101 & SPAN 102	8	A/D & A/G
Spanish Literature & Culture	3	Free Elective (SPAN 1XX)*	3	A
Statistics	3	Free Elective (STAT 1XX)*	3	R
Statistics	4	STAT 330	3	R
Studio Art-2D Design Portfolio	3	ART 122	3	A
Studio Art-3D Design Portfolio	3	ART 124	3	A
Studio Art-Drawing Portfolio	3	ART 130 & ART 230	6	A & A
U.S. Government & Politics	3	POLS 115	3	B
U.S. History	3	HIST 103 & HIST 104	6	A & A
World History: Modern History	3	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	6	A

\* Credit received applies toward degree elective credit

## General Education Categories:

A	Humanities & Fine Arts
B	Social & Behavioral Science
C	Communication
F	First Year Experience
I	Intercultural Knowledge and Competence
L	Digital Literacy
R	Quantitative Reasoning
S	Science & Technology
W	Wellness

See General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#text>) for more information on core NDSU courses.

For general information or to order AP score reports contact:

Phone: (609) 771-7300 or (888) 225-5427 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada)  
 Automated score report request line: (888) 308-0013 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada)  
 Email: [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org)  
 Web site: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (<https://www.collegeboard.org/>)

Questions? Contact the NDSU Office of Registration and Records (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/contact/>) at 701-231-7981

## College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

CLEP is a national testing program provided by CollegeBoard. In accordance with North Dakota University System policy, a minimum score of 50 is required to receive credit for CLEP subject examinations. If NDSU does not have an equivalent course, free elective credit may be awarded. Credit earned through CLEP is not residence credit and may not be used to satisfy residence-credit requirements for graduation.

A listing of CLEP exams and current NDSU equivalent courses are listed below.

Examination	Score	Equivalent NDSU Course	Credit Hours	Gen Ed Category
American Government	50	POLS 115	3	B
American Literature	50	ENGL 261 & ENGL 262	6	A & A
Analyzing & Interpreting Literature	50	ENGL 272 & Free Elective (ENGL 1XX)*	6	
Biology	50	BIOL 150 & BIOL 150L	4	S & S
Precalculus	50	MATH 107	3	R
Calculus	50	MATH 146	4	R
Chemistry	50	CHEM 121 & CHEM 121L	4	S & S
College Algebra	50	MATH 103	3	R
College Composition	50	ENGL 110	3	C
College Composition Modular	50	ENGL 110	3	C
College Mathematics	50	Free Elective (MATH 1XX)*	3	
English Literature	50	ENGL 251 & ENGL 252	6	A & A
Financial Accounting	50	ACCT 200	3	
French Language Level I	50	FREN 101	4	A/D
French Language Level II	59	FREN 101 & FREN 102	8	A/D & A/G
German Language Level I	50	GERM 101	4	A/D
German Language Level II	60	GERM 101 & GERM 102	8	A/D & A/G
History of the United States I	50	HIST 103	3	A
History of the United States II	50	HIST 104	3	A
Human Growth & Development	50	PSYC 250	3	B
Humanities	50	Free Elective (HUM 1XX)*	3	
Information Systems	50	Free Elective (CSCI 1XX)*	2	S
Introduction to Educational Psychology	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	B
Introduction to Business Law	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Introduction to Psychology	50	PSYC 111	3	B
Introduction to Sociology	50	SOC 110	3	B
Natural Sciences	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	ECON 202	3	B/G
Principles of Management	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Principles of Marketing	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Principles of Microeconomics	50	ECON 201	3	B/G
Social Sciences & History	50	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Spanish Language Level I	50	SPAN 101	4	A/D
Spanish Language Level II	63	SPAN 101 & SPAN 102	8	A/D & A/G
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648	50	HIST 101	3	A
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present	50	HIST 102	3	A

\* Credit received applies toward degree elective credit

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See General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#text>) for more information on core NDSU courses.

**For general information, additional test center locations, or to order transcripts contact:**

Phone: (800) 257-9558

Email: [clep@collegeboard.org](mailto:clep@collegeboard.org)

Web site: [www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org) (<https://www.collegeboard.org/>)

\*Please contact the NDSU Office Registration and Records (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/contact/>) at 701-231-7981 for more information on credit awarded for these tests.

## DSST Examinations

NDSU recognizes the DSST (Dantes) examination, which was originally designed for the military as a way to provide individuals an opportunity to obtain college level credit for what they have learned in nontraditional ways. Now available for civilian use, the DSST Test Control Officer (TCO) administers the exams on more than 560 military installations and official DSST test centers. The main users of the exams include adult education programs, U.S. Department of Defense, and two- and four-year colleges and universities. NDSU's DSST location site code is: DSST-9366.

In accordance with North Dakota University System policy, students must receive a minimum score on the examinations to qualify for possible awarding of credit and advanced placement, which is determined by the appropriate academic department on campus. If NDSU does not have an equivalent course, elective credit may be awarded. Credit earned through DSST may not be used to satisfy residence credit requirement for graduation. A listing of DSST exams and current NDSU equivalent courses are listed below.

Examination	Score	Equivalent NDSU Course	Credit Hours	Gen Ed Category
A History of the Vietnam War	44	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
Art of the Western World	48	ART 111	3	A
Astronomy	48	PHYS 110	3	S
Business Law	44	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Business Mathematics	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Civil War & Reconstruction	47	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
Contemporary Western Europe	45	HIST 102	3	A
Criminal Justice	400	CJ 201	3	
Environment & Humanities	46	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Environmental Science	400	BIOL 124	3	S/G
Ethics in America	400	PHIL 210	3	
Foundations of Education	46	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Fundamentals of College Algebra	400	MATH 103	3	R
Fundamentals of Counseling	45	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
General Anthropology	47	ANTH 111	3	B/D
Here's to Your Health	400	HNES 217	3	W
Human Resource Management	46	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Human/Cultural Geography	47	GEOG 151	3	B/G
Intro to the Modern Middle East	47	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Intro to Business	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Intro to Computing	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Intro to Law Enforcement	45	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	

Lifespan Development Psychology	46	PSYC 250	3	B
Management Information Systems	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Money & Banking	48	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Organizational Behavior	48	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Personal Finance	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Physical Geology	46	Free Elective (GEOL 1XX)*	3	S/G
Principles of Finance	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Principles of Financial Accounting	49	ACCT 200	3	
Principles of Statistics	48/400	Free Elective (STAT 1XX)*	3	
Principles of Supervision	400	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
Rise and Fall of Soviet Union	45	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
Substance Abuse	400	PSYC 212	3	B

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See General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#text>) for more information on core NDSU courses.

### Additional Information:

For more information on DSST exams and to locate a test center, go to [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com) (<http://www.getcollegecredit.com/>).

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

NDSU recognizes the International Baccalaureate program, offered at many high schools in the United States and abroad, which allows students to take examinations for credit. The examinations are offered at the standard (SL) and higher (HL) levels. **However, according to state policy, NDSU will only grant credit for applicable HL examinations.**

In accordance with North Dakota University System policy, students must receive a predetermined minimum score on higher-level (HL) examinations to qualify for possible awarding of credit and advanced placement, which is determined by the appropriate academic department on campus. Credit earned through IB may not be used to satisfy residence-credit requirements for graduation. Scores received in IB examinations not included in the table below may be considered for credits. Contact the Office of Registration and Records (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/contact/>) for information.

Examination	Score	Equivalent NDSU Course	Credit Hours	Gen Ed Category
HL Biology	4	BIOL 150, BIOL 150L, BIOL 151, BIOL 151L	8	S, S, S, S
HL Business Management	4	Free Elective (TRNSFR 1XX)*	3	
HL Chemistry	4	CHEM 121, CHEM 121L, CHEM 122, CHEM 122L	8	S, S, S, S
HL Economics	4	ECON 105	3	S/G
HL Economics	5	ECON 201, ECON 202	6	S/G, S/G
HL English	4	ENGL 220	3	A
HL English A Lang and Lit	4	ENGL 110, ENGL 220	6	C, A/D

HL French B	5	FREN 101, FREN 102, FREN 201	11	A/D, A/G, A/D
HL Geography	4	GEOG 161	3	G
HL German B	5	GERM 101, GERM 102, GERM 201	11	A/D, A/G, A/D
HL History of Africa and the Middle East	4	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
HL History (Africa)	4	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
HL History (Americas)	4	HIST 103, HIST 104	6	A, A
HL History (Asia)	4	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
HL History (Europe)	4	HIST 102	3	A
HL History (Islamic)	4	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
HL History (Middle East)	4	Free Elective (HIST 1XX)*	3	
HL Literature & Performance	4	Free Elective (COMM 1XX)	3	
HL Mathematics	4	MATH 103, MATH 105	6	R, R
HL Physics	5	Free Elective (PHYS 1XX)*	4	
HL Psychology	4	PSYC 111	3	B
HL Spanish B	5	SPAN 101, SPAN 102, SPAN 201	11	A/D, A/G, A/D

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See General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/#text>) for more information on core NDSU courses.

To order official transcripts, please contact:

Web site: [www.ibo.org/](http://www.ibo.org/) (<https://www.ibo.org/>)

Phone: (301) 202-3025

Email: [ibid@ibo.org](mailto:ibid@ibo.org)

## Course Challenge

A student who is currently registered may seek credit by challenging a course. A course challenge usually consists of a special comprehensive examination; however, additional types of performance may be required for some courses. A course challenge is only permitted for courses in which the student has no previous record (prior registrations allowable if course was dropped by the No Record Drop deadline in a given term). Further, credits earned by course challenge may not satisfy requirements toward a graduate degree.

Procedures for pursuing a course challenge include the following:

1. Obtain a Petition for Course Challenge Form (<https://www.ndsu.edu/sites/default/files/onestop/forms/challenge.pdf>), available online.
2. Obtain approval from the academic adviser, the instructor of the course, and the chair of the department offering the course. Clarify expectations of the challenge, e.g., examination only or examination plus other performance. Based on the nature of the course and content area, some courses may not be approved for challenge by the department.

3. Pay the course challenge fee at the Customer Account Services (<https://www.ndsu.edu/cas/>), 302 Ceres Hall, after receiving approval for the challenge (50% of the regular credit tuition charge; not subject to tuition cap).
4. Arrange a mutually convenient date and time for the challenge with the instructor or department.
5. Upon receipt of the signed Petition for Course Challenge form from the department, courses and credits successfully challenged are listed on the student's academic transcript with a passing (P) grade. Unsuccessful challenges are not recorded.

## Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio Options

**I. Purpose:** Students can accelerate their degree completion by turning real-world experience into academic credit through two distinct portfolio pathways. Depending on your career background and academic goals, you can choose between a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio for flexible upper-division elective credits, or a Focused Portfolio to satisfy specific major requirements.

### II. Portfolio Options:

- **Focused Portfolio:** This option is ideal for professionals who have built deep expertise in a specific field through hands-on experience, professional training sessions, and in-service education programs. Credits earned through this option are specific to departments and will help fulfill required coursework in a academic program.
- **Portfolio-Based Option:** This option is ideal for professionals pursuing a Bachelor of University Studies and have a wide range of personal and professional experiences. Credits earned through this portfolio are upper division elective courses that count towards graduation totals. This provides a more flexible approach to earning credit.

### III. Restrictions and Requirements:

- **Eligibility:** PLA Portfolios are only permitted for courses in which the student has no previous record (prior registrations allowable if course was dropped by the No Record Drop deadline in a given term). Graduate students are not eligible for Portfolio Assessment.
- **Registration:** Students must work with the Degree Completion Coordinator through the Career and Advising Center (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/>), and register for UNIV 490: Prior Learning Portfolio.
- **Academic Credit:**
  - 12 undergraduate resident credits may be earned for the Portfolio-Based Option
  - 15 undergraduate resident credits may be earned for the Focused Portfolio Option
- **Grades:** Portfolio Assessments will be graded on Pass/Fail basis only.

Students from high schools that participate in the Seal of Biliteracy program are eligible to earn test credit for meeting the required levels of language proficiency through assessment. Credit for these assessments will be awarded as follows:

#### North Dakota

- Spanish Gold Seal - 12 Credits for SPAN 101, 102, and 201
- Spanish Silver Seal - 8 Credits for SPAN 101, 102
- Other Language Gold Seal - 12 Credits of Language Elective
- Other Language Silver Seal - 8 Credits of Language Elective

#### Minnesota

- Spanish Platinum Seal - 12 Credits for SPAN 101, 102, and 201
- Spanish Gold Seal - 8 Credits of Language Electives
- Other Language Gold Seal - 12 Credits of Language Elective
- Other Language Silver Seal - 8 Credits of Language Elective

\*Seals of Biliteracy attained outside of North Dakota and Minnesota will be assessed independently through the Office of Registration and Records.

#### How to Submit Your State Seal of Biliteracy

Biliteracy seals are recorded on the high school transcript. Students should complete the **online request form** once a final high school transcript has been submitted to the NDSU Office of Admission.