P. CREDIT FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES

A student may not employ course credits earned at another college or university to reduce the expected number of terms of enrollment in Yale College. Under the conditions described below, a student may apply as many as two course credits earned at another college or university toward the 36-course-credit requirement for graduation from Yale College. Before undertaking such outside study, the student should consult the residential college dean about both the institution to be attended and the course to be taken there.

Courses in Yale Summer Session are not considered outside courses, and there is no limit on the number of such courses that a student may offer toward the requirements of the bachelor’s degree; see “Courses in Yale Summer Session” in section K. Similarly, courses taken in the Yale College program at the Paul Mellon Centre in London are Yale courses and do not count as outside credit. Students who wish to receive credit for summer study abroad with outside programs must apply for approval through the Study Abroad office (see point 9, Summer Abroad, below).

1. Approval of credit In order for credit to be given for courses taken elsewhere, all of the following conditions must be met:

   a. The director of undergraduate studies in the subject of a course taken elsewhere must approve the award of credit at Yale for the course.
   b. A student who has studied at an American university, or abroad on a program sponsored by an American university, must provide the office of the residential college dean with an official transcript of the work completed. A student who has enrolled in a program that is not sponsored by an American university should supply an official transcript if the sponsoring institution issues transcripts; if it does not, then the student must furnish an official certificate of enrollment, showing if possible the course or courses completed.
   c. Students seeking outside credit should be prepared to furnish a copy of the course syllabus, as well as essays and examinations written in the course. In some cases, a letter from the instructor of the course may be required, or the student may be asked to pass an examination on the material of the course. Such information may be particularly necessary in the case of study at a foreign university.
   d. Study undertaken in the United States must be at a four-year accredited institution that grants a bachelor’s degree in the arts and sciences. Foreign study must be completed at a university or other approved institution. Credit may be awarded only for work done while a student was officially enrolled at such an institution, and cannot be given for any work completed independently of such formal enrollment.
   e. A grade of A or B is expected; a grade of C is acceptable. Credit cannot be given for a mark of Credit on a Credit/D/Fail option, nor for a grade of Pass on a Pass/Fail option, if the student had the choice of taking the course for a letter grade.
   f. In order for credit to be given for a course completed at another college or university, the course must carry a value of at least three semester credit hours; if the course is taken at an institution on the quarter system, it must carry a value of at least four-and-one-half quarter units.
   g. In order for credit to be given for a course completed at another college or university, the number of contact hours for the course must equal or exceed the number of contact hours for an equivalent course offered in Yale College during the fall or spring term, and the length of term (from the first to the last day of classes) must be at least four consecutive weeks.

2. Residential college seminars Residential college seminars are, by definition, courses that extend beyond the Yale College curriculum. They are not used as comparables for credit for outside courses, whether in Year or Term Abroad or for other considerations for outside credit.

3. Work done while in secondary school Course credit or distributional credit cannot be given for any college or university course taken while the student was still enrolled in secondary school. Work done after graduation from secondary school but before matriculation at Yale may be accepted on recommendation from the appropriate director of undergraduate studies.

As a regular exception to this rule, students who earned credits while still enrolled in secondary school as members of the Non-degree Students program in Yale College or as students in Yale Summer Session may apply such credits toward the requirements of the bachelor’s degree.

4. Limit of two course credits Credit cannot be given for more than two course credits earned at another institution. An exception of one additional course credit may be made only by action of the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing upon the student’s petition, normally after the final term of enrollment.

5. Distributional requirements With permission, course credit earned at another college or university may be applied toward the distributional requirements for the bachelor’s degree and to those for the sophomore and junior years whether or not it is counted toward the 36-course-credit requirement for graduation; students should consult with the residential college dean to be directed to the appropriate authority for such approval. Credit from outside Yale may not be applied toward the distributional requirements for the freshman year. Note particularly that Yale does not award course credit or distributional credit for courses completed at another college or university before the student graduated from secondary school.

6. The foreign language requirement and courses taken elsewhere Students who have taken a course in a foreign language at another institution, either in the United States or through a program abroad, and who wish to offer that course toward fulfillment of the foreign language distributional requirement must secure the approval of the relevant director of undergraduate studies. While the
approval process varies across departments, in no case can it be completed until an official transcript of the work has been received and reviewed by the department. Typically, an additional assessment of the student’s work will be necessary, especially with respect to the level (e.g., L3 through L5) that has been achieved by the outside study. Such assessment might include a written or oral examination or both, a review of the course syllabus and written assignments, or other methods of evaluation. Some departments maintain a list of programs that have been previously evaluated, in which case the approval process is often simplified. Students are therefore strongly encouraged to consult the relevant department before undertaking language study elsewhere.

7. Major requirements At the discretion of the director of undergraduate studies in a student’s major, work done at another institution may be counted as fulfilling a requirement of the student’s major program. This may be done whether or not a course is credited toward the 36-course-credit requirement.

8. Year or Term Abroad Students receiving credit for study on a Year Abroad are not eligible to apply additional credit from outside Yale toward the 36-course-credit requirement. Students receiving such credit on a Term Abroad may apply up to two course credits from outside Yale toward the 36-course-credit requirement.

Students receiving credit for study on a Year or Term Abroad may apply such credit toward the distributional requirements for the bachelor’s degree or toward a requirement of the student’s major program (see points 5 and 7 above). Because the maximum number of outside credits allowed is nine, students who have previously transferred one or two outside credits are normally eligible only for one term abroad. Students who wish to take a year abroad, but who are ineligible by virtue of having transferred one or two outside credits may, with the exception noted below, request that the University Registrar remove such credit from the transcript by petitioning the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing through their dean’s office. If that petition is approved, the Registrar will remove the relevant outside course credit, but the course title will remain on the transcript. Accordingly, this course work may also continue to be applied towards major and distributional requirements.

9. Summer Abroad Students who wish to receive credit for summer study abroad with designated programs must apply for approval through the Study Abroad office. The deadline to apply for 2018 Summer Abroad credit is March 1, 2018. Information about the application process, including a list of eligible programs, is available on the Study Abroad Website. Students receiving credit for summer study abroad may apply such credit toward the distributional requirements for the bachelor’s degree or toward a requirement of the student’s major program (see points 5 and 7 above).

10. Transfer students Transfer students may receive up to two course credits for work completed outside Yale after matriculation provided that they enroll in Yale College for at least four terms, earning by attendance at Yale a minimum of eighteen course credits.

11. Online courses, internships, and the like Course credit cannot be given for a course taken online even if it is sponsored by another university, including accredited four-year institutions granting a bachelor’s degree. Course credit also cannot be given for such programs as internships, field studies, or workshops, unless such programs include as a component a full, regular, academic course of instruction, and are certified by a transcript from an accredited four-year institution granting a bachelor’s degree.

12. Yale transcript Outside courses may be entered on a student’s Yale transcript only if they are applied to the 36-course-credit requirement, the distributional requirements, or the requirements of a major program. Such courses must be entered on the Yale transcript if they are to be applied toward any of these requirements. Except for transcripts of transfer students — on which see section L, Transfer Students — courses that are applied toward the 36-course-credit requirement are listed by title with indication of the credit units earned, but without grades. Courses that are applied only toward the distributional requirements are listed without grades and with the designation “for distributional credit only.” Courses that are applied only toward the requirements of a major program are listed without grades and with the designation “for credit toward the major only.” Once a course has been entered on a student’s Yale transcript at the student’s request, or as a consequence of reinstatement, the entry may not subsequently be removed at the student’s request.


† Students on promotion hold who employ outside course credits to repair a credit deficiency cannot subsequently have those credits removed from their transcript for any reason and are thus ineligible to take a year abroad.