Making the Most of Your Experience

Many students come to The Culinary Institute of America with a college degree or college credits already in hand. We’d like to help you make the most of that experience.

If you have college credits you think may transfer to the CIA’s bachelor’s or associate degree programs, take a look through this guide. Next, prepare your transfer request, following the steps provided. From there, we’ll work with you to evaluate your courses for transfer eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Whatever your previous experience may be, rest assured that the CIA’s world-renowned academic programs will enhance your knowledge and career options.

Attention High School Students

You may be eligible to transfer credit for the CIA’s Food Safety, Introduction to Food Science, and/or College Writing courses. For transfer requirements, please go to www.ciachef.edu/transfer-credit-policies. Please refer to the FAQs in this brochure for information about transferring AP credit.

SAT/ACT Requirement

The CIA does not require the SAT/ACT. However, if you have taken the test, we encourage you to submit your scores as they could help you qualify for CIA merit-based scholarships.

How to Apply for Transfer Credit

1. Obtain a copy of the Application for Transfer Credit at www.ciachef.edu/transfer-credit-policies or by calling the CIA at 1-800-CULINARY (285-4627).

2. Complete the top two sections of the transfer credit application.

3. If you are requesting transfer credit for College Board AP classes, please provide us with an official College Board report of your scores. If you are requesting transfer credit for the CIA’s Food Safety course, you must attach a copy of your National Restaurant Association (NRA) ServSafe® certificate.

4. Include an official copy of your high school and/or college transcripts if they were not previously sent.

5. Submit your completed transfer credit application and supporting documentation along with your application for admission, with the required documentation attached, to:

Admissions Department
The Culinary Institute of America
1946 Campus Drive
Hyde Park, NY 12538-1499
Approval Criteria

1. The course you are requesting to transfer must be from an accredited college or university and comparable to one of the CIA courses listed below.

2. You must have completed the course to be transferred with a grade of “C” or better.

3. All applicable course work must have been completed within the past 10 years.

4. You took the college AP exam and received a score of “4” or higher within the past five years.

We’re Here to Help

The Culinary Institute of America’s sole purpose is to help you realize your dream of a successful career in the foodservice and hospitality industry. By combining your previous education with a CIA degree, you’ll be one step ahead in achieving that goal. We’re here to guide you and support your efforts. If you have any questions about transferring credits, the admissions process, or the CIA, please call our friendly admissions staff at 1-800-CULINARY (285-4627) or 845-452-9430, or e-mail admissions@culinary.edu to learn more about the world’s premier culinary college.

Preparing Your Transfer Request

Q. Do culinary, baking, and table service classes transfer?
A. Because of the unique nature of the CIA’s curricula, only select course work can be considered for transfer credit. The college does not accept laboratory courses for credit.

Q. How many credits can I transfer?
A. Students can transfer all credits for which they are eligible, provided they maintain full-time CIA student status, defined as 12 credits per semester.

Q. Are any Advanced Placement (AP) courses eligible for transfer credit?
A. An AP course alone does not transfer. To be eligible for transfer credit, students need to have earned a score of 4 or better (on a scale of 1–5) on the College Board AP exam. The college will consider transfer credit for the CIA’s College Writing; Literature and Composition; Principles of Macroeconomics and Microeconomics; History and Cultures of Europe; Psychology of Human Behavior; French I, II, and III; and Spanish I, II, and III courses from the appropriate AP classes and exams.

PLEASE NOTE: Full-time students may not receive transfer credit for all courses requested if the number of credits transferred reduces the amount for a semester below the 12 credits required for full-time study. Tuition charges are assessed based on full-time study, with each semester ranging from 12 to 18 credits. Students who transfer credits from another institution do not receive credit toward tuition and fees at The Culinary Institute of America.

Eligible Courses

Transfer credit will be considered for the following CIA courses. Please consult the CIA catalog to find out which courses are required for your major and degree program.

Freshman & Sophomore Years
College Writing
Controlling Costs and Purchasing Food
Culinary Math
Food Safety
Introduction to Food Science
Introduction to Gastronomy
Introduction to Management
Menu Development
Nutrition
Principles of Design
Professionalism and Life Skills
Wine Studies

Junior & Senior Years
Chinese, French, Italian, or Spanish
Finance
Financial Accounting
History and Cultures of Asia
History and Cultures of Europe
History and Cultures of the Americas
Human Resource Management
Leadership and Ethics
Literature and Composition
Managerial Accounting
Marketing and Promoting Food
Organizational Behavior
Personal Finance
Principles of Macroeconomics
Principles of Microeconomics
Psychology of Human Behavior
Survey of Mathematics

The Costing Examination is a graduation requirement for all students, and may not be transferred. There may be additional electives eligible for transfer credit—call the transfer credit coordinator for details.