

Credit for Prior Learning

Special Examinations for Credit

A regularly enrolled student may apply to take “special” (challenge or validating) examinations to establish credit for approved University courses. Requests to take an examination must be made to the chair of the department offering the course. Approval of the department chair, the instructor of the course and the dean of the college offering the course(s) are required. A petition with the appropriate signatures must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar prior to examinations. A committee of three appointed by the chair of the department offering the course will administer and evaluate the examinations, a majority being necessary to award a grade. Special examinations must be searching and comprehensive. Grades of “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory” will be recorded on the student’s permanent record upon recommendation of the committee, but will not be used to compute scholastic average.

The fee per credit hour for a validating or challenge examination is one-half the regular credit hour fee for the course to be challenged. Receipt of payment must be presented to the instructor prior to examination.

Students may apply to take challenge or validating examinations to establish credit in University of North Dakota courses that correspond to work taken at institutions that are not regionally accredited, or for courses in which they have superior preparation or knowledge gained through prior learning or independent study. These exams are offered for courses which have no equivalent CLEP subject exams. Students who have audited a course, or who have previously enrolled in a course and then dropped it, will not ordinarily be permitted to take a special examination in that course.

The University of North Dakota offers Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) for some coursework among various programs.

College-Level Examination Program

The University of North Dakota offers the opportunity to submit the results of CLEP for credit in most of the Subject Examinations. CLEP examinations are paid separately by the student and scores sent to UND.

CLEP Subject Examinations currently accepted by UND for transfer credits with minimum acceptable standard scores can be found at: <https://ndus.edu/lets-get-started/pre-college-credits/>. Credit earned through CLEP Subject Exams may be used to fulfill University Essential Studies Breadth of Knowledge requirements, to fulfill specific course requirements, or to be used as elective credits. CLEP credit will NOT satisfy Essential Studies Special Emphasis requirements. As soon as they become available, new examinations will be reviewed by university departments to determine their suitability for credit at UND.

The following guidelines have been established for utilization of the Subject Examinations:

1. A CLEP Subject Examination may not be taken to establish credit for a course in which a student has earned credit in a higher level sequential course
2. Regarding CLEP Subject Examinations which offer a maximum of six to eight credits, a student with previously earned credit in one semester of a two-semester sequence must petition the CLEP Advanced Placement Committee for exception to this policy prior to taking the CLEP Subject Examination for the balance of the credit
3. A Subject Examination may be repeated no sooner than six months after date of the last testing. Students should submit a petition to the UND CLEP Committee for permission to repeat an examination.
4. A Subject Examination may not be taken to establish credit in a subject in which the student has been enrolled, but from which he or she has withdrawn after the last day to add a course, until six months from the last class day of the term in which he/she was enrolled for the course.
5. A Subject Examination may not be used to establish credit in a subject which the student has previously failed. In addition, a Subject Exam may not be used to repeat a course.
6. CLEP credit is considered as equivalent to credit earned at another institution. UND students must earn 30 credits at UND. UND uses the ACE

Recommended Credits Granting Score as a guide to determine whether credit is granted.

7. For a listing of approved examinations, required scores, and transfer equivalents, go to: <https://ndus.edu/lets-get-started/pre-college-credits/>.

World Language Placement & Credit Test

Students with a background in a world language that is currently taught in the Department of Languages & Global Studies at UND, may receive credit in one of the following ways:

1. Lateral Credits - UND rewards students who prove their proficiency in a world language. Students who place into a language course higher than 101 are eligible to earn up to 16 free lateral credits by completing additional courses in the same language. To earn lateral credits, a student must:
 - a. Complete two additional language classes in the sequence. (Example: a student who places into SPAN 102 must complete that course [SPAN 102] and SPAN 201 to be eligible for four free lateral credits for SPAN 101.)
 - b. Earn grades of B or higher in each course.
 - c. Submit a Lateral Credits Petition (<https://arts-sciences.und.edu/academics/languages/placement-credit.html>).
2. Credits earned through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam will be offered to students who want to get credit for previous language experience without taking additional courses (see UND CLEP listing (<https://und.edu/admissions/freshmen/advanced-coursework.html#d14e117-2>)).
3. Credits earned through the completion of a French, German, Latin, or Spanish Advanced placement course will be awarded with the appropriate test score. AP credit is normally equivalent to Levels I and II (LANG 101 and LANG 102) in that language (AP Listing (<https://und.edu/admissions/freshmen/advanced-coursework.html#d14e117-1>)).
4. Credits earned through the completion of the transfer credit equivalent to the language credit at UND will be awarded.

Receiving these credits will enable the student to:

1. Apply them toward the total number of credits required for graduation, and
2. Apply them, where applicable, toward fulfillment of Essential Studies Humanities requirements. For example, 101/102/201/202 courses in all languages taught at UND fulfill 4 credits each toward the Humanities requirement of the Fine Arts & Humanities Breadth of Knowledge category of Essential Studies. (Note: Lateral and test credits do NOT count toward fulfillment of the Special Emphasis requirements in Essential Studies.)
3. Apply them toward the major, minor, or certificate in one of the language programs, International Studies, or any other degree with a language requirement.

Native speakers of a language other than English, who wish to take classes in that language, may enroll without special permission in any 400-level course, or in any 300-level course that emphasizes literary or cultural topics. Incoming students whose native language (as indicated on their TOEFL exam) is one offered at UND should consult with the Chair of the Languages & Global Studies about automatic approval.

Additional PLA requests

Additional opportunities for PLA must be made at the PLA request link. PLA is available only for specific courses in the areas offered. Please discuss PLA possibilities with your professional academic advisor and or faculty mentor to determine the appropriate route.

The fee for any PLA request below must be paid upon the Department’s acceptance to review (i.e., the fee is paid regardless of whether or not credit is awarded). The PLA request fee is determined by the number of credits being requested at a rate of 50% of base tuition for those credits. UND offers Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) for course credit in the following ways:

Portfolio Review

An enrolled student may submit a request for portfolio review to receive PLA for credit. Only those departments or courses listed in the central request link

are available for portfolio review. Some departments offer course credit to help students prepare portfolios for PLA. See your academic advisor to inquire about this opportunity. All portfolio submissions should aim to identify the ways in which the student has met the learning outcomes indicated for the course and should include the following materials:

1. A learning narrative indicating the activities engaged in and the outcomes learned for which the portfolio is being submitted.
2. Resume or CV.
3. Supporting documentation such as letters of recommendation, samples of work, certifications earned, etc.
4. Departments may request responses to specific questions as they pertain to the course request as Part of the Process.