

Discussed and approved
at Cabinet, April 7, 2021

**Transfer Admissions Requirements
Policy Revision Request
March 26, 2021**

Goal

Western Oregon University strives to make the transfer process as streamlined and advantageous for students as possible.

Current Transfer Admissions Requirements:

Western Oregon University strives to make the transfer process as simple and advantageous as possible for every student. Students who are considering a move to WOU must meet these requirements:

- Complete 36 or more transferable, college-level credits on a quarter-based system or 24 college-level credits on a semester-based system.
- Maintain a minimum 2.25 cumulative GPA in all college-level work.
- Complete a writing course (Writing 121 or the equivalent) with a grade of C- or better.
- Complete a college algebra course (Math 111 or the equivalent), or Math 105 or the equivalent, or above, with a grade of C- or better.
- Maintain good academic, financial, and disciplinary standing at all institutions attended.

Oregon Public Institutions Transfer Admissions Requirements:

At some Oregon public universities, Writing and Math requirements for transfer are different from WOU:

- **OSU and U of O** have the same transfer requirements as WOU
- **EOU** does not require MTH or WR for admission
- **SOU** does not require MTH or WR for admission but has a second language admissions requirement
- **PSU** requires WR 121 with a C- or better
- **OIT** requires MTH 95 or higher and WR 115 or higher with C- or better

Policy Revision Request:

We recommend that WOU remove MTH 105 or MTH 111 and WR 121 as admissions requirements to better align WOU with our TRU peers.

Rationale for the Policy revision:

- WOU does make exceptions to its WR and MTH requirements upon student request but we do not proactively communicate the opportunity for exceptions to all prospective students. By removing these requirements, all students who meet the other admission requirements will have the same access to a WOU education, irrespective of their confidence in asking for special treatment.

- In recent years, WOU faculty have made significant investments in entry-level mathematics and writing curriculum. For example, the creation of MTH 110, an applied algebra course that is directly relevant to a number of natural sciences, social science and pre-professional fields, has created an invaluable pathway to quantitative literacy skills and graduation for students who struggled in the more abstract MTH 111. Math 110¹ is unique to WOU, and we welcome students to complete their math general education requirements with this innovative course. Similarly, the First Year Writing program has made great strides in strengthening WR 121 and 122, with a focus on writing about writing. This too is a place where we welcome all students to complete their General Education writing requirement.
- The revision may reduce excessive math completed. Community colleges often require prerequisites to MTH 105 that WOU does not require. Transfer students also discover that they took the wrong math class, or an unnecessary class, once they are in their WOU degree program, including students in BAS programs.

Possible concerns

Some may believe that removing the Math and Writing requirements for transfer students will signal that WOU is less rigorous. Rigor for the sake of appearances, but at the expense of access and equity, is not our institutional goal. Changing these requirements makes us more accessible and attractive to transfer students, especially adult learners and those with some college/no degree who may have been out of college longer but bring other skills, knowledge and experiences that position them for academic success. To become the most transfer-friendly institution in Oregon, we would do well to align ourselves with the realities of the students we serve and be confident in the new pathways and supports we have established for our students in Writing and Math.

If this policy revision is approved, we recommend the following Implementation strategies to transparently communicate this change:

- Work with MarCom on a press release
- Use the communication hub to announce this to all faculty and staff
- Present this information to Faculty Senate and University Council
- Send email to all prospects using Admissions CRM system Slate communicating this change
- Transfer Pathways will email Chief Academic Officers (CAO's)/Provost level administrators at our partner institutions.
- Update the website to reflect this change

¹ Programs that allow for the use of MTH 110 include, ASL, Anthropology, Art & Design, Business, Communication Studies, Contemporary Music, Criminal Justice, Dance, Earth Science, Economics, Early Childhood Studies, English Studies, Geography, German Studies, Gerontology, History, Humanities, International Studies, Liberal Studies, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Policy and Administration, Social Science, Sociology, Spanish, Sustainability, The Arts, and Theater Arts.