

2026 Transfer & Current UW Student Departmental Admissions Rubric

This document contains the rubric for the Allen School 2026 transfer and current UW student admissions cycles. We share this information as a tool to help applicants craft the strongest possible departmental application into the UW's Computer Science & Computer Engineering majors.

Note for transfer applicants only: In order to be eligible for Allen School transfer admissions, transfer applicants must also apply to the University of Washington using the UW transfer application, which is reviewed separately by the UW Office of Admissions. *The information below reflects only Allen School admissions criteria.*

The Allen School accepts transfer and current UW student applications for students to start in spring and autumn quarters. We do not accept applications for winter nor summer quarters. If you're unsure of your application type, please review [our website](#) for additional information.

The Allen School completes a holistic review of each eligible application. The holistic review process considers both academic achievement and personal characteristics. Applications are read by the Allen School Undergraduate Admissions Committee, which is composed of Allen School faculty and staff.

This rubric outlines the factors considered when assessing transfer and current UW student admissions applications.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

The Academic Assessment is based on information available in the student's academic record. Although we take into consideration the student's entire academic record, we look heavily at how well students have done in their recent prerequisite subject area (English Composition/Writing, Computer Science, Math, and Natural Science) courses, including courses in these subject areas that students choose to take beyond the [transfer](#) or [current UW student](#) prerequisite courses.

Extenuating circumstances are not considered when completing the initial academic assessment.

Initial Academic Assessment

1. **Cumulative GPA (10% of overall final academic score)**
 - a. The cumulative GPA is calculated as a weighted average across all college transcripts taking into consideration credits taken and overall GPA from each school.
2. **Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA (50% of overall final academic score)**
 - a. The Allen School strongly considers grades in our Prerequisite Subject Areas (English Composition/Writing, Computer Science, Math, and Natural Science). The **Combined Prerequisite Subject Area Course GPA** computes the average grade of up to five courses in each subject area and then calculates an average of those averages.
 - i. To calculate the **Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA**, the GPA for up to five courses in each subject area will be added together and divided by the number of courses in that subject area.
 1. For example, if a student has taken five English Composition/Writing courses, we would add the grades from each of those courses together and divide by five, which is the total number of courses. We would then do the same for Computer Science, Math, and Natural Science to determine the subject area average GPA for each of those subject areas. Example: If your last 5 math classes were as follows:
 - a. Autumn '25, Math 208 (grade=3.4)

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- b. Spring '25, Math 207 (grade=3.5)
 - c. Winter' 25, Math 126 (grade=3.8)
 - d. Autumn '24, Math 125 (grade=3.2)
 - e. Spring '24, Math 124 (grade=3.1)
 - f. You would add $3.4 + 3.5 + 3.8 + 3.2 + 3.1 = 17$ then divide by 5 for the five math classes. The math subject area GPA = 3.4
 2. From there, the subject area averages are added together and divided by the number of subject areas to get the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA.
Example:
 - a. English Average = 3.5
 - b. CSE Average = 3.7
 - c. Math Average = 3.4
 - d. Science Average = 3.4
 - e. You would add $3.5 + 3.7 + 3.4 + 3.4 = 14$ then divide by 4 = 3.5
 3. If a student does not have graded credit for a particular subject area, we will ignore that subject area for this GPA. For example, if a student only has AP PHYS C and no other Natural Science coursework, then we will sum their English Composition/Writing, Computer Science, and Math subject area averages and divide by 3.
- b. Considerations when calculating the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA:
 - i. Up to five courses will be considered in each prerequisite subject area, beginning with the most recent numerically graded course. If a student has not taken five courses in one or more subject areas, the courses that are available are considered.
 1. If a student has fewer than 5 courses in any prerequisite subject area, the student will not be penalized. Many students will have fewer than 5 graded courses in one or more prerequisite subject areas. In this case, we consider all graded courses in that area, and divide by the number of counted courses.
 2. If a student has more than 5 courses in any prerequisite subject area, only the five most recent in order from most to least recent will be considered. If there are 2 or more courses in an academic term such that some of them "fit" within the five most recent and some do not, we include the course(s) with the higher grades until the 5-course-limit is reached.
 3. If a student only has AP, IB, or A Level credit for one or more of the subject areas, that credit will not be considered as we only consider graded credits in the academic assessment; however, that credit can be used to meet the prerequisite application requirements.
 4. If a student has repeated a prerequisite subject area course and both attempts are within the 5 most recent graded courses, we use the grade from both attempts and this counts as 2 of the 5 most recent courses. In general, we recommend taking the next available course in a sequence rather than repeating coursework for a higher grade as long as students feel confident that they have the knowledge foundation to pursue the more advanced course.
 5. If a transcript has letter grades, we convert the letter grade to a numerical grade using the chart below:

A	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3
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A-	3.7	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
		B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

6. If a transcript has percentage grades, we convert the percentage grade to a numerical grade using the chart below:

93-100	4.0	77-79	2.3
90-92	3.7	73-76	2.0
87-89	3.3	70-72	1.7
83-86	3.0	67-69	1.3
80-82	2.7	60-66	1.0
		<59	0.0

7. Excluded courses

- a. We do not include grades for natural science lab courses where the lab was graded separately. Only the course grade will be used in this circumstance.
- b. We do not include courses [below the prerequisite level](#).
- c. We do not include courses without a numerical grade.

3. Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA (40% of overall final academic score)

- a. The **Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA** is calculated by summing the **most-recent graded prerequisite subject area course** from each prerequisite subject area (English Composition/Writing, Computer Science, Math, and Natural Science) and dividing by the number of subject areas.
 - i. The courses used to calculate the **Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA** are included in both the **Combined Prerequisite Subject Area Course GPA** and the **Cumulative GPA**. These courses tend to be among the most predictive of how students will perform academically in the Allen School so they carry added weight in our holistic review.
- b. Specific considerations when calculating the Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA:
 - i. If a student does not have graded credit for a particular subject area, we will ignore that subject area for this GPA. For example, if a student only has AP PHYS C then we will sum their most recent English Composition/Writing, Computer Science, and Math and divide by 3.
 - ii. If 2 or more courses in the same prerequisite subject area are the most recent (i.e., the same academic term), the course with the highest grade will be used.
 - iii. Excluded courses
 1. We do not include grades for natural science lab courses where the lab was graded separately. Only the course grade will be used in this circumstance.
 2. We do not include courses [below the prerequisite level](#).
 3. We do not include courses without a numerical grade.

After the Initial Academic Assessment is calculated, Academic Adjustments are applied as appropriate.

Academic Adjustment Considerations	
Assessment Categories	
	Irregularities (-0.2)

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Grading Irregularities	<p>All courses & grades are reviewed for grading irregularities (e.g. withdrawals including Registration Drops (RDs), incompletes, Non-Satisfactory (NS)/No-Credit (NC) grades, etc.).</p> <p>The Grading Irregularities adjustment is applied if there are two or more quarters with at least one grading irregularity.</p>
Strength (+0.1)	
Honors Coursework	<p>All courses are reviewed to identify any designated as honors courses (e.g. MATH 13X series).</p> <p>The Honors Coursework adjustment is applied if there are multiple (at least 2) honors courses total across their schedule.</p>

PERSONAL SCORE

- The Personal Score considers a student's experiences and personal traits.

Initial Personal Qualities Assessment Score:

The Initial Personal Qualities Assessment Score is evaluated using the following rubric.

Initial Personal Qualities Assessment Scores	
Personal Statement & Activities	
Score	Rationale
1	<p>Missing/Concerning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No compelling information provided Multiple sections missing Essay is very poorly written and difficult to understand Offensive or concerning themes
1.5	<p>Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited information provided All sections are complete, but responses lack depth or clarity Writing is disorganized or unclear No offensive or concerning themes, but lacks meaningful insight
2	<p>Meets Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sections completed satisfactorily Typical experiences and reflections
2.5	<p>Partially Exceeds Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sections completed satisfactory; some unique or personal insights are shared that are above typical, but not consistently

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3	<p>Strong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares outstanding personal experiences or perspectives and/or • Explains barriers that impacted academics; must explain the impact, not just 'what happened and/or • Identifies significant responsibilities
3.5	<p>Compelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong content that aligns with strong rationale with emerging reflection that highlights impact • Shows clear depth and understanding
4	<p>Truly Exceptional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The essay content is <i>exceptional</i>. The student shares outstanding personal experiences or perspectives, reflecting on the impact that they have had on them and/or the actions that they've taken.

Adjusted Personal Qualities Assessment Score:

1. The Personal Quality Adjustments are awarded based on information provided by the UW Office of Admissions from the student's university admissions application.

Personal Qualities Adjustment Considerations			
	(+0)	+0.5	+1.0
Additional Factors	No additional factors	Student is either a first-generation college student or from a low-income background	Student is both a first generation college student and from a low-income background