2027 Transfer & Current UW Student Departmental Admissions Rubric

Students can apply for transfer admissions or current UW student admissions into the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering using the Capacity-Constrained Application. Applicants must complete all minimum academic requirements for their intended admissions pathway before applying. Applications are reviewed by the Allen School Admissions Committee, which includes Allen School faculty and staff.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

The academic assessment is based on information available in the student's academic record. Applicants are required to submit transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, even if no credit was earned. Failure to disclose and submit transcripts may result in denial of admission or dismissal from the UW.

Extenuating circumstances are not considered when completing the initial or adjusted academic assessment. Admissions readers may flag applications that warrant additional discussion.

Initial Academic Assessment

The initial academic assessment consists of three calculated GPAs: Cumulative GPA (10% of the initial academic assessment), Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA (50% of the initial academic assessment), and Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA (40% of the initial academic assessment).

1. **Cumulative GPA**
    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**
    a. The Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA is calculated by (1) taking an average of up to five recent course grades in each of the Allen School prerequisite subject areas (Math, Computer Science, English Composition/Writing, and Natural Science) and then (2) calculating the average of those averages.
        i. Identify the 5 most recent numerically graded courses in each prerequisite subject area, excluding coursework that is below prerequisite level. If fewer than 5 courses are identified, proceed using all identified courses; this is common. For each prerequisite subject area, add the grades for each identified course together and divide by the number of courses in that subject area.
        ii. Add the subject area GPA for each subject area together and divide by the number of subject areas. If a student does not have any graded credit for a particular subject area (e.g. the student only has AP PHYS C and no other Natural Science coursework), omit that subject area and calculate an average across the remaining subject areas.

3. **Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA**
    a. The Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA is calculated by taking an average of the most recent course in each prerequisite subject area (Math, Computer Science, English

Composition/Writing, and Natural Science). *Note: 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.*

i. Identify the most recent numerically graded course in each prerequisite subject area, excluding coursework that is below prerequisite level. Like in the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA calculation, if a student does not have any graded credit for a particular subject area, omit that subject area and calculate an average across the remaining subject areas. Add these grades together and divide by the number of subject areas.

Adjusted Academic Assessment

After the initial academic assessment score is calculated, academic adjustments are applied as appropriate using the adjustment considerations listed below.

Academic Adjustment Considerations	
Assessment Categories	
	Irregularities (-0.2)
Grading Irregularities	All courses & grades are reviewed for grading irregularities (e.g. withdrawals including Registration Drops (RDs), incompletes, Non-Satisfactory (NS)/No-Credit (NC) grades, etc.). The Grading Irregularities adjustment is applied if there are **two or more quarters** with at least one grading irregularity.
	Strength (+0.1)
Honors Coursework	All courses are reviewed to identify any designated as honors courses (e.g. MATH 13X series). The Honors Coursework adjustment is applied if there are **multiple (at least 2)** honors courses total across their schedule.

PERSONAL QUALITIES ASSESSMENT

The personal qualities assessment considers a student's experiences and personal traits, aiming to identify particular areas of strength. Examples of strengths may include, but are not limited to, mature and well-defined academic and career goals, significant achievements, impactful contributions to community, or perseverance in attaining higher education in spite of adverse circumstances.

TRANSFER & CURRENT UW ADMISSIONS RUBRIC

Transfer students, particularly those who are aiming to transfer from four-year or out-of-state institutions, are encouraged to share any compelling reasons why they wish to enroll at the UW and the Allen School specifically.

Initial Personal Qualities Assessment

The initial personal qualities assessment is based on information found in the writing and activities/work history sections of the application. Applicants must complete all required sections of the application. Completing optional writing sections is encouraged when applicable.

Initial Personal Qualities Assessment Scores	
Personal Statement & Activities	
Score	**Rationale**
1	**Missing/Concerning** • No compelling information provided • Multiple sections missing • Essay is very poorly written and difficult to understand • Offensive or concerning themes
1.5	**Limited** • 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	**Meets Expectations** • All sections completed satisfactorily • Typical experiences and reflections
2.5	**Partially Exceeds Expectations** • All sections completed satisfactory; some unique or personal insights are shared that are above typical, but not consistently
3	**Strong** • 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	**Compelling** • Strong content that aligns with strong rationale with emerging reflection that highlights impact • Shows clear depth and understanding

Last update: November 2026 by Admissions Policy Committee

4	**Truly Exceptional** • The essay content is *exceptional*. 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

After the initial personal qualities assessment score is calculated, personal qualities adjustments are applied as appropriate based on information provided by the UW Office of Admissions from the student's university admissions application.

Personal Qualities Adjustment Considerations			
	(+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

2027 Transfer & Current UW Student Departmental Admissions Rubric - Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I have fewer than 5 courses in each prerequisite subject area?

This is common! Many applicants will have multiple prerequisite subject areas with fewer than five courses. There is no penalty for having fewer than 5 courses. When calculating your Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA in this case, we will consider all of the numerically graded courses you have taken in that subject area, excluding courses that are below our prerequisite level, and then we will divide by the number of courses you had in that area.

For example, if your only Natural Science course was PHYS 121 and you received a 3.8, we would only use one course in that calculation. 3.8/1 = 3.8, so 3.8 would be your Natural Science subject area GPA.

Last update: November 2026 by Admissions Policy Committee

What happens if I have no numerically graded courses in one (or more) prerequisite subject areas?

That is ok! We have seen many students who have completed all of their courses in one (or more) subject areas through credit by exam (such as AP, IB, or A-Level credit) before starting at a college or university. These students will have no numerically graded courses, but they will be eligible to apply! In this case, we would calculate both your Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA and your Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA without the missing subject areas.

To check if your credit by exam coursework is transferable to the University of Washington, please check the Credit by Exam guide. For transfer applicants, note that credit by exam will transfer based on the credit by exam guide and not how your courses were evaluated at your previous institution. Note that it is not possible to earn credit for English Composition through credit by exam at the University of Washington. Transfer applicants who only have coursework from foreign universities in non-English speaking countries may apply without English Composition.

What happens if I have more than 5 courses in one prerequisite subject area?

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 when calculating the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA. 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.

What happens if I have two courses in the same quarter as my most recent grades in a prerequisite subject area?

In this case, we will use the course(s) with the highest grade as your most recent course. The other course would count only in the 5 most recent courses that make up the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA for that prerequisite subject area. If the grades match, then the courses would be averaged together as your most recent course.

How is repeated coursework evaluated?

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.

TRANSFER & CURRENT UW ADMISSIONS RUBRIC

Is transfer coursework evaluated using the course prefix from my transfer institution or based on the course evaluation for UW?

This is one of the few areas where coursework is considered differently based on the admissions pathway that you are applying to:

- **Transfer Applicants:** Your courses will be evaluated based on the course prefix that is printed on your transfer transcript, regardless of how the course may transfer after you enter the UW
- **Current UW Student Applicants:** Since your transferable coursework has already been evaluated by the UW, your courses will be evaluated based on the course prefix printed on your UW transcript. If you have taken courses at another institution after starting at the UW, you should submit your updated transcript to the UW and request to have your transferable credit evaluated as soon as your grades are available.

I am a transfer applicant and my coursework used letter or percentage grades. How will these be converted into the GPA system?

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
A-	3.7	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
		B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

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

For admissions purposes, a grade is a grade. We do not have capacity to evaluate how every school's grading system might map onto the UW's grading system. If your early grades from a previous institution do not reflect your academic abilities, we would encourage you to consider pursuing additional coursework in the same subject area as the lower grade(s) before transferring.

Last update: November 2026 by Admissions Policy Committee

Are natural science lab courses considered in the Natural Science subject area if they were graded separately from the natural science course?

Usually, no, 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. However, lab courses with very high (3+ credit) credit loads may be considered separately at the discretion of the Admissions Policy Committee.

What does “below prerequisite level” mean?

The prerequisite courses for Allen School transfer & current UW student admissions are listed below for your reference:

- Mathematics (Calculus Series): MATH 124, 125, 126
- Intro to Programming II (Java): CSE 123 or CSE 143
- English Composition (5 credits)
- Natural Science (5 credits) different for CS/CE
    - COMPUTER SCIENCE: PHYS 121, CHEM 142, BIOL 180 OR a similar course from the CS Natural Science Approved List
    - COMPUTER ENGINEERING: PHYS 121 (Physics mechanics)

Courses that are below the level of the earliest prerequisite course (e.g. precalculus courses, algebra-based physics courses, science survey courses, etc.) are considered below prerequisite level.

For the Computer Science subject area specifically, CSE 121 (or equivalent) courses and other 100-level courses outside of the Allen School’s introductory computing sequence are considered to be below prerequisite level. However, CSE 122 is considered to be at prerequisite level and will be considered in the Combined Prerequisite Subject Area GPA and Most-Recent Prerequisite Subject Area GPA, as appropriate.

How are courses that are related to, but not part of, the prerequisite subject areas counted?

Courses that are somewhat related to, but not part of, our prerequisite subject areas (e.g. STAT or IT courses) are not considered prerequisite subject area coursework. However, for current UW students, cross-listed courses that can be taken through either CSE or another department on campus may be considered.

Do courses with Composition (C) or Writing (W) designations count in the English Composition subject area?

Generally, yes! The English Composition subject area will include all courses with an ENGL prefix (or similar at transfer institutions, e.g. WRIT), and most courses with a composition or writing designation. However, courses that are already counting in another prerequisite subject area (physics courses with a

writing designation, for example) will only count in the subject area associated with the course prefix. These courses will not be 'double counted'.

Do all science courses count in the Natural Science prerequisite subject area?

No! To keep our admissions process simple, only courses with PHYS, CHEM, and BIOL prefixes (or the most similar at transfer institutions) will count in the Natural Science prerequisite subject area. While there are plenty of other rigorous courses in related science areas available, we do not have the capacity to individually evaluate each area. This policy stands regardless of which Allen School major a student is applying to.