

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Prepared for the U-M International Center Pre-Departure Orientation 2021

### 1. What is the LSA distribution requirement?

[Distribution is the hallmark of a liberal arts degree.](#) LSA undergraduates study a broad range of subjects outside of their majors. These 30 credits are distributed as follows:

- 7 credits of natural sciences
- 7 credits of humanities
- 7 credits of social sciences
- Plus 3 credits in any 3 of these areas (9 credits total): natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, math and symbolic analysis, creative expression, and interdisciplinary

### 2. How many credits can I transfer to U-M?

A [maximum of 60 credits](#) may be transferred to U-M from other institutions. In order to reach the 120-credit graduation minimum, at least 60 credits must be earned at U-M Ann Arbor. There is one exception: if an associate's degree that requires 62 credits has been completed, then up to 62 credits are transferable, and only 58 UM-Ann Arbor credits are required for graduation.

In order for classes to be eligible for transfer, they must 1) be taken at an accredited institution, 2) match academic work taught at U-M Ann Arbor, and 3) have a final grade of C or higher.

If a student has completed more than 60 credits that are eligible for transfer, then all of these transferrable credits may be used to fulfill various requirements, even though the credit hours don't count towards the 120-credit graduation minimum.

For example, a student completes 80 credits at another school, and the U-M admissions office determines that 70 credits are transferable and 10 credits are not. All 70 transferable credits are listed on the student's U-M transcript and may be used to fulfill requirements, like major classes or distribution, if appropriate. The student's credit total, however, is capped at 60. The student must still complete at least 60 credits at U-M Ann Arbor in order to reach the 120-credit graduation minimum.

Credit evaluators in the U-M admissions office evaluate classes taken at other institutions and determine whether or not the credits are eligible for transfer. If they need additional information, they will ask you to provide official class descriptions.

If you believe that a non-transferable class actually meets the transfer credit criteria, then you may meet with an academic department's major advisor and provide information such as an official class description and syllabus. If the department determines that the class should be eligible for transfer, then they'll instruct the admissions office credit evaluators to accept the class.

Once transferable credits appear on a student's U-M transcript, then academic advisors can assess whether or not they fulfill specific requirements. Requirements are overseen by various LSA units and departments:

**Writing:** The [Sweetland Center for Writing](#) determines if a transfer class meets the first-year writing requirement (FYWR).

**Race and ethnicity (RE), quantitative reasoning (QR), and distribution requirements:** [LSA Newnan Academic Advising Center](#) advisors determine if transfer classes meet skills and distribution requirements. For RE and QR, students must submit a written petition to the Newnan Center. For distribution, a Newnan advisor will make the determination based on the course description.

**Major or minor:** Each [academic department has its own major advisors](#). Only the academic department and its major advisors can determine if a transfer class fulfills a major or minor requirement.

### 3. How can I get involved in research?

The process to get involved in research is the same for both international and domestic students. You may approach specific professors or go through a program like the [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program \(UROP\)](#) to find a research project. Depending on the research project, you may be paid for your work or you may earn academic credit.

### 4. When do I register for classes?

You'll register for fall classes on your [Wolverine Online Orientation](#) Academic Advising Date. If you're a [transfer student](#), you'll register for your classes during your appointment with a Newnan advisor. If you're a [first-year student](#), you'll meet with a Newnan advisor and then register for classes with the help of Academic Peer Advisors (APAs). Your Academic Advising Date is scheduled sometime between mid-May and early August. The Office of New Student Programs (ONSP) will invite you to sign up for orientation and provide you with instructions on how to prepare for your appointment. Your preparation includes completing online tutorials, taking placement exams, and identifying prospective classes in the LSA Course Guide.

### **5. Is it possible to take classes offered by another U-M college?**

Yes, you may take classes offered by other colleges on campus, such as the Stamps School of Art & Design or the College of Engineering, as long as you have the appropriate academic preparation or class prerequisites. Some colleges like the School of Music, Theatre, and the Arts (SMTD) offer classes intended for non-majors. In general, however, most colleges give their own students priority and often reserve seats for them.

[A maximum of 20 credits that count towards the 120 graduation minimum may be non-LSA \(or non-liberal arts\)](#) subjects such as art, business, and engineering. Students may take more than 20 non-LSA credits if they choose to do so, but, again, only 20 credits are counted towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

### **6. What's the difference between the LSA and the Engineering computer science majors?**

[LSA and Engineering students majoring in computer science](#) take the same core classes. The major in Engineering requires an additional 10 technical elective credits and 5 technical writing and presentation credits.

The LSA and Engineering majors are similar, but there is a significant difference in what students take beyond major requirements. LSA students fulfill liberal arts requirements such as second language proficiency and 30 credits distributed across the natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, math and symbolic analysis, and creative expression.

### **7. How can I transfer to the Ross School of Business?**

In order to [apply to transfer to the business school](#), you must complete the following by the end of winter term:

- First-year writing requirement (may be a transfer class)
- Introductory or multivariable calculus (may be a transfer class)
- Introductory microeconomics (may be a transfer class)
- Full-time enrollment in your most recent year of college enrollment

Cross-campus transfer applications are available in December and are due by March 31. Decisions are made after winter term grades are posted. Students are notified via email by late June.

### **8. How can I complete a dual degree with LSA and Ross?**

To pursue [dual degrees in LSA and the Ross School of Business](#), students must first be admitted to both colleges. LSA students, therefore, follow the standard cross-campus transfer application procedure for the business school.