

## Transfer Applicants

Caltech welcomes applications for transfer admission. Previous transfer students have contributed much to the campus community and have also been extraordinarily successful in research and in the classroom. The Admissions Committee seeks to continue this record of success by attracting an accomplished and talented group of transfer students each year.

Students who have completed their secondary-school education and have subsequently enrolled at a college for credit will be considered for transfer admission.

**Note:** Caltech admits transfer students for the fall term only.

### Transfer Admissions Profile:

Caltech admits transfer students from all regions of the world, and from many kinds of post-secondary institutions. Caltech seeks the most qualified students, regardless of the type of institution from which they come. The table below describes a few combined characteristics of five recent transfer applicant pools:

Five-year Totals 2002-2007	Applicants	Admits
Total	705	60
U.S. 2-year institution	320	31
U.S. 4-year institution	229	12
Non-U.S. institution	156	15

### Eligibility Criteria for Admission

The Institute admits to its sophomore and junior classes a small number of students who have excellent records at other institutions of collegiate rank and

who perform satisfactorily on the Caltech Transfer Admissions Entrance Examinations.

- Students must have completed their secondary school education, and have subsequently enrolled at a college or university and earned credit, in order to be considered for transfer admission.
- Transfer students are not admitted to the senior year at Caltech.
- Students who have already completed a bachelor's degree in any subject are not eligible for transfer.

### Academic Preparation

It is expected that transfer students will have had exposure to **mathematics and physics** courses on a level comparable to those at Caltech prior to entry. The Upper Class Admissions Committee strongly recommends that all applicants complete at least **one year of college-level calculus and calculus-based physics before applying**. A detailed list of Caltech first-year and second-year courses is available on the **Transfer Application**. Any of the core courses that have not been covered by incoming transfer students must be taken upon matriculation at Caltech. Humanities and social-science courses may cover a broad range of topics; there are no specific course requirements.

### Testing Requirements

**SAT/ACT:** Transfer applicants are NOT required to submit SAT or ACT scores. **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language):** The TOEFL is required of transfer applicants who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States and whose native language is not English. The TOEFL should be taken by

the January sitting. International students who have studied in the United States for two or more years are exempt from taking the TOEFL.

### Evaluation of Written English

All entering students will be required to undergo an evaluation of their written English prior to enrolling as transfer students.

### Transfer Entrance Examinations

All applicants are required to take **Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations** in mathematics and physics. Instructions for obtaining the examinations are included on the Transfer Applications, and they are taken after the application has been submitted to Caltech. Performance on the entrance exams will be evaluated in the context of the applicant's preparation in the field, although one year of university-level mathematics (basic calculus) and physics (mechanics and electromagnetism) are assumed. Students must find a proctor at their home institution to administer the exam. The math exam is four hours and the physics exam is three hours. Copies of previous transfer exams are not available.

### Topics Covered on Transfer Exams

*Not all topics will be found on the exam; however, the list should be used to help transfer students prepare for the exam.*

**Physics:** Newtonian mechanics (motion, vectors, trajectories, Newton's laws, forces), work and energy, energy conservation, momentum, rigid rotations, angular momentum, harmonic motion, resonance, gravity, Kepler orbits, ellipses, electric fields and potentials, Gauss's Law, current resistance, capacitance, inductance, magnetic fields, Faraday's

law, AC and DC circuits, and special relativity.

**Math:** Basic calculus, Taylor polynomials, series, linear algebra (systems of equations, vectors and matrices, determinants, vector spaces, transformations, eigenvalues), vector calculus (multiple integrals, line and path integrals), theorems of Green and Stokes, and differential equations.

### Core Curriculum

The following is a list of the Caltech **core curriculum**, taken by all Caltech students during their first two years. Any of the following core courses that have not been covered by incoming transfer students must be taken upon matriculation to Caltech. There are no specific topics expected to have been covered in humanities and social science classes.

#### Freshman courses:

- *Mathematics 1 abc.* Calculus of One and Several Variables and linear Algebra
- *Physics 1 abc.* Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism
- *Chemistry 1 ab.* General Chemistry
- *Chemistry 3 a.* Fundamental Techniques of Experimental Chemistry
- *Biology 1.* The Biology and Biophysics of Viruses
- Humanities and Social Science electives
- Menu science class

#### Sophomore courses:

- *Mathematics 2 ab.* Differential Equations, Probability and Statistics
- *Physics 2 ab or Physics 12 abc.* Waves, Quantum Mechanics, and Statistical Physics
- Additional laboratory science
- Humanities and Social Science electives

## Application Forms and Requirements

The **Transfer Application and Transfer Application Instructions** are available to download on our website:  
[www.admissions.caltech.edu/applying/](http://www.admissions.caltech.edu/applying/)

We require:

- a completed application
- letters of evaluation
- an official transcript from the last secondary school attended and all colleges or universities attended
- descriptions of all college-level math and science courses
- completion of the Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations.

## Financial Aid

Financial Aid is currently available only for transfer students who are US Citizens or permanent residents (i.e., have a Green Card).

## Transfer of Credit

The courses for which enrolling transfer students will receive credit will be determined at the time of enrollment. Faculty members review each student's achievement on an individual basis, and after a placement examination has been taken. It is not possible, to determine in advance the acceptability of course work taken elsewhere.

## Housing

Housing may be available for transfer students, although it is not guaranteed. For more information on housing, please visit the Housing Department's website:  
<http://www.housing.caltech.edu/>

### Deadlines for Transfers entering Fall 2010

**February 12, 2010**

Application materials postmarked by this date

**Week of March 8, 2010**

Transfer placement exams will be distributed to proctors

**April 1, 2010**

Transfer Admissions Entrance Examinations must be **completed and received** by Caltech by this date

**Early May 2010**

Notification of admission decisions

**June 1, 2010**

Reply to offer of Admission due

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Need-to-Know Info

