Transfer students are an important and highly valued part of the Columbia community. Here is what you need to know about the transfer application process:

Each year, we admit a small group of transfer students to Columbia College and Columbia Engineering. Because space in the sophomore and junior classes is limited, admission is highly selective.

Transfer applicants, like first-year applicants, are reviewed within the context of a holistic evaluation. That means admission to Columbia is not based on a simple formula of grades and test scores. Instead, we consider a variety of factors: the student’s secondary and post-secondary academic record, extracurricular interests, intellectual achievements and personal background.

To be eligible to enroll as a transfer student at Columbia, you must have completed, by the time of matriculation, 24 points of credit (the equivalent of one year of full-time study) at another institution, as well as have earned a high school diploma or equivalent (by the application deadline). If you left high school without receiving a diploma in order to attend an early college program, you are not eligible for transfer admission and must apply as a first-year student.
Transfer Eligibility

- Potential transfers are expected to have a minimum GPA of 3.5 overall; Columbia Engineering candidates are strongly encouraged to have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in their mathematics and science courses.
- Potential applicants to Columbia College who have taken a break of more than a full year in their educations after high school, or those who wish to attend part time, should consider instead Columbia University’s School of General Studies.

Housing

- Housing is guaranteed for all transfer students for the entirety of their time at Columbia.
- Transfer students are housed with their class in upperclass residence halls.

Transfer Credit

- No more than 64 points in Columbia College or 68 points in Columbia Engineering will be awarded as transfer credit, including points earned through AP or IB examinations.
- We do not grant credit for college courses taken before a student’s graduation from high school.
- Course credit is not given for accelerated early college programs except for credit earned through standardized examinations (e.g., AP, IB, A-level exams); such credit will be limited to 16 points, which is equivalent to one full semester at Columbia.
- Transfer credit evaluation occurs at the time of acceptance. We cannot review transcripts and/or courses for transfer prior to application.

Financial Aid

- Full Need - We meet 100% of the demonstrated financial need for all admitted transfer students.
- No Loans - Our need-based aid is in the form of grants and student work only.

Application Requirements

- Coalition Application
- Official high school transcripts from all schools attended
- Official college transcripts from all institutions attended
- Coalition Application Transfer Report
- Coalition Application Curriculum Report
- SAT or ACT
- Two College Academic Recommendations

Please note that we offer fall admission only. The application deadline is March 1.