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.
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.

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.

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
- Two College Academic Recommendations
- SAT or ACT with writing not required for 2021-22 application cycle

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