

Credit by Examination

Students may challenge courses by taking examinations developed at California State University, Fresno. Credit shall be awarded to those who pass them successfully.

Fresno State grants undergraduate degree credit for successful completion of noncollegiate instruction, either military or civilian, appropriate to the baccalaureate degree, which has been recommended by the Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials of the American Council on Education. The number of units allowed are those recommended in the Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experience in the Armed Services and the National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs.

Credit by examination is designed to encourage regularly enrolled students to seek college credit in courses in which they have competence but for which credit has not been earned by the usual academic processes. This permits students to accelerate their progress and provides an opportunity for wider selection of coursework. The following procedures should be followed:

1. With the concurrence of the department, students may apply for credit by examination in any course in our current *General Catalog* for which they appear to be reasonably qualified by training or experience and for which college credit has not been previously allowed. Credit by examination is not awarded if credit has been granted for previous coursework more advanced than the level represented by the examination in question. Credit by examination is not allowed in courses in which students have been permitted to register as auditors during the same semester, in which students have received a failing or no credit grade, or in which they have unsuccessfully sought credit by examination.
2. Students enroll for credit by examination at any time during the first two weeks of classes. Students must be regularly enrolled in other courses before they are granted permission to earn credit by examination. Units of credit by examination are counted as part of the total units registered for a given semester or term. Applications for credit by examination must be completed by students and approved by the respective departments.
3. The examination must be administered by the end of the fourth week of instruction, and the instructor must report the grade prior to the close of the sixth week.
4. The course in which students request credit by examination is so designated on their record. Students will receive a credit (CR) grade if the examination is passed with a C or higher grade. If they are unsuccessful, a no credit (NC) grade is reported. Units earned count toward all appropriate requirements but are not used in computing their GPA.
5. The number of units earned by credit by examination in any semester or term may not exceed the number of units completed in regular enrollment. A maximum of 30 units earned by examination may be counted toward a bachelor's degree.

Credit earned by examination *does not meet the residence requirement of the university*. For further information, consult the department concerned. See also *Advanced Placement*.

Graduate Students

Credit by examination for coursework may be used to fulfill prerequisites only and may not be applied toward the total units required for a master's degree.

Independent Study

Independent study is offered to give students experience in planning and outlining a course of study on their own initiative under departmental supervision. Independent study should deal with a special interest not covered in a regular course or with the exploration in greater depth of a subject presented in a regular course. Each department has an independent study upper - division course (190). In addition, some departments have a lower-division course (90) and/or a graduate-level course (290). To be eligible for independent study, students should have an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher. This requirement may be waived in exceptional cases, when approved by the department chair. Maximum credit of 6 units in independent study courses is allowed toward the bachelor's degree, and maximum credit of 6 units in independent study courses may be approved for use toward a 30-unit master's degree. Such credit is limited to a maximum of 3 units per semester. Under extraordinary circumstances more than 3 units per semester may be allowed on petition to the department chair.

Eligible students desiring to register for Independent Study must first obtain the consent of an instructor, who will guide the project, and the chair of the department in which the course is given. Students must register for Independent Study courses during the regular registration period in the same manner as they register for any other course at the time of registration. An independent study course normally includes an oral examination by a committee set up by the supervising instructor, a formal report that is filed in the department office, and an abstract of the study that is filed with the department chair. Approval forms and copies of the current regulations may be obtained from department, school, or college offices. The entry on the permanent record shows the discipline and course number only; the title does not appear.