

Students with previous college credits are welcome and valued members of the educational community at PNCA. Transfer students bring to the College a diversity of ideas, experience and expertise that stimulate both the creativity and growth in the classroom.

PNCA offers a comprehensive and demanding program of sequential classes that lead to a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the following majors: Graphic Design, Illustration, Animated Arts, Intermedia, Photography, Video and Sound, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Creative Writing. Much of a student's success in this program is based on the completion of PNCA's Foundation Year prior to study within a specified major. If you are a transfer student accepted for admission to the College at an advanced level (beyond Foundation Year), you must have taken courses and earned credit that reflects a foundation level experience similar to our program as outlined in our catalog. We generally accept transfer credit from colleges that are *regionally accredited*.

It is the school's intention to accept foundation level experience earned from colleges with programs that vary from PNCA's. This sometimes means that credit earned in those programs may not be equivalent to what is required at PNCA. In such cases, required courses may be waived with credit hours added to electives following transcript evaluation by the Academic Advising/Registrar's Office. Courses can be waived, but credit cannot.

For example, PNCA requires 3 credits of foundation 3-D design, where some schools require only 2 credits. We will accept those 2 credits as fulfilling our requirement, and waive the remaining course requirement, adding the remaining credit hours to studio electives.

Your level of placement beyond Foundation is determined when you are offered enrollment. It is based primarily on your portfolio/slides of artwork in relation to studio courses taken at other colleges and how they apply to PNCA's curriculum. Liberal Arts credits are distributed categorically. You must complete any remaining foundation requirements during your first year at PNCA, schedule permitting. These cannot be deferred to the senior year. If you were accepted at the foundation level with studio transfer credits, you must complete all Foundation studio requirements except those specifically waived in the enrollment offer.

You must fulfill the total number and distribution of credit requirements for graduation as published in the catalog. You will have access to your credit tracking sheet which can be reviewed with your Department Head (Program Advisor).

### **CRITERIA FOR TRANSFER CREDIT**

PNCA will accept credit from any academically accredited two-year or four-year institution. There is no time limit on the transfer of credits. The College may, on a case-by-case basis, accept credits from an institution that is a candidate for accreditation or an institution accredited under the category of trade school. Only credits earned with a grade of C- or better will be considered for transfer. Transfer applicants must have at least a 2.30 grade point average from the last time they attended school on a full-time basis in order to have their application reviewed. PNCA will accept a maximum of 72 transfer

credits. In the case of a college closure, PNCA may accept up to 90 credits. To request such an exception, submit a request in writing to the Registrar/Academic Advising office for review. [registration@pnca.edu](mailto:registration@pnca.edu)

PNCA's requirements for a BFA degree include a minimum of 45 required and elective semester credits in the areas of liberal arts and sciences, and art history. All or part of these credits may be transferred from another institution. To be eligible, coursework must be relevant to PNCA's degree requirements. Please refer to the PNCA Course Catalog for course descriptions and more information about these requirements. Examples of relevant areas of liberal arts and sciences study include:

Humanities

Languages  
Literature  
Philosophy  
Cultural Geography  
Speech (upper division coursework only)  
Religious Studies (upper division coursework only)  
Journalism (upper division coursework only)

Social Sciences

Sociology  
Psychology  
Anthropology  
Archeology  
Economics  
Political Science  
History  
Philosophy  
Women's Studies

Other Areas of Study

Business Administration  
Music History

Natural Sciences

Botany  
Chemistry  
Geology  
Physics  
Zoology  
Atmospheric Sciences  
Biochemistry  
Biophysics  
Physical Geography  
Microbiology  
Entomology  
Biology  
Astronomy  
Oceanography

To fulfill requirements for upper division liberal arts and science, the transfer credit should be at the 300 (junior) level or above. Though this is ultimately up to the discretion of Registration and the Department Chair to decide if lower level liberal arts and science transfer to allow students to more freely focus on Studio Course requirements.

Students who enter with a previous degree from an accredited four-year college are assumed to have fulfilled the liberal arts and sciences requirements. This does not include the Art History sequence. Art History transfer credits only apply to comparable Art History requirements at PNCA; they do not count toward general Liberal Arts.

PNCA's requirements for its BFA degree include a minimum of 75 required and elective credits in studio art. Students seeking advanced placement or course waivers should read carefully, and be familiar with, the sequence and description of studio art classes required by their major.

Comparing course descriptions is a major part of credit transfer. For credit to transfer, courses previously taken must relate, in content and depth, to courses described in PNCA's current catalog. PNCA credits

are earned on a semester basis. Credits at other institutions may, however, be earned on a semester or a quarter basis. A quarter credit is worth 2/3 of a semester credit earned. Regardless of the amount of credit earned, a transfer student must complete a minimum of two years (48 semester credits) at PNCA to receive a BFA degree from the College. Credits earned at another college are not transferred until the Registrar receives an official transcript. Veteran's eligible for benefits must submit their military transcript for review to determine if any credit is eligible for transfer.

## **CHALLENGE TO PLACEMENT**

Students may challenge their placement if they feel their year level placement in a course is not appropriate. A challenge to placement must be brought by the student to the department chair responsible for that course, and be reviewed by that department chair. Challenge to placement must be made prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the student's original enrollment semester. Such a challenge to placement must be made prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week Add/Drop deadline for classes if you need to replace challenged credits hours with a new course or courses in order to maintain full-time status for the semester (12 credit hours). The student may choose to challenge placement prior to the beginning of the semester of the student's original enrollment semester.

## **ADVANCED STUDIO PLACEMENT AND LOWER DIVISION LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Occasionally a transfer student who has been placed at sophomore or junior standing in their major will still need to complete one or more lower division liberal arts & science courses. The College acknowledges that the needs of some transfer students might best be met with more challenging upper division courses. Each applicant will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine the best course of action for that student. The following decision(s) will then be made:

- a. One or more courses may be waived and the required credit added to upper division seminar(s). For example, if Perspectives in Society and Culture is waived, 3 credits will be added to Social Science Seminar. Or, if a section of Writing in Context is waived, 3 credits will be added to Literature Seminar.
- b. If the College decides that one or more of these lower division courses would be of benefit to the student, the requirement may be fulfilled in one of two ways:
  - by taking the required course(s) at PNCA, schedule permitting, or
  - by taking an equivalent course at one of the local colleges or universities, **if** there is a schedule conflict with a required PNCA studio course. The College encourages students with advanced studio placement to stay on track and in sequence with their required studio art courses at PNCA. Therefore, this option is recommended only in cases where there is a schedule conflict. PNCA does not pay for courses taken outside the College; however, a financial aid consortium agreement between the two schools may be possible. The student should talk with a Financial Aid Counselor regarding the possible impact on their financial aid package.