

A Guide for BS Transfer Students—New Curriculum (Current as of September 24, 2026)

The place to check the precise requirements is the appropriate Quick Guide; they're all linked to from [here](#). There are three general rules :

1. Your school advisor is in charge of whether you can transfer credits from another school—your CS advisor determines whether transferred credits count towards your major.
2. **Major:** Up to four transfer courses are accepted toward the major. Linear algebra and probability/statistics courses can be transferred in addition to the four-course limits. An AP CS score of 4 or 5 is equivalent to COMS 1004 Introduction to Programming and is not counted as part of the transferred courses

Minor: A minor requires at least 15 points of credit, and no more than one course can be taken outside of Columbia or met through AP or IB credit. This includes courses taken through study abroad.

If you've taken more courses than that, we don't want you to repeat something you already know; therefore, you will either be told to take a substitute or will replace the credits with any COMS course 3000 level or higher.

3. AFC **must** be completed at Columbia.
4. The only person who can approve a course equivalency is the person who teaches it here; your Dean or CS advisor cannot, though they can often offer guidance.
To request a transfer/ equivalency review for a **COMS** course – most commonly transferred courses are COMS W1004 (Introduction to Programming), COMS W3134 (Data Structures), COMS W3157 (Advanced Programming), W3203 (Discrete Mathematics), and CSEE W3827 (Fundamentals of Computer Systems) – please submit a detailed syllabus and not just a catalog description and your transcript for review [here](#). If you have additional questions, please email ug-advising@cs.columbia.edu
5. For non-COMS courses used for the major/minor, you must contact the professor directly with your syllabus and transcript. For Calculus, please contact Prof. George Dragomir dragomir@math.columbia.edu

Notes

We teach introductory programming using Java; many other places use C++. That's usually fine and will probably let you waive COMS 1004. However, we teach data structures using Java, not C++; if you only know the C++, you'll have to teach yourself Java. That shouldn't be too hard, since the essential concepts are the same (and any Columbia CS major should be capable of learning a new language that way).

Very few people can import COMS 3157 (Advanced Programming), and it's a prerequisite for most of the 4000-level courses.

COMS 3857 (Fundamentals of Computer Systems) is a toss-up; some people can import it, some can't. The required math courses are a bit more complex.

Although we prefer our Computational Linear Algebra class (COMS W3251), we will accept Linear Algebra (APMA E3101, APMA E2101, MATH UN2010, or MATH UN2015).

- The probability courses we require are one of STAT UN1201, STAT GU4001, IEOR E3658, or MATH UN2015.
- MATH UN2015 satisfies both the probability and linear algebra requirements, but that probably isn't enough if you want to take Machine Learning. In that case, take separate courses.

- If you've taken discrete mathematics elsewhere and probability in some separate course, you may be able to test out of the course; see <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~ansaf/more.html> for details.

Finally, if you have any questions about your program, contact ug-advising@cs.columbia.edu . If you have questions about whether you have the prerequisites for a given course (perhaps through a job rather than formal study), contact the person who is teaching it—though there are a few exceptions, most of us don't bite...