

Quick Overview of Course Approvals from Study Away for Advisors/Departments

Credits/Grades from Study Away

All courses that appear on a student's host transcript will come back to UAF with their equivalent grades whether an Advising Agreement is on file or not; credits and grades will impact student GPA and Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.

All credits are counted as UAF resident credits. Study away credits are treated the same as UAF credits (i.e. rules regarding inclusion/exclusion).

International grade equivalents are based on WES guidelines or study abroad provider equivalency guides. Credit equivalents vary based on country and/or institution, but guides can be provided by the Study Away Advisor on request.

Common Credit Conversions

Common credit equivalencies:

2 ECTS = 1 UAF credit

15 contact hours = 1 UAF credit

Quarter system credits (U.S. schools) – multiply by 0.667

What can courses count as?

Course equivalencies are determined by UAF department approval with use of the Advising Agreements. Departments can approve courses as particular UAF courses listed in the catalog or as -96 courses at the appropriate level. If a course is approved as a specific UAF course, all attributes of that UAF course are also applied (for example, W or O components; though may require additional signatures from WRTG or COJO department). A study away course evaluated as a specific UAF course can exclude prior attempts of that class at UAF and/or be excluded if that course is taken in the future.

If not approved as a specific UAF class, courses can be evaluated as -96 courses (196, 296, 396, 496, 696). Departments can approve these -96 courses to fulfill/replace other degree-requirements (major or minor) with petition.

Courses can also fulfil GER/CORE requirements. The Office of the Registrar can evaluate courses for GER equivalents; please send these requests via the Study Away Advisor. These type of courses tend to give students the most flexibility, and generally follow the table of GER substitutions:

<http://catalog.uaf.edu/getting-started/transferring-credits/#NonUAINstitutions>.

For example:

- Hawaiian Coral Reefs **with lab** at University of Hawaii Hilo has come back to count as a Natural Resources GER, posting as MSL F196
- Flamenco: An Expression of the Culture of Andalucia from University of Seville has come back to count as an Art GER, posting as HUM F196

It is **the student's responsibility** to provide the following to departments when they are requesting equivalencies:

- Completed Advising Agreement
- Host transcript (a copy is provided by the Study Away Advisor to the student when received)
- Credit and grade equivalency guidelines provided by our office
- Course descriptions, at minimum. Some departments may require additional information:
 - Course syllabus, course assignments, etc. for the department to make a better evaluation, such as regarding the appropriate level (lower-division or upper-division)

Timeline for Posting of Credit

All credits and grades from the host transcript will appear on student accounts eventually; the timeline varies depending on the program:

- NSE: credits appear after we have received an official transcript from their semester away. Any courses that appear on the transcript that do not have an Advising Agreement on file will be evaluated by the Registrar at their discretion.
- International: Students have one year from their final semester away to evaluate their credits. If we do not receive evaluations by the end of the 1st year, evaluations will be determined by the Study Away Advisor.

We cannot post credits to a student's account until we receive the official transcript from the host institution. Sometimes, transcripts take several months before arriving to UAF; if students need documentation for Satisfactory Academic Progress, scholarships, pre-requisites, etc., our office can produce a memo in support, but students must notify us of this request. If EXUF or EXNS credits are posted on a student's records, this means their study away coursework has not been evaluated; check with the Study Away Advisor for further details.

If a student does not care how a course counts towards their degree upon their return, they do not need to fill out an advising agreement; they will still receive credit for the course and evaluations will be done by the Study Away Advisor. However, students need to let our office know in writing they do not intend to complete an advising agreement for that course, otherwise we will await the appropriate paperwork.

It is important that all advising agreements/approvals for study away equivalencies arrive to the Study Away Advisor after all required signatures are collected; our office is the final destination NOT the Registrar. Our office produces paperwork for the Registrar so that the credits post appropriately. If the Study Away Advisor does not receive paperwork, the credits may not post as the Advising Agreement designates.

Additional Resources

Advising agreement forms and additional instructions: <https://studyabroad.uaf.edu/?go=CreditTransfer>

Transfer Credit Resource Site: https://uaonline.alaska.edu/banprod/owa/bwsk2tcr.P_Tcs_Search

International Equivalency Info for certain programs: <https://studyabroad.uaf.edu/?go=IntlCredit>

Additional International Grade Equivalencies: <https://applications.wes.org/country-resources/>

Contact Details

Nicole Balazs, Study Away Program Manager and Advisor
Exchange / Study Abroad / National Student Exchange
Academic Advising Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks
510 Gruening Building, PO Box 756400
studyabroad.uaf.edu