

New curriculum graduation requirements for student who started as first-years

Starting with the class of 2020, students will graduate with 32 units. The limits on transfer units that can be counted towards the 32 units have changed as well. The following chart shows all the details of the new curriculum for students who start at Vassar as first-years.

	Old curriculum	New curriculum
These rules are changing		
Units needed for graduation	34	32
Maximum normal load in a semester	5	4.5 ¹
Minimum units outside major	17	16
Minimum units outside major division (AP units don't count)	8.5	8
Maximum transfer units	10	9
Maximum units of pre-matriculation credit	8	6
Maximum units of test-based pre-matriculation credit (AP, IB, etc)	4	2
These rules aren't changing		
Maximum ungraded units	5	5
Maximum NRO units	4	4
Overlap between double majors	2 (ordinarily)	2
Overlap between major/corr or corr/corr	1 (ordinarily)	1
Maximum Vassar tuition-free summer units	2	2
Maximum physical activity course units in PE counted toward graduation	2	2

All Vassar credit, including Vassar summer work and credit earned from Vassar study away programs, will count towards the 32 units for graduation. However, some transfer units posted on transcripts will not apply towards the 32 units toward graduation because of the new limits. The following steps will allow you to identify which transfer units will count.

1. Find the test-based pre-matriculation credit on your transcript. These include credit for AP and IB exams as well as credit for A Levels, French Baccalaureate, German Abitur,

¹ There is a limit of 4 units of classroom courses as well.

and CAPE. A maximum of 2 units of this type can be used towards the 32 units for graduation. If you have more than 2 units listed on your transcript, cross out those above the 2 unit limit.

2. Find all of the pre-matriculation credit on your transcript. This includes the test-based credit that remain after step 1 as well as credit for courses taken at a college or university before starting at Vassar. A maximum of 6 units of this type can be used toward the 32 units for graduation. If you have more than 6 units listed on your transcript, cross out those above the 6 unit limit. Do not count units that you crossed out in step 1.
3. Find all of the transfer credit on your transcript. This includes the pre-matriculation credit from steps 1 and 2 and any transfer credit that you earned after starting at Vassar. This may be summer work or credit earned for study away on a non-Vassar program. A maximum of 9 units of this type can be earned toward the 32 units for graduation. If you have more than 9 units listed on your transcript, cross out those above the 9 unit limit. Do not count units that you crossed out in steps 1 or 2.

Here are three specific examples of how this would affect some imaginary students:

Example 1: Alice is a member of the class of 2020. She has 2 units of AP credit, 3 units of transfer credit from college courses she took before starting at Vassar, and 4 units of transfer credit from study abroad at a non-Vassar program. Alice's credits do not exceed the new limits. All of those units will count towards the 32 units Alice needs for graduation.

Example 2: Bob is a member of the class of 2022. He has 4 units of AP credit and no other transfer credit on his transcript. Only 2 units of Bob's AP credit will count towards the 32 units Bob needs for graduation. Up to 7 units of additional transfer credit from study away or summer work at another college or university could count towards the 32 units for graduation; the rest will have to be Vassar credit. All 4 AP units will remain on Bob's transcript, so Bob and his advisor should make sure to count only 2 of these units towards the 32 units needed for graduation.

Example 3: Chris is a member of the class of 2021. They are planning to study away for their full junior year on a non-Vassar program and expects to bring back 8 units of credit. Chris has 3 units of AP credit on their transcript already. Only 9 overall units from the study abroad and AP credit will count towards the 32 units that Chris needs for graduation. Chris and their advisor should make sure that Chris will earn 23 Vassar units as they plan for Chris to complete their degree requirements.