

Proposal for the Acceptance for Credit Result of Courses from the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) at both AS and A levels at Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To enable high school students taking Cambridge AS or A level courses as a part of the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum, in the USA and abroad, to transfer credits for CCU coursework, like approvals granted by AP and IB educational programs. We are asking that CCU accept credits for both AS and A levels and not just A levels. Currently in the 2020-21 CCU undergraduate catalog under section "Credit by Examination" under International Admissions) denotes, "Coastal Carolina University may award advanced standing credit hours for certain advanced or principal level examinations provided the examination was taken at the Advanced level (A Level), the student earned a pass of E or better, and the examination is part of the university curriculum. Upon departmental recommendation, a student with an acceptable score may earn up to one, and no more than two, semesters of credit for each A-level examination at the introductory level." We are asking to expand this to both AS and A levels and that we can formalize the course recognitions to be published and easily accessible for students to make decisions about applying to CCU.

Request for Action: We are asking to standardize this as a practice like IB and AP credit recognition. We have completed a first phase of asking individual academic departments to determine which CCU course the respective Cambridge AS or A level course covers and the appropriate number of credits to award for the respective course for the most frequently offered courses. We are now providing that complete transfer document for discussion and adaptation before moving it to adoption by Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate, along with appropriate catalog adjustments. It is our understanding that the holding of this process would reside in the Registrar's office as it does for AP and IB equivalencies.

Background on the Cambridge AICE Curriculum and Diploma and on the AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and A (Advanced) Level courses: The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an international diploma that students can earn via an advanced academic curriculum and assessment program developed by the University of Cambridge in England. The classes are difficult, and most are offered at two levels: The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level, and the Advanced (A) Level. AS Level classes are one year long and less demanding than their A Level counterpart, which are two years in length. To earn this diploma, students must be enrolled in an authorized AICE school.

From the AICE website (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/>), "...the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma is an international curriculum and examination system that emphasizes the value of broad and balanced study. Alongside in-depth understanding of a variety of subjects, students also need to master a broader range of skills critical for success in university study and employment. The Cambridge AICE Diploma was first awarded in 1997 and has since become popular with a range of schools in different parts of the world. It encompasses the 'gold standard' Cambridge International AS and A Level qualifications and offers students the opportunity to tailor their studies to their individual interests, abilities and future plans within an international curriculum framework."

The difference between the levels is as follows, as described on the Cambridge Assessment webpage (<https://help.cambridgeinternational.org/hc/en-gb/articles/203558371-What-are-the-recommended-number-of-teaching-hours-for-Cambridge-International-A-Level->):

- AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that students have about 180 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course (normally one year).
- Cambridge International A (Advanced) Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that students have approximately 360 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course (normally two years).
- Guided learning hours include direct teaching and any other supervised or directed study time. They do not include private study by the candidate. However, these figures are for guidance only, and the number of hours required may vary according to local curricular practice and the students' prior experience of the subject.

How widely offered is the Cambridge AICE and AS/A level curriculum?

Over 10,000 schools around the world offer the Cambridge AICE diploma program that includes these courses, including 432 in the USA. These schools are in Florida, Tennessee, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, North Carolina (Charlotte), Illinois, Mississippi, Washington, California, Michigan, Texas, Alabama, New Jersey, Alabama, Connecticut, Virginia, Utah, Delaware, as well as Battery Creek HS (Beaufort, SC) and Aiken HS (Aiken, SC). For a link to all schools, please click: [Find a Cambridge school \(cambridgeinternational.org\)](http://cambridgeinternational.org).

Which universities accept Cambridge AICE and AS/A level curriculum for credit?

Currently 721 universities and other institutions of higher education in the USA accept AS and/or A levels for credit, including all public universities and community colleges in Florida and institutions such as Yale. Currently 8 institutions in South Carolina offer some transfer recognition of AS and/or A level work, including USC, Clemson, College of Charleston, Lander, Presbyterian, Wofford, Furman, and Columbia International. (To search for specific institutions, please see: [Search Results | Cambridge International Search Recognitions](#).)

Most of Coastal Carolina University's peer and aspirant institutions accept AICE AS and/or A levels for credit, with several accepting both AS and A levels. For example, College of Charleston, University of North Carolina – Wilmington, Appalachian State, University of North Florida, and Western Washington in particular all process credit for courses at both AS and A levels. Links are provided to the respective institutions' credit transfers below:

Peer institutions that accept credit from AS and/or A level courses/exams:

- Valdosta State University: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/advising/cambridge-aice.php>
- Florida Gulf Coast University: <https://www.fgcu.edu/catalog/undergraduateinformation?fmid=Equivalency+Tables#47>
- University of West Florida: <http://catalog.uwf.edu/undergraduate/transferecredit/#cambridgeadvancedinternationalcertificateofeducationaiceatext>
- Western Carolina University: Noted on AICE site as accepting effective 2020-21, but not yet published on WCU webpage.
- Steven F. Austin State University: Does not accept AICE AS or A levels.

- Salisbury University: Accept credit, though website down so unclear exactly what are transfer equivalencies.

Aspirant institutions that accept credit from AS and/or A level courses/exams:

- University of North Carolina Wilmington: <https://uncw.edu/reg/transfercredit-examcie.html> (in process has begun the equivalency approvals. In addition, effective 2020-21 all University of North Carolina schools look to be accepting AICE AS and/or A level credit.)
- Appalachian State University: https://transfer.appstate.edu/sites/transfer.appstate.edu/files/cambridge-credit-policy-2018-2019_0.pdf
- James Madison University: https://www.jmu.edu/registrar/students/ap_ib.shtml
- University of North Florida: https://www.unf.edu/catalog/policies/undergraduate/aice_exams/
- Western Washington University: <https://admissions.wvu.edu/transfer/transfer-credit-policies/ap-ib-and-cambridge-international-credit>

South Carolina Universities that accept credit from AS and/or A level courses/exams:

- College of Charleston: <https://transfer.cofc.edu/documents/transfer-credit/cambridge-a-level-and-aslevel-exams-2017-2018.pdf>
- Lander: Cambridge International A Levels are recognized for matriculation purposes. Up to one year of credit is given for marks of C or better in A Levels.
- Furman: [exam course equivalencies.pdf \(furman.edu\)](https://www.furman.edu/undergraduate/admissions/transfer/credit-equivalencies)
- USC: [Cambridge International A Level, AP and IB Credits - Office of Undergraduate Admissions | University of South Carolina \(sc.edu\)](https://www.usc.edu/undergraduate/admissions/transfer/credit-equivalencies)
- Clemson: Noted on Cambridge website as accepting, but appears to be case-by-case basis as not published on website.
- Columbia International University: Noted on Cambridge website as accepting, but details not published on university website
- Presbyterian: [AP, IB, CLEP, and A-Level Credits | Presbyterian College | Clinton, SC](https://www.presbyteriancollege.edu/undergraduate/admissions/transfer/credit-equivalencies) Credit is awarded on a case by case basis. Students participating in the Cambridge International Exam (AICE) may have their record sent to Presbyterian College for credit consideration. Only Advanced (A) level exams will be considered for credit and a minimum grade of C must be earned.
- Wofford: Cambridge site denotes to contact Wofford for details – no detail on webpage.

Are students who complete the AICE program successful in College?

According to [palmbeachschools.org](https://www.palmbeachschools.org), “A study done by the Director of Admissions at the University of Florida found that AICE program graduates attending UF had an average end of the year GPA of 3.46 whereas students coming from other acceleration mechanisms such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) had an average GPA of 3.12 and 3.10 respectively. A similar study conducted at University of Virginia found the same results.”

What courses need to be evaluated for transfer to CCU?

The list below shows the courses and levels available for AS and A level courses. Links to the Cambridge Courses with course descriptions and detailed syllabi that show the difference between AS and A level

expectations are provided at: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/curriculum/>.

What grade on the respective exam should be used award credit?

Appalachian State uses the table below, accepting credit with a grade of E (US equivalent C) or better on either AS or A level exams. The University of West Florida, University of North Florida, Valdosta State, and Western Washington also each award credit hours for any AICE passing grade of A through E.

The College of Charleston awards credit for A, B and C grades for A level exams; and, in certain instances, awards lesser credit hours for D grades on A levels exams (certain courses only). It also awards lesser credit for A, B and C grades for AS level exams (certain courses only) but no credit for D grades on AS level exams.

Based on this information, **it is recommended that CCU award transfer credit for AICE passing grades of A through E on both the AS and A level exams.** Please use the chart below to evaluate the Cambridge exam for Coastal Carolina University credit.

Note the 2020-2021 university catalog allows for A level exam transfer credit. Based on the information presented herein, a catalog update allowing for AS level exam credit would be put forth in the coming months for approval after the departments have rendered their decisions on credit consideration for the respective courses by level.

Most courses below have been previously approved and are currently outlined in CollegeTransfer.net and/or Webadvisor as transfer credit courses. Following discussions with Leslie Barrett-Brown and Caroline Madden, the courses highlighted below have now also been approved by the appropriate individual department chairs. These transfer credit courses will be added to CollegeTransfer.net and/or Webadvisor by the Registrar's office as they receive and enter the transfer credit into the student's record.

CCU's Office of the Registrar can verify results for most Cambridge English examinations online instantly via our Results Verification website. Recognizing organizations can register to use the site at [Cambridge Test Results](#).

Candidates can also send their results to a recognizing organization via the Candidate Results Online portal. They will first need to register using their ID and secret number. Once the student has registered for the site they simply need to log in, click 'send my results' and select the relevant recognizing organization. Some further guidance on this can be found here.

If a recognizing organization needs to verify a qualification that is not listed here, they should submit a Manual Verification Request Form. If a recognizing organization uses the Manual Verification Request Form, our Past Records Team will send an email directly to them to confirm the result. This is free of charge, and will be processed within two working days.

This list of courses is not exhaustive but represents the most popular exams requested for credit. Other AICE AS or A level exams would require departmental review on an individual basis, and it is suggested that the catalog and documentation developed through the Registrar's Office can provide that information.

(Note: Chart provided by AACRAO and used by Appalachian State University):

AS Level	A Level	United States Grade
N/A	A*	A
A	A	A
B	B	B+
C	C	B
D	D	C+
E	E	C
U	U	F

Subject	Level (AS or A)	CCU Course Credit Recognized (As long as grade equivalents in US per above are C or higher)	CCU Credit Hours Recognized
Art and Design	A	ARTS*XXX	3
Biology	A	BIOL*121 + BIOL*121L AND BIOL*122 + BIOL*122L	8
Biology	AS	BIOL*121 + BIOL*121L	4
Business	A	CBAD*120 + CBAD*2XX	6
Business	AS	CBAD*120	3
Chemistry	A	CHEM*111 + CHEM*111L AND CHEM*112 + CHEM*112L	8
Chemistry	AS	CHEM*111 + CHEM*111L	4
Computer Science	A	CSCI*130 + CSCI*140 + CSCI*140L + CSCI*210	10
Computer Science	AS	CSCI*130 + CSCI*140 + CSCI*140L	7
Economics	A	ECON*201 + ECON*202	6
Economics	AS	ECON*101	3
English Literature	A	ENGL*101 + ENGL*205	7
English Literature	AS	ENGL*101	4
Environmental Management	A	Syllabus and individual review required.	
Environmental Management	AS	ENVI*201	3
French Language	A	FREN*110 + FREN*120 + FREN*130 + FREN*210	12
French Language	AS	FREN*110 + FREN*120	6

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French Literature	AS (only)	Syllabus and individual review required.	
German Language	A	GERM*110 + GERM*120 + GERM*130 + GERM*210	12
German Language	AS	GERM*110 + GERM*120	6
Geography	A	GEOG*XXX	3
Global Perspectives & Research	A	ENGL*103	3
History	A	Syllabus and individual review required.	
Physics	A	PHYS*201 + PHYS*201L AND PHYS*202 + PHYS*202L	8
Politics	A	POLI*344 + POLI*3XX AND POLI*201 (IF Component 3A) OR POLI*101 (IF Component 3B)	9
Psychology	A	PSYC*101	3
Psychology	AS	PSYC*101	3
Sociology	A	SOC*101	3
Spanish	A	SPAN*110 + SPAN*120 + SPAN*130 + SPAN*210	12
Spanish	AS	SPAN*110 + SPAN*120	6
Spanish Literature	AS (only)	SPAN*330	3

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