

Understanding the SA Transcript

The calculation and representation of student academic records on the SA transcript differs from the transcripts produced by UMBC's legacy Student Information System. To some extent, these differences reflect the more specialized role of the transcript in the context of SA's robust functionality which provides distinct reports and data views for users needing to review a student transfer credits, progress toward program completion, etc.

The transcript should be regarded as a statement of a student's academic records. For degree-seeking undergraduate students, however, students and advisors should look to the SA Degree Audit for an analysis of a student's progress toward completion of degree requirements.

Some of the key differences between the SA and legacy (SIS) transcripts are described below. There are differences in the presentation of data in both the official and unofficial versions of the transcript, this document focuses on the *unofficial* transcript since it is the more informative and more frequently referenced for internal UMBC purposes.

Display of Transfer Credits

Transfer credits are itemized with details regarding applicability on the *unofficial* SA transcript but only summarized by institution on the *official* SA transcript. The SA Transfer Credit Report provides additional detail regarding the status and applicability of transfer credit.

Inclusion of Transfer Credits in Cumulative Statistics

Transfer credits are included in cumulative Attempted Credit and Earned Credit totals but *are not* used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA (with the exception of courses taken under provisions of an approved Inter-Institutional enrollment program—see below.)

Portrayal of Repeats

The representation of repeats which impact statistical calculations is improved in SA with notations identifying both the included and excluded attempts.

Recalculation of Historic Statistics after Repeat

In SIS, when a student repeated a course for a higher grade, the repeat flag (**R**) was placed on the listing of the attempt to be excluded from the cumulative GPA but no adjustment was made to the summary statistics for the term (and term-by-term cumulative statistics were not reflected on the SIS transcript.) In SA, the historic term record *is* adjusted: Attempted Credits, Earned Credits and Quality Points (if any) associated with the repeated class are subtracted from both term and cumulative statistics. Academic standing (suspension/dismissal and semester honors) notations are *not* adjusted, however.

Display of Attempted Credits for Dropped Courses

The Attempted Credits for classes dropped with a grade of **W** are included in the *display* of term and cumulative summary statistics but are *not* used in the *calculation* of the term or cumulative GPAs.

Inter-Institutional Enrollment

Courses taken at other institutions under the provisions of approved Inter-Institutional Enrollment programs will be handled differently in the SA environment than they have been in the past; thus, there will be a discontinuity in the portrayal of this coursework on student transcripts.

Inter-Institutional courses completed *prior* to Summer 2009 will appear on the transcript as INTR courses in the terms they were taken with descriptive notations. Academic data associated with those courses will be shown and calculated in term and cumulative summary statistics.

Inter-institutional courses taken *after* Spring 2009 will shown in the listing of transfer coursework; however, in accordance with applicable policy, academic data for those courses will be included and calculated in term and cumulative summary statistics.

Institutional Credits

In the legacy (SIS) environment, certain courses (e.g., ELC, LRC, & PHED activity courses) carried “institutional credit” which was used in the calculation of tuition and student workload but did not count as credit toward the degree. For the most part, institutional credit courses were offered on a P/F basis but a few (e.g., LRC & ELC) were subject to regular grading: grades for these regular graded courses were calculated into the term and cumulative statistics at the end of the term in which the course was taken but not included in the student’s cumulative academic statistics in subsequent terms.

In SA, ELC & LRC courses are offered for 0.000 units but carry the appropriate workload and billing units. Grades for these courses are excluded from the calculation of term and cumulative GPAs

There is a discontinuity in the display of PHED activity courses on the SA transcript:

If taken prior to Summer 2009 they are shown on the SA transcript with 1.500 Attempted units and (even if passed) 0.000 Earned units.

If taken after Spring 2009, those courses are listed with 1.500 Attempted units and (only if passed) 1.500 Earned units.

Regardless of their display on the transcript, the PHED activity courses will be recognized by the SA Degree Audit as applicable toward the undergraduate Physical Education requirement but *not* applicable toward the 120 units required for the bachelor's degree.

Summary Statistics in SA

The SA unofficial transcript displays several rows of summary (“GPA”) statistics at the end of every term: two rows relating to the term and two cumulative (“Cum”) rows. In both sets, the first row (“UMBC Term GPA” and “Cum GPA”) include only UMBC coursework* : the second rows include transfer credit.

<u>Course</u>		<u>Description</u>		<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
LRC	101A	Academic Success		3.000	0.000	A	0.000
PSYC	210	Psychology Of Learning		3.000	3.000	B	9.000
PSYC	331	Experimental Psych I		4.000	4.000	D	4.000
Repeated:		Repeat - Include in GPA	Repeat Date:				
SPAN	102	Elementary Spanish II		4.000	4.000	C	8.000
				<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Points</u>
						<u>Units</u>	
UMBC Term GPA		1.909	Term Totals	14.000	11.000	11.000	21.000
Overall Term GPA		1.909	Comb Totals	14.000	11.000	11.000	21.000
Cum GPA		1.853	Cum Totals	41.000	34.000	34.000	63.000
Combined Cum GPA		1.853	Comb Totals	78.000	71.000	34.000	63.000

Note that the definition of “Attempted Credit” in SA is very different than it was in SIS, (including dropped classes and transfer credit as described above) and is not used in the calculation of the Grade Point Average. The “GPA Units” column specifies the number of units used in the calculation of the GPA: “Points”/”GPA Units”=GPA .

* As indicated above, courses taken through Inter-Institutional enrollment prior to Fall 2009 are included in UMBC statistics; Inter-Institutional coursework completed after Spring 2009 is recorded as transfer credit but *will* be included in GPA calculations.

GPA Rounding

In SIS, GPAs were presented with two decimals; GPAs are shown with three decimals.in SA. In both cases, conventional rounding rules are applied..