College Credit Decision Guide

When choosing to accept or decline college credit for an OnRamps course, this guide helps students make an informed decision. It is not an exhaustive resource. Transfer policies vary by institution. Students should consult official college resources, transfer equivalency tools, and academic advisors for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

OnRamps courses are official University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) courses, and any credit you accept is UT Austin credit. This credit can later be transferred to other colleges and universities, each of which has their own policies about what transfer credit they will accept and whether it counts toward a student's GPA or their specific degree plan.

Before deciding to accept or decline OnRamps credit, it is important to understand how it could affect your future college career.

Identify the Credit Earned

Make sure you understand exactly what type of UT Austin credit you are accepting or declining. Visit onramps.utexas.edu/course-offerings to gather these details about the OnRamps course you completed:

- Course name
- UT Austin course code
- Texas Common Course Number (TCCN) which helps to identify equivalent courses across Texas public colleges and universities

Visit www.highered.texas.gov/new-program-development/texas-core-curriculum to determine whether the course fulfills a Texas Core Curriculum requirement.

Research College-Specific Transfer Policies

Make a list of colleges or universities you might want to attend, then find out what may happen if you later transfer your UT Austin credit to each of those schools. Follow these steps to ensure you are making an informed decision.

1. Check the course transfer equivalency.

Each college should have an equivalency tool or core curriculum list. Use these resources to look up how your UT Austin credit will match up and be counted when transferred to other schools you might attend.

- Most Texas public colleges and universities use www.tccns.org, or visit each college's website and look for transferability information.
- Out-of-state colleges typically have their own transfer equivalency databases. Search the name of the college with the words "transfer equivalency" or "core curriculum" on their website or through a search engine.
- Visit www.transferology.com, a nationwide tool with information about how courses transfer between institutions.
- If you can't find the information online, contact the college's admissions or advising office for help.

2. Confirm the minimum grade required by each institution.

The school you are transferring credit to usually has a rule about the lowest grade they will accept. Some colleges require at least a C or better. If you earned a D for an OnRamps course, it may not transfer to other colleges because they want to ensure you learned enough to meet their academic standards.

3. Find out how transfer credit would affect your GPA.

GPA is a numerical representation of your academic performance calculated from your grades, and it is important in determining eligibility for financial aid, scholarships, internal transfers and honors programs.

When you transfer credits from one college or university to another, the way those grades affect your GPA depends on the school. This concept is often referred to as transferability (how a credit moves from one institution to another).

- Some colleges **do** include transfer grades in the GPA calculation. This means your OnRamps grade could raise or lower your GPA at the college or university.
- Others **do not** include transfer grades in the GPA calculation. The credit counts toward your degree, but the grade does not change your GPA, and they just count the course as "completed." Your GPA at that college will only include grades you earn after you enroll.

4. Find out if and how transfer credit would apply to your degree plan.
Even if a credit transfers to a certain college, it may not fit your degree plan, the list of courses required for your major. Review any degree plans you are likely to consider at each college you plan to attend to find out which courses are required.

Use the transfer equivalency information you collected to determine if your transfer credit will apply to that degree plan. Some transfer credits count toward **core requirements**, while others count as **electives** (courses that count toward graduation but are not specifically required for your major or core curriculum). Some transfer credits may not apply at all.

For example, your degree plan might require a specific math course to meet the math core requirement, even if you already have core credit in that area. This concept is often referred to as applicability (whether credit applies to your degree requirements).

5. Talk to a trusted adult.
Meet with a counselor, advisor, teacher or parent to discuss all the information you have gathered, so they can provide additional input that will help you make a confident, informed choice.



Example Credit Transfer Scenarios

Enrolling at UT Austin After Accepting an A for OnRamps
You earned an A in OnRamps Intro to Rhetoric and plan to enroll at UT Austin after high school graduation. Accepting this credit means you have already completed UT Austin's first-year writing requirement. This saves time and tuition, and the grade will appear on your UT transcript as UT credit and will affect your UT GPA.

Enrolling at UT Austin After Accepting a B for OnRamps

You earned a B in an OnRamps course and plan to enroll at UT Austin after high school graduation. OnRamps college credits are UT Austin credits and are factored into your UT GPA. Some competitive UT Austin programs, such as business, engineering, or computer science, require high GPAs for admission or continuation in the major. Accepting a B or lower could reduce your GPA and potentially affect your eligibility for these programs or honors tracks. In this case, you should research your UT Austin degree plan and program requirements to determine the best course of action.

Transferring Credit to a Competitive Major With Graduate School Goals

You earned a B in an OnRamps course and plan to enroll at a Texas public university in a competitive major such as biology, business, or political science, with the long-term goal of applying to medical school, law school, an MBA program, or another competitive graduate degree. At this university, transfer grades are factored into your GPA. Graduate programs often require strong academic records. Medical schools typically look for GPAs of 3.5 or higher, and law and business schools also weigh GPA heavily in admissions decisions. Accepting a grade of B or lower could lower your cumulative GPA, which may affect your ability to remain in your major and your competitiveness for graduate school. Before deciding, review your university's GPA policies and degree requirements, and consider how this grade might impact your future academic and career goals.

Neutral Impact at an Out-of-State University

You plan to attend an out-of-state college that accepts OnRamps credits only as electives. If your major requires a different English course, accepting the credit may count as an elective rather than a core requirement. Review your intended degree plan and college core requirements to identify the most effective path forward.

Transferring to a University Where Transfer Credit Affects GPA

You earned a C in an OnRamps course and plan to transfer to a university that factors transfer grades into GPA for admission to competitive programs. Accepting the credit could lower your GPA calculation for that program. In this case, you should research your future degree plan and program requirements to determine the best course of action.

Transferring to a School Where Transfer Credit Does Not Affect GPA

You earned a B in an OnRamps course and plan to transfer to another university after high school. At many colleges, transfer credits count toward degree requirements but do not factor into your GPA at the new institution. This means your grade will appear on your transcript for credit purposes but will not influence your GPA calculation. If your future

college follows this policy, accepting the credit can help you complete core or elective requirements without risking your GPA. Always confirm this with the transfer school before making your decision.

Core Curriculum Credit at Another Texas University

You earned a B in OnRamps College Algebra and plan to enroll at another Texas university after high school graduation. You've contacted an advisor at the university you plan to attend, and College Algebra fulfills the Texas Core Curriculum math requirement for your desired degree plan. Accepting this credit means you have met the math core requirement at your new institution, saving both time and tuition.