



**NORTHWESTERN  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY**

University Catalog Addendum  
Winter 2026 Term

January 14, 2026

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# **Academic Policies**

## **Transfer Credit and Credit for Prior Learning**

### **Purpose**

To specify consistent practices for accepting credit for college level courses transferred into Northwestern Health Sciences University, to enable students to demonstrate competence at the college level from learning gained through experiences outside a university credit-bearing course, and to earn credit for that prior learning.

### **Scope**

The scope of this policy applies to all students in all degree and certificate-seeking programs.

### **Policy**

Transfer credit is generally accepted for courses comparable to those offered by Northwestern Health Sciences University that were successfully completed with a grade of “C” or above at another institution with nationally or internationally recognized quality standards. The university will evaluate official transcripts submitted by the transfer applicant and reserves the right to accept or deny any of the credits for transfer.

Credit for prior learning may also be awarded to document that students have demonstrated the competencies and/or mastered the knowledge or skills required by a NWHSU course through means other than completing a course. That learning must be documented or demonstrated at commensurate levels as the course/curriculum offered by NWHSU.

**Effective:** January 7, 2026

### **Procedure**

#### **Definitions**

##### **Transfer credit**

Upon approval, transfer credit is applied as earned credit for a specific NWHSU course based on successful completion of comparable courses taken at an institution outside NWHSU.

##### **Credit for prior learning**

Upon approval, credit for prior learning is applied as earned credit for a specific

NWHSU course based on demonstrated mastery of curriculum based on life experience and not credit-bearing course completion.

### **Transfer credit**

1. Transfer credit is accepted from nationally or internationally recognized institutions recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) or institutionally accredited by an agency in the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs (DAPIP). Academic programs may accept transfer credit from some non-regionally accredited institutions or programs on an exception basis. Transfer credit is only available to students in degree or certificate-seeking programs.
2. Official transcripts are evaluated for transfer credit by the appropriate administrative or academic department and the results are provided to the applicant. Only original, sealed transcript(s) from each college/university previously attended or official transcripts submitted via the National Student Clearinghouse or other secure digital transcription and credential management providers will be considered for the award of transfer credit by NWHSU. Transfer credit requests should be made prior to matriculation but may be considered at any point prior to graduation for external courses taken post-matriculation at NWHSU.
3. Transfer courses must have been taken at the same career level (undergraduate or graduate) as the course they are attempting to fulfill, have similar course content, title, length or objective, and correspond to courses within the applicant's intended program curriculum. A course catalog and/or syllabus may be required to demonstrate course content.
4. Only transfer courses earned with a minimum grade of "C" or better at institutions outside of the Northwestern Health Sciences University will be accepted for transfer.
5. All course requirements with the exception of general education and foundational sciences coursework must have been completed within five years of the date of program matriculation in order to be considered for transfer credit.
6. Credit for course work completed through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or proficiency tests (CLEP) must be validated by the appropriate NWHSU administrative or academic department. Such credits do not transfer automatically, and the student must furnish official score reports for consideration. Students must request that official AP, IB, or CLEP test results be sent directly to the Admissions Office for evaluation.
7. A maximum of 20 credits combined may be accepted from ACE, CLEP, IB or AP credits combined in the College of Health and Wellness and College of Chiropractic; a maximum of 30 credits combined may be accepted from ACE, CLEP, IB or AP credits combined in the College of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine.
8. Total semester credit hours transferred from each institution previously attended are recorded on the student's NWHSU transcript with a grade of T. Grades for courses transferred to NWHSU do not become a part of the student's NWHSU grade point average. NWHSU does not release copies of another institution's transcript(s).

9. The maximum transfer credits allowed varies by program.
  - a. College of Health and Wellness program students may transfer up to 50% of major credit. 25% of overall credit requirements must be earned in residence. BS Completion Health Professions Core classes must be completed in residence.
  - b. College of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine students may transfer up to 25% of program clinical training requirements and up to 50% of total program credit requirements.
  - c. College of Chiropractic students may transfer up to 75% of didactic coursework, however, all clinical requirements must be completed at NWHSU, and transfer students must complete a minimum of five terms of resident study at NWHSU to graduate from the University.
10. Prospective students may appeal the acceptance of transfer credit by contacting the Registrar.

### **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)**

1. Prior learning assessment grants credit for learning or mastery developed outside the classroom. There are multiple ways for a student to receive credit for prior learning:
  - a. Challenge exam covering course objectives aligned with learning outcomes for a specific NWHSU course
  - b. Standardized exam covering 80% of course objectives aligned with learning outcomes for a specific NWHSU course
  - c. Documentation of external licensure or certification in a related area that can be aligned with a specific NWHSU course
  - d. Documented professional, work, or life experiences that align with a specific NWHSU course and meet those learning outcomes
  - e. Industry recognized credentials
  - f. Observation of a demonstration of skills that align with course learning objectives
  - g. Credit for military training
    - i. The University will consider academic credit for military training equivalent to NWHSU courses included in the students' program requirements as defined in the Military Guide provided by the American Council on Education (ACE).
    - ii. Documentation of the training, such as a license of completion, Joint Services Transcript, or notation on the student's DD Form 214, is required and all credit hours are applied as semester credit hours
  - h. Portfolio including the following
    - i. Course identifier, title, description, credit hours, and learning outcomes

- ii. Student narrative describing in detail how each of the learning outcomes have been met using the language of the learning outcomes to demonstrate mastery
  - iii. Resume
  - iv. Evidence that demonstrates the learning outcomes (e.g., work products, commendations, etc.)
  - v. Summary
- 2. The student must contact the chair of the department in which credit is sought to initiate the credit for prior learning process. Each department specifies the courses for which prior learning credit is available and which methods are applicable to that course.
- 3. Attempted and earned hours for each course fulfilled through prior learning credit will be equal to the credit hours assigned to the course they are attempting to fulfill. No grade points are assigned and any failure to earn credit for prior learning will not negatively impact credits attempted, earned, or GPA.
- 4. Approved prior learning credits will be sent to the Office of the Registrar for entry into the student's academic record.

# Curriculum Overview

## Course Changes

### New Course

#### Course Name

FUNDAMENTALS OF NUTRITION

Course ID	Credits
BIOL-2350	3

#### Course Description

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the fundamental principles of nutrition and the critical role of diet in promoting health and wellness. Students will examine the processes of nutrient digestion and absorption, as well as nutritional requirements across the human lifespan. The curriculum also covers concepts of energy balance and the foundational principles of effective meal planning. At the national level, the course investigates the influence of cultural, societal, economic, and policy factors on nutrition, public health, and health promotion.

#### Course Name

FOUNDATIONS FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Course ID	Credits
PHS-1000	1

#### Course Description

This course is designed to support the academic and professional development of first-year associate's and bachelor's degree students, as well as post-baccalaureate pre-health students, pursuing careers in health professions. Students will build essential academic skills, including time and stress management, study techniques, test-taking strategies, academic reading and writing, and critical thinking, all aimed toward academic success. Additionally, the course introduces students to healthcare core competencies, emphasizing professionalism, ethical behavior, effective communication, and the development of core competencies reflective of healthcare workplace expectations. By engaging in self-assessments, reflective activities, and applied assignments, students will cultivate the skills necessary for academic success while participating in value-based goal setting and personal development as they prepare for their future roles as healthcare professionals.

## Course Modifications

### Course Name

INTEGRATIVE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

Course ID	Credits
CFS-6250	5

### Course Description

This course introduces students to microorganisms and their interactions with the human body. It examines the structure and function of organ systems involved in these interactions, including the histology of the skin, blood, and lymphoid tissues, as well as the major components of the immune response. Foundational concepts in tissue adaptation and neoplasia are also explored, along with selected pathologies of the immune and musculoskeletal systems.

### Course Name

VISCERAL STRUCTURAL STUDIES AND SOMATIC NEUROSCIENCE

Course ID	Credits
CFS-6200	6

### Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the gross anatomy, histology, and development of the thoracic, abdominal, and pelvic viscera of the human body. Neurophysiological concepts of membrane potentials, including resting and action potentials, are correlated with activities at the neuromuscular junction. Neuroanatomical details of the upper and lower extremities are integrated with a discussion of the common entrapment syndromes of the extremities and the spine. Learners are introduced to the gross anatomy and development of the CNS. Through frequent use of case study examples, learners develop critical thinking skills necessary to correlate the levels of structural organization that lead to differential diagnoses.

### Course Name

EENT

Course ID	Credits
DCS-7520	2.5

### Course Description

Discussion of the presentation, diagnosis and treatment of common complaints and disorders of the eyes, ears, nose and throat. Students practice diagnostic and treatment procedures. Discussion on how doctors of chiropractic can participate in the management of patients with E.E.N.T. disorders.



**Course Name**

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Course ID                      Credits**

DCS-6400                      2

**Course Description**

Discussion of infectious disease, with emphasis on most common causative pathogens and their associated diseases. Pertinent vital features are highlighted re: presentation, diagnosis and treatment of common and/or critical infections in various organ systems.

**Course Name**

INTEGRATIVE NEUROLOGY, ENDOCRINOLOGY &amp; VISCERAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY 3

**Course ID                      Credits**

CFS-7400                      5

**Course Description**

Participants in this course will complete pathophysiological principles governing the endocrine and urogenital systems. Concurrently, an in-depth study of cranial nerves, the central nervous system, and the signature pathologies associated with each major area of the CNS are studied.

**Course Name**

INTEGRATIVE NEUROLOGY, ENDOCRINOLOGY &amp; VISCERAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY 3

**Course ID                      Credits**

CFS-7402                      4

**Course Description**

Students learn and practice clinical examination and assessment, with emphasis on performing and interpreting comprehensive physical examination procedures of the non-neuromusculoskeletal systems in the adult patient.

**Course Name**

PUBLIC &amp; PREVENTIVE HEALTH

**Course ID                      Credits**

HAS-6320                      2

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to public health and the role of the chiropractor as a primary care provider within the public health system. Discussion topics include the individual, community and systems approach to prevention, epidemiology, genetics, social, behavioral, biomedical, and environmental sciences, health policy and management. This course requires collaboration and consists of online assessments, group projects, synchronous and asynchronous lectures.

**Course Name**

CLINICAL CLERKSHIP 3

**Course ID                      Credits**

CCE-6300                      0.5

**Course Description**

Welcome to the Chiropractic Scribe Internship, where students have the unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience by working closely with experienced chiropractic practitioners in a clinical setting. As scribes, students will play a vital role in facilitating efficient patient care, documenting clinical encounters, and assisting with administrative tasks. This internship provides invaluable exposure to the day-to-day operations of a chiropractic practice, enhancing students' understanding of chiropractic care and preparing them for future roles in healthcare.

**Course Name**

CLINICAL CLERKSHIP 4

**Course ID                      Credits**

CCE-7400                      0.5

**Course Description**

Clinical Clerkship 4 provides students with comprehensive training in the principles, practices, and responsibilities of chiropractic assistants within a clinical setting. This course emphasizes the essential skills and knowledge required to support chiropractors in delivering high-quality patient care, managing administrative tasks, performing active and passive care treatments, and maintaining a professional and efficient practice environment. Through hands-on experience, students will develop the competencies necessary to excel as integral members of the chiropractic healthcare team.

**Course Name**

METHODS 3: CERVICAL AND THORACIC MANUAL THERAPIES

**Course ID                      Credits**

CHS-6303                      3.25

**Course Description**

Introduction to applied adjustive procedures using high-velocity, low-amplitude thrusts in the cervical and thoracic regions. Methods derived from various technique systems (e.g. Gonstead, Thompson, Faye, Diversified) are practiced under direct supervision after PARTS evaluation has identified segments for which adjustments are indicated.

**Course Name**

METHODS 4: LUMBOPELVIC MANUAL THERAPIES

**Course ID                      Credits**

CHS-7404                      3.25

**Course Description**

Introduction to applied adjustive procedures using high-velocity, low-amplitude thrusts to lumbar and pelvic regions; continued development of same in the cervical and thoracic regions. Methods derived from various technique systems (e.g. Gonstead, Thompson, Faye, Diversified)

are practiced under direct supervision after PARTS evaluation has identified segments for which adjustments are indicated. Provide the student with an introduction to high velocity, low amplitude thrust techniques for the lumbar spine and pelvis. Emphasis is on the development of the psychomotor skills necessary to safely apply the techniques to dysfunctional joints.

**Course Name**

CLINICAL NUTRITION 1

**Course ID**                      **Credits**

HAS-7501                      2

**Course Description**

This foundation nutrition course for chiropractic practice presents the fundamentals of nutrient biochemistry, metabolism, and dietary therapy. Vitamins, major minerals, and trace minerals are addressed along with clinical applications.

**Course Name**

NEUROMUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM 1: PRINCIPLES AND OVERVIEW

**Course ID**                      **Credits**

DCS-6311                      3

**Course Description**

Discussion of the integral relationship between neuromusculoskeletal structure and function and the healthy function of all other body systems and organs. Introduction to the evaluation of neuromusculoskeletal responses to common postural and traumatic insults, and to pathologies in the neuromusculoskeletal system and other body systems. Students practice diagnostic procedures and discuss how chiropractors can participate in the management of patients who have NMS disorders.