

## New Trac – **New Transfer Readiness and Completion Program**

***New Trac is for students who want to transfer to a California State University or a University of California campus after two years at Shasta College.***

New Trac ensures that students who comply with the requirements of the program will be eligible for admission at either a C.S.U. or U.C. campus after attending Shasta College for two years.

- **Eligibility**

All students who are eligible to enroll in baccalaureate level English and math classes upon graduation from high school may participate in the program. Eligibility for English and math classes is determined through assessment process for new students.

- **Requirements for Participation**

Students must:

1. Attend one of the first four regularly scheduled orientations during spring semester of their senior year and identify themselves as potential New Trac students.
2. Average a minimum of 15 units per semester;
3. Maintain a minimum 3.0 g.p.a. in their classes;
4. Declare a major and have an education plan on file by the end of their first semester;
5. Meet with a counselor at least once a semester for their first three semesters;
6. Satisfy all applicable deadlines when applying to universities.

- **Frequently Asked Questions**

*How does New Trac differ from UTRAC?*

New Trac has replaced UTRAC. Both programs ensured that high-achieving, motivated students would be eligible to transfer to a public university in California after two years. UTRAC required students to submit an application form; there is no application form for New Trac. Also, UTRAC required students to satisfy the A-G subject requirements in high school. New Trac does not require completion of A-G requirements.

*How are students accepted into New Trac?*

There is no formal acceptance process. All eligible students who comply with the requirements of the New Trac program are New Trac students.

*Can I participate in New Trac if I don't know my major?*

You have one semester to declare your major. It is not uncommon for students to enter college undecided about their goals. Community colleges like Shasta College provide students with a relatively inexpensive opportunity to explore a variety of subjects to better clarify their interests. However, the longer you wait to decide upon a major, the more likely it is that you will need more than four years to complete a Bachelors degree. Although you may be able to transfer within two years, delaying a decision about a possible major might require you to spend extra time at the university.

*Why can't I just take general education classes and decide on my major later?*

In order to receive a Bachelors degree, you must satisfy a university's general education requirement, as well as its requirements for a particular major. The courses that you take at Shasta College are designed to meet all or a majority of your freshman and sophomore baccalaureate requirements. Some majors require specific courses be taken during freshman and sophomore years, and if you do not complete these courses, you will not be on track to graduate in four years.

*Can I change my major?*

Yes, you may change your major as many times as you wish, and most students change majors three to four times. However, every time you change your mind about your major (or the university you want to attend) you will need to work toward meeting the requirements for your new goal, and if there are a lot of different requirements, it may delay the time it takes you to transfer and graduate.

*Can I work while I'm in the program?*

Although you may only have to attend classes 15-20 hours per week, your instructors will be expecting you to spend an average of 30 hours per week on outside assignments. These assignments may include reading the textbook(s), researching and writing papers, studying for tests, preparing presentations, etc. In total, your courses will require 45-50 hours per week of your time. Most students at Shasta College do work to earn extra money; however, most do not have schedules as rigorous as those required in this program. For this reason we strongly recommend that students limit work to no more than 15 hours per week during their first semester.

*If I have AP credits do I still have to take 15 units per semester?*

Your counselor will have to evaluate each case on an individual basis, but it is generally a good idea to average 15 units per semester to prepare you for the type of load you will experience at the university.

*Am I guaranteed to be admitted at the university of my choice after two years?*

No, Shasta College can help ensure that you have taken the proper courses to meet transfer requirements, but each university determines whom it admits based on a variety of criteria. Depending on the university and your transfer major, any or all of the following factors may be considered: courses completed; grade point average, personal essay, extracurricular activities, work history, personal background, special skills, etc.