Frequently Asked Questions
Please read this section first as it will help you understand the purpose of this guide, give you important information to understand and register for courses, as well as provide definitions for common phrases and terms used in post-secondary.

What is this guide?
This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the School of Arts & Sciences to help you register for courses towards your desired program. These guides are prepared using information gathered from RDC, Academic Calendars from Universities, and other resources. These guides only highlight major points related to transfer. We strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

What is an Academic Calendar?
Think of these as the “terms and agreements” regarding your degree. Each university publishes an Academic Calendar each year that details university entrance requirements, degree and graduation requirements, and academic rules among many other things.

What are terms, and how many of them are there?
Terms are the period of time in which your studies take place. At RDC, we offer four terms.
- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is a condensed term. We recommend only a maximum of two courses in the Spring. Course offerings are reduced in this term as well.
- Summer Term (July through August): Only select upgrading courses are currently available in this term.

My major/transfer university is not listed. What should I do?
This guide focuses on transfer to the University of Alberta’s (UAlberta) Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences program. If you are planning on transferring to a different institution, please contact us at artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca.

What are the Environmental and Conservation Sciences Majors University of Alberta Offers?
There are six majors UAlberta offers. When you apply to transfer to UAlberta, you will declare your major at that point. The majors are:
- Conservation Biology
- Environmental Economics and Policy
- Human Dimensions of Environmental Management
- Land Reclamation
- Northern Systems
- Wildlife and Rangeland Resources Management
For year 1, there are many similar courses students take for each major. The recommended pattern of courses in this guide will highlight specific courses that may suit a specific major better.

To learn more about UAlberta’s Environmental and Conservation Sciences program, please visit their [website](#).

**How many courses should I take a term?**
The traditional path you will see is 5 courses per term, 10 total (5 in the Fall, 5 in the Winter). However, you may have flexibility depending on your destination university and degree. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 in the Fall, 4 in the Winter, and 2 in the Spring (or some mixture). Some students will take 3-4 courses per term (6-8 per year) and take 5-6 years to complete their degree.

**What happens if I take less than 10 courses a year?**
You may need an extra term or year to complete your degree.

**What is a credit?**
A credit is what you earn for completing courses. To earn the Bachelor of Science, Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree from UAlberta, a student will need to earn 120 credits.

Most courses a student completes will be three credits. There are some courses that span a full year (Fall to Winter) that are six credits. As such, 120 credits is generally 40 courses.

**Why is it recommended to transfer after one year at RDC?**
The majority of the courses in this degree are only offered by UAlberta, so we do not have enough courses to allow a student to complete two full years of study (60 credits).

**How do I know what courses to take?**
- Use this guide and use the advice!
- Make sure the courses you take are transferable using [Transfer Alberta](#).
- You should be taking university level and university transferable courses
  - “200” Level courses are Year 1 courses at RDC
  - “300” Level courses are Year 2 courses at RDC
  - (each institution will use different numbering conventions for their years)
SAMPLE PATTERN OF COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>WINTER TERM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 219</td>
<td>ENGL 220 or COMM 271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 211</td>
<td>MATH 202 or 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 218</td>
<td>BIOL 318</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 201</td>
<td>STAT 251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts or Science Elective</td>
<td>Arts or Science Elective</td>
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<td>(see note 1 below)</td>
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NOTES:
1. Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed here: [https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment](https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment) (you can pick up this printout from the School of Arts & Sciences in Room 2203 or view on the Loop)

Students interested in pursuing a major in Environmental Economics and Policy will require advanced Economics classes. As such, students interested in this major should take ECON 202 in the Winter term.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Alberta</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Recommended to transfer after one year of study at RDC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying for Transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Deadline typically March 1. Consult U of A timelines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Apply to U of A here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) calculated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Transferable Grade</td>
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

| School of Arts & Sciences  
| Red Deer College | Room 2203 | artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca |
| | | 403.342.3585 (select option 1) |
| Transfer Alberta Guide | http://transferalberta.alberta.ca |
| University of Alberta | https://www.ualberta.ca/agriculture-life-environment-sciences/questions.ales@ualberta.ca |

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This document is designed to provide recommendations and general information related to transfer pathways that best suit Red Deer College (RDC) course offerings. There are many ways to create a schedule and complete your studies, and we recommend you familiarize yourself with the intricacies of the program and university you want to transfer into. We are here to assist in helping you navigate your studies and can connect you with resources as needed, but you are responsible for your course registration, class schedule, applications to transfer and other related matters. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university that they wish to attend, and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

Please note that institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting RDC. As such, it is recommended you consult with the appropriate institutional information (i.e. university calendars, websites, advisors,) to gain the most up to date information as you progress through your studies.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major, or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with the School of Arts & Sciences if you have any questions.