APPLYING AS A TRANSFER STUDENT

The Upperclass Admissions Committee at Caltech welcomes applications for transfer admission to the Institute. Previous enrolling transfer students have contributed much to the campus community, and have also been extraordinarily successful in research and in the classroom. The Admissions Committee seeks to continue this record of success by attracting an accomplished and talented group of transfer students each year in the future.

The following information is for students interested in transferring to the California Institute of Technology. Caltech admits transfer students for the fall term only. We require a completed application, letters of evaluation, an official transcript from the last secondary school attended and all colleges or universities attended, descriptions of all college-level math and science courses, and completion of the Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations. Please review the section titled, "Eligibility Criteria for Admission" to determine if you meet the eligibility requirements for transfer admissions consideration.

We appreciate your interest in Caltech. If you have questions about the transfer process, please contact the Admissions Office.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

The Institute admits to its sophomore and junior classes a small number of students who have excellent records at other college-level institutions and who perform well on the Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations.

Students must have completed their secondary-school education, and have subsequently enrolled at a college or university as degree-seeking students, in order to be considered for transfer admission.

Students who have already completed a bachelor’s degree in any subject are not eligible for transfer.

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Caltech admits transfer students from all regions of the world, and from students in many kinds of post-secondary institutions. Caltech seeks the most qualified students, regardless of the type of institution from which they come. The table below describes a few combined characteristics of five recent transfer applicant pools (Fall 2000 to Fall 2004):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five-year Totals</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 2-year institution</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 4-year institution</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-U.S. institution</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

The following is an overview of the Caltech core curriculum taken by all Caltech students during their first two years. It is expected that transfer students will have had exposure to mathematics and physics courses on a comparable level prior to entry to Caltech. Any of the following core courses that have not been covered by incoming transfer students must be taken upon matriculation at Caltech. Humanities and social science courses may cover a broad range of topics; there are no specific course requirements. However, an evaluation of each transfer student’s written English is required prior to registration and may result in an additional course requirement.

FRESHMAN COURSES

Math 1 abc: Calculus of One and Several Variables and Linear Algebra

Physics 1 abc: Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism
Newtonian mechanics, electricity and magnetism, special relativity.

Biology 1: Drugs and the Brain
This course introduces nonbiologists to recent advances in biology, biomedical science, and applied biology.

Chemistry 1 ab: General Chemistry
Electronic structure of atoms, periodic properties, ionic substances, covalent bonding, Lewis representations of molecules and ions, shapes of molecules, Lewis acids and bases, Bronsted acids and bases, hybridization and resonance, bonding in solids, chemical equilibria, oxidation and reduction, thermodynamics, kinetics, introduction to organic chemistry and the chemistry of life.

Chemistry 3 a: Fundamental Techniques of Experimental Chemistry
Introduces the basic principles and techniques of synthesis and analysis and develops the laboratory skills and precision that are fundamental to experimental chemistry.

Additional science course (currently Astronomy 1, Geology 1, or Math 7)

Humanities and Social Science courses (2 or more courses)
SOPHOMORE COURSES

Math 2 ab: Linear Algebra, Statistics, and Differential Equations
Linear algebra, basic statistics, ordinary differential equations.

Physics 2 ab: Statistical Physics, Waves, and Quantum Mechanics
Statistical physics, classical waves, introductory quantum mechanics.

or

Physics 12 abc: Quantum and Statistical Mechanics
For students intending further work in the physics option. Classical waves; wave mechanics, interpretation of the quantum wave-function, one-dimensional bound states, scattering, and tunneling; thermodynamics, introductory kinetic theory, and quantum statistics.

Additional introductory laboratory

Humanities and Social Science courses (2 or more courses)
Science communication requirement (emphasizes written and verbal communication)

AREAS OF STUDY

All undergraduate options (majors) are open to transfer students.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The Caltech transfer application may be downloaded from this website in November. Alternatively, students may write, call, fax, or e-mail the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to request an application. Applications are available by mail beginning in November through February. It is to the applicant’s advantage to return the transfer application for admission as soon as possible. All applications are due in the admissions office by February 15.

The most important criterion for undergraduate admission is strength of academic preparation. In addition, successful applicants will have demonstrated an interest in some area of mathematics, science, or engineering, although outstanding candidates who desire a rigorous education in the humanities or social sciences are also admitted. Applicants for admission are evaluated according to information submitted on the transfer application, college (and, in some cases, high school) course work and grades, evaluations from instructors, and performance on the Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations.

Applicants will be notified of their admissions decisions by the first week of May. International students admitted to Caltech who have certified their intent to matriculate and have submitted all required financial aid forms will receive an I-20 in June.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

SAT/ACT

Transfer applicants are NOT required to submit SAT or ACT scores.

TOEFL

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is required of transfer applicants who are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., and whose native language is not English. The TOEFL should be taken by the January sitting. International students who have studied in the United States for two or more years are exempt from taking the TOEFL.

For TOEFL information use the following:

TOEFL Services
Educational Testing Service
P.O. Box 6151
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151
U.S.A.
Phone: +1 (609) 771 7100
Fax: +1 (609) 771 7500
Website: www.toefl.org
E-mail: toefl@ets.org

EVALUATION OF WRITTEN ENGLISH

All entering students will be required to undergo an evaluation of their written English prior to enrolling as transfer students.

Transfer Entrance Examinations

All applicants are required to take Caltech Transfer Entrance Examinations in mathematics and physics. An additional examination in chemistry may be required of some students with an expressed interest in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering. These exams are taken after candidates submit a transfer application to Caltech. Instructions for obtaining the examinations will be included in the transfer application packet. Performance on the entrance exams will be evaluated in the context of the applicant’s preparation in the field, although one year of university-level mathematics (basic calculus) and physics (mechanics and electromagnetism) are assumed. Further information about topics covered on the examinations will also be included in the application.

Transfer exams must be completed and in the possession of the Caltech Admissions Office by April 15 of the application year. Examinations taken for admission in one year are not considered for admission in any subsequent year.
TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The courses for which enrolling transfer students will receive credit will be determined at the time of enrollment. Faculty members review each student's achievement on an individual basis, and after a placement examination has been taken. It is not possible, therefore, to determine in advance the acceptability of course work taken elsewhere.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Admitted transfer students must meet the following requirements in order to receive a Caltech Bachelor of Science degree. Regardless of the amount of credit awarded upon matriculation, transfer students must spend at least two years (six terms) in residence at Caltech. Students must also earn at least 216 units at Caltech, not including courses taken to satisfy math and science core curriculum requirements. [NOTE: Caltech calculates course unit values in an unusual fashion. A typical Caltech course (a five-unit course at most other American colleges) is worth nine units. 216 Caltech units, therefore, assumes students average four courses per term for two years.]

Students must take, or have taken the equivalent of, all core curriculum courses.

Students must satisfy all of their chosen option's degree requirements. Transfer students may choose from among Caltech's undergraduate options.

FINANCIAL AID

Caltech admits students on the basis of academic and personal strengths and accomplishments without regard to their ability to meet the cost of a Caltech education. In addition, Caltech is committed to meeting the full demonstrated financial need of admitted students. In the case of international students, however, the total amount of funds available is fixed. Financial need, therefore, might be a factor in the admission decision of an applicant who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

U.S. CITIZENS & PERMANENT RESIDENTS

To apply for financial assistance, U.S. citizens and permanent residents must submit PROFILE and FAFSA applications to the Caltech Financial Aid Office. Registration for PROFILE should take place by January 15, and the priority date for filing PROFILE and FAFSA applications is March 2. Conditional financial aid awards will be issued after offers of admission. Awards will then become official after tax returns and all other requested documents are received by the Financial Aid Office, and any necessary award adjustments are made.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

To apply for financial assistance, international transfer admission candidates must submit to the Caltech Financial Aid Office the "International Student Financial Aid Application" and the "International Student Supplemental Form." These forms will be included in the packet sent to all international students requesting the transfer admissions application. Students who download the application, however, should also download the financial aid forms. (Alternatively, they can request postal delivery of the financial aid forms from the Caltech Admissions Office. Requests must be made prior to January 15.) Applicants must submit financial aid forms to the Caltech Financial Aid Office by March 2.

International students who do not apply for financial aid by March 2, or who are denied aid for their first year at Caltech, are not eligible for aid for any other academic period while they are undergraduates at Caltech. (Citizens of Canada and Mexico are exempt from this rule.) Conditional awards will be issued after offers of admission. Awards will then become official after tax returns and all other requested documents are received by the Financial Aid Office, and any necessary award adjustments are made. Those offered assistance will be eligible to apply for aid in subsequent years.

Students can visit the Financial Aid Office online or contact the office using the following address and phone number:
Financial Aid Office
Mail Code 110-87
Caltech
Pasadena, CA 91125
Tel.: +1 (626) 395 6280

CALTECH COSTS FOR 2004-2005

Tuition and Fees
Tuition $25,335
Fees $231

Estimated Living Expenses
Room and Board (on campus) $8,013
Additional Meals $1,926
Books and Supplies $1,029
Personal Expenses $1,887

Source: California Institute of Technology, Transfer Admissions Information Pamphlet