

## Focal Studies Advising

<http://www.pacificu.edu/current-undergraduate/academics/academic-resources/focal-studies>

One unique part of our Core requirements is focal studies. All students must complete 2 focal studies as part of their Core. Focal study options can be found at the Focal Studies website listed above. Each focal study has its own instructions and list of courses to choose from.

Once a student has selected her/his focal studies the next step is to declare them with the Advising Center so they can be tracked towards graduation. The Focal Studies Declaration form can be found on the Focal Studies website. **Since focal study course selection requires more planning, it is strongly recommended that students declare their focal studies by the end of freshmen year.**

It is best for new freshmen students to narrow down their focal study choices to the top 4-5 focal studies and review them with their advisor during the October/November Advising & Registration cycle. Freshmen should then come to the advisor meeting during the April Advising & Registration cycle ready to review their final 2 focal study choices. Transfer students need to decide focal study choices quickly, often before their first semester at Pacific (unless they are coming in with approved AA degrees. See “Transfer Student Advising” for additional details.)

The following rules apply to all focal studies:

- A focal study must include at least three courses and at least 10 credits.
- Among all of a student’s focal studies courses, no more than 8 credits may come from the same disciplinary prefix.
  - Many students think this means no more than 8 credits in one discipline per focal study which is incorrect. It means no more than 8 credits in one discipline between both focal studies.
- The same course may not be taken for credit toward more than one of a student’s focal studies.
- A focal study may not include HUM 100, ENGW 201, ENGW 202, ENGW 203, math courses numbered below 165, or any foreign language course at the 101 or 102 levels; it may include other courses used by the student to fulfill major, minor, or other core requirements.

Transfer credit may be applied to a student’s focal study. If the transfer class is an exact equivalency no additional steps need to be taken (consult your Transfer Equivalency Report to confirm equivalencies). If the transfer class is not an exact equivalency but meets the spirit and outcome of the focal study it can be reviewed for possible use in the focal study. Contact the Advising Center Director for any transfer coursework you would like to have reviewed.

*Warning:* Transfer credit often comes in with credit amounts that are different than Pacific’s equivalent courses. All focal studies must still have 10 credits to be completed so be sure to

review the credits of each transfer class. These varying credit amounts can also create challenges regarding the no more than 8 credits per discipline between both focal studies rule.

If you took a class at Pacific that you feel is appropriate for a focal study but not listed as an option then you may submit a Focal Study Substitution form to the Advising Center. Proposed substitutions will be put forward for approval. Students will be notified if their proposed substitution was approved or not. All decisions are final.