

ADMISSION POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: The following information on admission to SUNY ESF is limited to specific policies and requirements necessary for inclusion in a catalog of record.

For complete, current information on admission to ESF, visit our admission websites:

- www.esf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/
- www.esf.edu/graduate/prospective/admission.php
- www.esf.edu/international-education (undergraduate and graduate)

Required Application Materials

All applicants for first year or transfer entry are required to submit the following:

- Online admissions application (choose either the Apply SUNY application or The Common Application).
- Official high school transcript or documentation of high school graduation (or equivalent).
- Official transcripts for any college-level coursework (or equivalent) completed.

Additional required credentials for each admission pathway are outlined below. Failure to submit documentation by the stated deadlines may result in the withdrawal of the application or denial of admission.

Optional Application Materials

After your application is submitted you will receive a confirmation email from us instructing you to log into your ESF Application Portal. Within this portal you have the option of uploading additional application materials. These are all optional, however, the information included on these materials can provide the admissions committee with valuable information. These materials can be added through your ESF Application portal:

- ESF Supplemental Questions Form
- ESF Supplemental Essay
- Letters of Recommendation

Application Target Dates

ESF has rolling admissions, this means we review and release admissions decisions as they become available. Below are the recommended filing dates, these are not deadlines, but if you apply after these dates we will only review your application on a space available basis. Note that Early action is a hard deadline and application received after this date can only be considered for regular admissions.

Application Type	Start Term	Recommended filing dates
Spring start term 1st year & Transfer students	Spring	Nov 15th
Early Action - High School Seniors	Fall	Nov 15th deadline* if submitted after this date your application can only be considered for regular admission

Application Type	Start Term	Recommended filing dates
Regular 1st year & Guaranteed Transfer	Fall	Jan 15th
Transfer	Fall	Feb 15

Early Action First Year Admission for High School Seniors

For high school students that are ready to apply to colleges early in their senior year, Early Action allows them to turn in all materials and receive an admission decision earlier than Regular Admission applications. Early action is not a commitment program like Early Decision. Note that ESF does not have Early Decision admission, like you may see at other institutions. The application and official high school transcripts, including 12th-year first-quarter grades must be received by the deadline listed above and posted on the [first year admissions webpage](#). Please refer to the next section, "Regular First Year Admission for High School Seniors," for additional information on the first year application process.

Regular First Year Admission for High School Seniors

First Year applicants should present strong academic credentials in a college preparatory high school curriculum. A minimum of three units each of college preparatory mathematics and science are required for all majors. Completion of additional units of math and science, or design or art sequences for Landscape Architecture applicants, as well as advanced level coursework (honors or college level) indicates strong preparation for the academic rigor students will experience at ESF. An official high school transcript, including 12th-year first-quarter grades, must be submitted as part of the student's application credentials.

High school seniors may apply for Regular First Year admission. High school seniors who are not offered first year entry may be offered Guaranteed Transfer. Please refer to the next section, "Guaranteed Transfer Option for High School Seniors," which explains this process.

Guaranteed Transfer Option for High School Seniors

Under this option, admitted students are guaranteed admission to ESF for either their sophomore or junior year provided they meet the conditions specified in the offer of Guaranteed Transfer. Guaranteed Transfer applicants may file the SUNY application or the Common Application as outlined in the section above and send an email to esfinfo@esf.edu indicating the entry semester for which they wish to be considered. Applicants must submit the same credentials as outlined under "Regular First Year Admission for High School Seniors" (see preceding section). Successful applicants for this option must present a strong academic background including at least three years each of college preparatory mathematics and science. First year applicants who are not offered admission may be offered Guaranteed Transfer. To satisfy the guarantee of admission, students must satisfactorily complete, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.80 for bachelor's degree programs and 2.50 for associate degree programs (A=4.000), any of the lower-division requirements, which are part of their program of study. Only coursework with grades of C or higher will transfer to meet ESF degree requirements.

Regular Transfer Admission for College Students

Transfer students' admissibility is based on how much of their previous college-level coursework applies to the requirements of their intended major at ESF, overall academic performance at

their previous colleges and specific interest in ESF programs. For most programs, a significant emphasis is placed on students' backgrounds in mathematics and science.

Transfer applicants must submit official transcripts and examination scores from all college-level coursework completed and an official final high school transcript or equivalent. Transfer applicants are encouraged to submit the ESF Supplemental Questions located in the ESF Portal. Students who have completed less than 30 semester hours of college-level coursework are required to submit copies of their high school transcript as part of the admissions process.

Students who apply as transfers to ESF are expected to have successfully completed some portion of the established required sequence of courses appropriate to their intended major at the College. Applicants to Landscape Architecture should have some background in art or graphic design. Students attending one of our ESF Cooperative College Partners will find information on course equivalencies for all of our programs of study on our web page.

Transfer students applying for bachelor degree programs at the Syracuse campus should have a 2.80 (A=4.00) or higher cumulative grade point average at the last institution they attended in full-time status. Those applying for associate degree programs at The Ranger School campus should have a 2.50 or higher cumulative grade point average at the last institution they attended in full-time status. Applicants with cumulative grade point averages below these thresholds will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, transfer applicants may be updated for consideration for a future entry date, one or two semesters beyond their original entry date, to allow them the opportunity to complete additional core degree requirements and/or improve academic performance. Students with cumulative grade point averages less than 2.00 will not be considered for transfer admission to SUNY ESF. Only coursework with grades of C or higher will transfer to meet ESF degree requirements.

College & University Transfer Credit

Coursework appropriate to the ESF curriculum can be transferred to the College, but grades and grade points cannot be transferred. Courses transferred to meet graduation requirements for any curriculum must be acceptable in content, and credit will be awarded only for those completed with a grade of C or higher (a C- is not acceptable). Students cannot apply more than 90 transfer credits towards their bachelor's degree requirements and must complete at least 30 residential credits at SUNY ESF to be awarded a baccalaureate degree, superseded only by memorandum of understanding with a partner institution.

All transfer credit will remain tentative until official, final transcripts are received. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that official, final transcripts are sent to and received by the College.

Only coursework completed at institutions that are fully accredited by one of six regional accrediting agencies will be considered for possible transfer credit toward ESF degree requirements. These agencies are the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Credit for Prior Learning

At ESF, we acknowledge that some students have acquired skills and knowledge through prior learning experiences that may be equivalent to college-level credit. Credit for prior learning (CPL) is available at SUNY ESF in certain instances to determine if the experiences a student has meets

the standards and requirements of college-level learning.##Students must be able to provide evidence of college level learning that is aligned with their degree plan.

To be eligible for CPL, a student must be a matriculated undergraduate student at SUNY ESF in a bachelor's degree program. Due to the nature of the Ranger School programs, students may not use prior learning credits to apply to any of the required residential courses.

Prior learning credits are considered transfer credits and are not GPA eligible. Students cannot apply more than 90 transfer credits towards their bachelor's degree requirements and must complete at least 30 residential credits at SUNY ESF to be awarded a baccalaureate degree, superseded only by memorandum of understanding with a partner institution. CPL credit does not count towards residency requirements.

Prior learning credits awarded at the lower-division level (100-299) cannot be applied to upper-division requirements. Students who are seeking prior learning credit to fulfill program requirements must have their work evaluated by the academic unit(s) that oversees the relevant subject area(s) based on the assessment metrics determined by that academic unit.

Prior learning credit cannot replace a failing grade of an attempted course or duplicate a previously earned course credit. Once credit has been awarded it may not be removed from a student record.

Policy for Students Transferring from Syracuse University to SUNY ESF

With the approval of the home institution and subject to availability, SUNY ESF students may take Syracuse University courses, and SU students may take SUNY ESF courses.

For Syracuse University transfer students, Syracuse University is the college of record. SUNY ESF does not maintain a transcript record of ESF courses taken by Syracuse University students. A student previously matriculated at Syracuse University, who is subsequently admitted to SUNY ESF, will have all coursework taken while a Syracuse University student, including SUNY ESF courses, treated and evaluated as transfer credit from Syracuse University. Such Syracuse University courses will not appear or calculate on the SUNY ESF transcript, except as they are included in a block of transfer credits, i.e., total credit hours, accepted from Syracuse University. However, such Syracuse University courses do not count toward the SUNY ESF residency requirement. Departments at their discretion include such courses in manual calculations, e.g., for determination of subsequent intra-university transfer eligibility.

Syracuse University courses taken by matriculated ESF students appear on the SUNY ESF transcript and calculate in the same way as ESF courses.

The ESF transfer credit policy requiring a minimum grade of C will be waived for Syracuse University students only and any coursework taken at Syracuse University with a passing grade will be treated as if it was taken at SUNY ESF.

Veterans

SUNY ESF is proud to support the educational goals of our students and families who have served their country. The Registrar's Office provides information and assistance with certification paperwork for Veterans Affairs educational benefits. Credit for prior learning (CPL) will help you

save time and money by awarding college credit for demonstrated knowledge gained outside of the classroom, including military education and training.

Credit for military service may be awarded by:

- Joint Services Transcript (JST)
- Community College of the Air Force
- DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support)
- DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests).

As with other transfer institutions and standardized tests, students must send their official transcripts or score reports to ESF Office of Admissions to receive a credit evaluation. Courses or exams that do not have a direct equivalency may be eligible for ESF Challenge Examination evaluation or CPL Portfolio review. Matriculated students may apply for these credits following the CPL procedures.

College Level Examination Transfer Credit

The College will consider for advanced standing credit the results of examinations from standardized testing agencies such as the College Entrance Examination Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) or the College Level Examination Programs (CLEP) as well as the Higher Level Exams of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

AP Course Score Requirements

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Art 2D Design	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts
Art 3D Design	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts
Art Studio (drawing)	3 or higher	LSA 182	3	The Arts
Art History	3 or higher	LSA 205 and Free elective	6	The Arts/ World History and Global Awareness
Biology	4 or higher	ESF 101 and 102 and 103 and 104	8	Natural Science
Calculus AB	4 or higher	APM 205	4	Quantitative Science
Calculus BC	4 or higher	APM 206 and 206	8	Quantitative Science
Chemistry	4 or higher	FCH 150 and 151 and 152 and 153	8	Natural Science

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Chinese	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Languages
Computer Science A	3 or higher	ESF 200 and free elective	4	N/A
Computer Science AB	3 or higher	ESF 200 and free elective	4	N/A
English: Language & Composition	3 or higher	EWP 190 and Free Elective	6	Basic Communication
English: Literature & Composition	3 or higher	EWP 290 and Free Elective	6	Humanities
Environmental Science	3 or higher	EFB 120	3	Social Science/ Natural Science
European History	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
Economics: Microeconomics	3 or higher	FOR 207	3	Social Science
Economics: Macroeconomics	3 or higher	FOR 207	3	Social Science
French Language	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
French Literature	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
German Language	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Government & Politics: United States	3 or higher	EST 221	3	Social Science
Government & Politics: Comparative	3 or higher	EST 221	3	Social Science
Human Geography	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Italian Language and Culture	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Japanese Language and Culture	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Latin Literature	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Music Theory	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	6	The Arts
Physics 1 (effective fall 2014)	4 or higher	EPH 101/102 or FOR 110	4	Natural Science
Physics 2 (effective fall 2014)	4 or higher	EPH 103/104	4	Natural Science
Physics B	4 or higher	EPH 101/102 and EPH 103/104	8	Natural Science
Physics C (Mechanics)	4 or higher	EPH 201/202	4	Natural Science
Physics C (Electricity & Magnetism)	4 or higher	EPH 203/204	4	Natural Science
Psychology	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science
Spanish Language	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Spanish Literature	3 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Statistics	3 or higher	APM 210 (previously APM 391)	3	Quantitative Science
United States History	3 or higher	EST 201 and 202	6	US History and Civic Engagement
World History	3 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness

IB Requirements

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Arabic Language B (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Biology (HL)	5 or higher	EFB 101/102 and EFB 103/104	8	Natural Science
Business Management (HL)	5 or higher	FOR 360	3	N/A
Business Organization (HL)	5 or higher	Free elective	3	N/A
Chemistry (HL)	5 or higher	FCH 150/151 and FCH 152/153	8	Natural Science
Chinese A-1 (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Classical Languages (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Computer Science (HL)	5 or higher	ESF 200 and Free elective	3	N/A
Design Technology (HL)	5 or higher	Free elective	3	N/A
Economics (HL)	5 or higher	FOR 207	3	Social Science
English A1 (HL)	5 or higher	EWP 290 and Free Elective	6	Humanities
English A2 (HL)	5 or higher	EWP 290 and Free Elective	6	Humanities
Film (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts
French A2 (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
French B (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Geography (HL)		Free elective	3	N/A

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
History (HL) – Africa	5 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
History (HL) – Americas	5 or higher	EST 201 and EST 202	6	US History and Civic Engagement
History (HL) – East and South Asia	5 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
History (HL) – Europe	5 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
History (HL) – South Asia and the Middle East	5 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
Islamic History (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	World History and Global Awareness
Information Technology (HL)	5 or higher	Free elective	3	N/A
Information Technology in Global Society (HL)	5 or higher	Free elective	3	N/A
Japanese B (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Korean (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Music (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts
Philipino Language (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Philosophy (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	N/A
Physics (HL)	5 or higher	EPH 101/102 and EPH 103/104	8	Natural Science

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Psychology (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science
Social and Cultural Anthropology (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science or World History and Global Awareness
Spanish Language A2 (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Spanish Language B (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Theater Arts (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts
Visual Arts (HL)	5 or higher	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	The Arts

CLEP Requirements

COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
American Literature ALCLEP1 & ALCLEP2	50	EWP 190 and 290	6	Oral Communication, Written Communication, and Humanities
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature ALCLEP1 & ALCLEP2	50	EWP 290 and Free Elective	6	Humanities
College Composition ENGCL1 & ENGCL2	50	EWP 190 and Free Elective	6	Oral Communication and Written Communication
College Composition with Modular ENCCLE	50	EWP 190	3	Oral Communication and Written Communication

First Year College Composition COMCLE 1 & ECCLE2	50	EWP 190	3	Oral Communication and Written Communication
English Composition with or without Essay ECCLE1 & ECCLE2	50	EWP 190	3	Oral Communication and Written Communication
English Literature EL1CLEP & EL2CLEP	50	EWP 290 and Free Elective	6	Humanities
Humanities HUCLE1 & HUCLE2	50	Free electives	6	Humanities

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
French - Level 1	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
French - Level 2	59	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
German - Level 1	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
German - Level 2	60	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Spanish - Level 1	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language
Spanish - Level 2	63	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World Language

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
American Government	50	EST 221	3	Social Science

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Introduction to Educational Psychology	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science
History of the United States I: Early Colonization to 1877	50	EST 202	3	US History and Civic Engagement
History of the United States II: 1865 to the Present	50	EST 201	3	US History and Civic Engagement
Human Growth and Development	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	FOR 207	3	Social Science
Principles of Microeconomics	50	FOR 207	3	Social Science
Introductory Psychology	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	Social Science
Social Sciences and History	50	Gen ed elective and/or free elective	6	Social Science
Introductory Sociology	50	EST 203	3	Social Science
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World History and Global Awareness
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present	50	Gen ed elective or free elective	3	World History and Global Awareness

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
College Algebra	50	APM 103	3	Quantitative Science
College Algebra – Trigonometry	50	APM 103	3	Quantitative Science
Calculus	50	APM 105	4	Quantitative Science
Natural Sciences	50	Free electives	6	Natural Science
Pre-calculus	50	APM 104	3	Quantitative Science

BUSINESS

Course	Score	ESF Equivalent	Credits Awarded	General Education Category
Principles of Accounting	50	FOR 205 and Free elective	6	N/A
Introductory Business Law	50	FOR 485	3	N/A
Financial Accounting	50	CME 151	3	N/A
Information Systems and Computer Applications	50	Free elective	3	N/A
Principles of Management	50	FOR 360	3	N/A
Principles of Marketing	50	Free elective	3	N/A

Ranger School Admission

The SUNY ESF Ranger School does not enroll first year students. Students complete their first year requirements at ESF's Syracuse campus or at the college of their choice. They complete the sophomore year of their A.A.S. program in residence at The Ranger School campus. Candidates may apply for acceptance into these programs under the guaranteed transfer option while a senior in high school or as a regular transfer student.

High school students who wish to enroll in these programs should apply during their senior year to receive a guaranteed entry date one year later. Transfer students apply for sophomore year entry during the academic year prior to their intended fall semester entry at The Ranger School (spring admission is not available). For further information on The Ranger School, [visit the website](#) or refer to The Ranger School section of this catalog.

Educational Opportunity Program

Offered only to full-time students who are New York state residents, first year and transfer students who qualify, both academically and economically, may be eligible for the EOP program.

High school seniors who wish to apply for first year enrollment and EOP status at the College must file a SUNY application or The Common Application and indicate they want to be considered for EOP. In addition, they must submit a SUNY EOP Financial Information Form and a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), indicating ESF as a receiving institution.

In order for transfer students to participate in the program at the College, they must have been enrolled in or qualified for EOP, Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), Search for Education Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) or similar program at their prior college. Therefore, students who are applying to ESF as high school seniors through the Guaranteed Transfer option should also apply for EOP, HEOP or SEEK at their lower-division college, and must enroll in or be qualified for such a program in order to continue in EOP at ESF.

All EOP applicants must file applications for undergraduate admission and financial aid as described in those two sections of this catalog.

Deferred Admission

Students accepted to ESF who wish to defer their enrollment for one or two semesters beyond their original entry term must make this request in writing directly email the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at esfinfo@esf.edu. Students will receive written notification if their request has been approved.

Graduate Admission Policies & Requirements

- [Graduate Admissions](#) (complete, current information for prospective students)

Admission to Graduate School is conditional upon review and acceptance of an applicant's credentials by appropriate faculty members and upon the recommendation of the appropriate department chairperson or program director to the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School.

Application Requirements

Submit securely via our online application.

- **Transcripts**
Transcripts of an earned bachelor's degree from a recognized institution with an academic record showing at least a "B" average for junior and senior years of the baccalaureate program or for the master's program
- **Application**
The graduate application

- **Scores**

Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and for some degree programs, advanced test scores (institution code for official score reports: **2530**) GRE scores are not required for our certificate of advanced study programs or for the MPS in environmental leadership, justice and communication program.

- **Recommendations**

Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to your academic or professional skills. This should NOT include personal friends and family. Only two letters are required for our certificate of advanced study programs.

- **Resume**

A resume or CV

- **Statement**

A statement of educational and professional goals

- **Fee**

A nonrefundable \$60(US) application fee

Students whose primary language is not English are also required to provide evidence of English language proficiency.

Applying for Admission

Faculty seek graduate students who are well prepared for rigorous study, responsive and receptive to constructive feedback, and a good fit with their programs. The most effective way for applicants to demonstrate these qualities is to communicate with faculty prior to applying and to understand the programs ESF has to offer. Therefore, individuals who are interested in applying for graduate study should contact ESF faculty to discuss degree programs and learn about specific opportunities for study and research at ESF. Faculty Web pages provide contact information and additional insights about ESF degree programs. We also encourage applicants to visit campus and meet with faculty and current graduate students.

Application Deadlines

While the following dates are particularly important for applicants wishing to be considered for fellowships, assistantships, and other forms of financial assistance, ESF will continue to accept and fully consider graduate applications beyond each of the noted deadlines:

Application Target Dates

Degree Level	Semester of Matriculation	Application Deadline for consideration for funding*	Application Deadline *
PhD & MS	Fall	January 15	April 30
PhD & MS	Spring	November 1	December 15
MPS, MF, MLA, Certificates	Fall	Rolling, preferred by April 30	
MPS, MF, MLA, Certificates	Spring	Rolling, preferred by December 15	

*Applications completed by these deadlines by these dates will normally receive decisions by mid-March for fall matriculation and by early December for spring matriculation.

Graduate Record Exam Subject Tests

Subject tests are recommended by the following programs:

Graduate Program	Subject Test
Environmental and forest chemistry	Chemistry - recommended
Biochemistry area of study within environmental and forest chemistry	Chemistry or Biology - recommended

Graduate Transfer Credit

Credit hours appropriate to the graduate degree in which a minimum grade of B was earned from an accredited institution can be transferred to the College, but grades and grade points cannot be transferred.

Master level program (MS, MPS, MF and MLA)

Master level programs have a minimum of 24 credit hours taken at ESF requirement.

Up to six credits of graduate coursework may be accepted toward completion of a master's or doctoral degree as approved by the steering committee.

Students with an ESF undergraduate degree that earned ESF graduate coursework credit during their studies, may petition to have up to 9 of those credits applied to their master's degree. i.e. no more than 9 graduate credits can be applied towards both undergraduate and graduate degrees from ESF.

PhD programs

Up to six credits of graduate coursework from an accredited institution may be accepted toward completion of a doctoral degree as approved by the steering committee.

Up to 30 credits of graduate level coursework earned as part of a conferred master's degree may be transferred (by petition) to a doctoral degree with approval of the steering committee.

Under no circumstances can the total number of transferred credits exceed 30 credits.

Certificate programs

A minimum of 90 percent of all credits applied to an ESF certificate of advanced study credential must be comprised of ESF credit. The certificate of advanced study is an official post-baccalaureate credential in New York State. However, it is not considered a degree program. Therefore, all credits satisfactorily completed for an ESF advanced certificate may also count toward a relevant ESF graduate degree.

All transfer credit will remain tentative until official, final transcripts are received. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that official, final transcripts are sent to and received by the College.

Part-time Study

Part-time study at the graduate level provides an excellent opportunity for working professionals to extend their educational credentials or broaden their general knowledge by enrolling for courses on a part-time basis. The M.P.S. or M.F. professional degrees are available for students who are initially matriculated on a part-time basis. Part-time students apply, matriculate and register through the same processes that all ESF graduate students complete. During any semester, students who enroll in part-time programs may register for the equivalent of full-time study, which is at least 12 credit hours. Part-time students are held to the policy for continuous registration, but not to the policy for time to degree (delimitation).

Deferred Admission

Students accepted to graduate programs at ESF who wish to defer their enrollment beyond their original entry term must make this request in writing directly to the Graduate School.

Faculty as Students

Employees of the College who carry faculty status in accordance with SUNY ESF Faculty Bylaws and are at or above the rank of assistant professor or equivalent, may not enter into matriculated status at the College.

International Student Admission Policies & Requirements

- [International Admissions](#) (complete, current information for prospective international students)

In addition to the admission requirements that all prospective students must meet, non-Native English-speaking applicants must provide the following:

Standard	Undergraduate Admission Score (Minimum)	Graduate Admission Score (Minimum)
TOEFL (paper-based)	550	550
TOEFL (internet-based)	79 4 (exams after 1/2026)	80 (no individual component score < 17) 4 (exams after 1/2026)
IELTS	Total: 6.0 (with no less than 5 in Writing)	Total: 6.0 (with no less than 5 in Writing)
Duolingo English Test (DET)	100	105
Syracuse University - English Language Institute (ELI)	Successful completion of ELI "Level 4"	Successful completion of ELI "Level 4"
Previous college-level instruction in English	Completion of at least one three-credit English course	• Completion of at least two years of college (academic

	at an institution where the language of instruction is in English. ESL courses will not count toward meeting this requirement.	studies, not English language instruction) at an institution where the courses were taught in English. • Successful completion of at least one semester at SUNY ESF
SAT	500 Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Score	N/A
ACT	22 Composite Score	N/A

Note: SUNY ESF accepts MyBest TOEFL scores for both undergraduate and graduate admissions. Non-native English-speaking students that have graduated from a US high school, or have a US GED, or a High School Equivalency may be waived from taking an English Proficiency exam.

- 1. Transcripts and international academic credentials**—International applicants must provide complete translations into English of all transcripts required by the admissions application without any additions or deletions by the translators. Translations of documents by the applicant will not be accepted. Credential evaluator and translation services for academic documents may be found through the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#).
 - **International freshman applicants** are required to demonstrate the completion of a college preparatory secondary school program by submitting academic credentials translated into English. This evaluation must be completed by an approved international credentials evaluation agency.
 - **International transfer applicants** are required to submit a detailed course-by-course evaluation of all international academic credentials in English. This evaluation must be completed by an approved international credentials evaluation agency.
- 2. Copy of the passport** should be submitted with application materials.

International Students Currently Attending an Educational Institution in the U.S.

In addition to the entrance requirements for other international students, international students who are currently enrolled at a U.S. educational institution must obtain permission (usually through a Transfer-In Form) from their current educational institution to transfer their SEVIS record to ESF. Students will also have to complete a **SUNY ESF SEVIS Transfer-In Form** (F-1 Students / J-1) so that ESF is aware of when your current institution will release your SEVIS record to ESF so that a new I-20 or DS-2019 can be issued for the ESF program of study. Additional information about transferring your SEVIS record to ESF is available [online](#).

I-20 Issuance for International Students

An I-20, required for the F-1 student [visa application](#), will be issued once a student has:

- 1. Been officially admitted to ESF;**
- 2. Submitted adequate financial support documentation for at least one year of expenses at ESF;** In order to obtain an I-20 from ESF a potential F-1 student must submit credible documentary evidence that they have enough readily available funds to meet all expenses (tuition, fees, and living expenses) for the entire first year of study. Documentation of sufficient funding may come from any combination of dependable sources, including

scholarships, assistantships, fellowships, sponsoring agencies, personal funds, or funds from a student's family. Documentation of scholarships, assistantships, and fellowships must be in the form of an official award letter from the school or sponsoring agency; documentation of personal or family funds should be on an official signed letter of support from the bank that includes the U.S. dollar amount of support and certified bank statements which indicate that the sponsor has sufficient funds to meet a student's first-year expenses at ESF (the bank statement does not have to show the full amount of the account).

3. Indicate your intention to enroll at ESF through your ESF Applicant Portal by submitting the required admissions deposit.
4. Submitted the New Undergraduate International Student Information Form.
5. Submitted a valid passport copy.

Health Insurance Requirement

ESF students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents are required by SUNY policies to maintain [comprehensive health insurance with medical evacuation and repatriation coverage](#) for themselves (and their dependents in the United States) for the duration of their ESF program of study. International students are automatically enrolled in the SUNY Health Insurance Plan unless proof of comparable health insurance is provided to the Bursar's Office within 30 days of the start of each semester.

