



Photos by Martin Boling

Ivy Tech Credit Transfer Program Adding More Degrees

Transferring entire associate degrees earned from Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington to four-year public colleges and universities within Indiana is a seamless and rewarding step for more and more students, and Ivy Tech continues to add new options to its transfer program.

Associate degrees in psychology, biology, chemistry, and human services are now among eight other degrees that transfer in full to Indiana public universities under Ivy Tech's statewide Transfer Single Articulation Pathway, known as TSAP. Ivy Tech students have been transferring credits for years, but since TSAP began in 2015, TSAP graduates have been able to transfer 60 credit-hour associate degrees and, upon admission, enroll as juniors at Indiana

four-year universities to complete their bachelor's degrees.

"The idea is to make it easier to transfer to a four-year institution, so they can move the entire block of credits," says Jessica Strunk, vice chancellor of enrollment services at Ivy Tech Bloomington. "We want to make life easier for students."

Hannia Gaitan, 20, of Bloomington, can attest to that.

"I definitely wanted to go to a four-year college," says Gaitan, who earned a liberal arts associate degree in May 2016. "But I knew Ivy Tech was a good option, instead of going straight to Indiana University, as classes are less expensive."

Gaitan says she also benefitted from enrolling in Ivy Tech's Associated Accelerated Program (ASAP) that allowed her to earn her degree in 11 months,



Hannia Gaitan.



Sonila Zajmi.

alongside a cohort of other ASAP students.

“It didn’t feel like a traditional college, but more like high school. The classes were really small and it was easy to engage and talk with professors,” she says. “We had a lot of resources and our group was small, so it was easier to learn the material.”

While she was unsure of the bachelor’s degree she wanted to pursue, Gaitan says talking with other Ivy Tech students about informatics led her to enroll in the Indiana University School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering in 2017—and all of her credits transferred. Now, she’s working full time at Noodles & Company and going to classes full time. In December 2018, Gaitan expects to graduate and pursue a career in cybersecurity.

Sonila Zajmi’s educational path also started successfully at Ivy Tech. In December 2017 she will complete a master’s degree in mental health counseling at the IU School of Education. Zajmi, a married mother of two, says Ivy Tech offered a very supportive environment and a quality education with affordable tuition. She graduated with a liberal arts associate degree in 2012, then used those credits to help earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Indiana University in 2014.

“The transfer process to IU Bloomington in psychology was very quick and easy,” adds Zajmi, who has lived in Bloomington for 10 years after moving here from her native Albania.

Ivy Tech, Zajmi says, provided her with a strong educational foundation. “The learning experience in and of itself was extraordinary,” she says. “I really enjoyed the interactive experience with faculty and classmates. Instructors really care for you and are very understanding.”

In particular, Zajmi recalls psychology courses taught by professor Michael James influenced her decision to pursue a four-year degree in psychology. “He’s very motivating, knowledgeable, and passionate about psychology,” she says.

After graduation, Zajmi’s long-term goals are to become a licensed mental health counselor, work at a community center or agency, and possibly open a private practice.

Hillary Threatt-Presti, 23, born in Bloomington, also has big goals. Ultimately, she wants to become a veterinarian, a career that has appealed to her since growing up with a hamster, two cats, a Chinese-crested dog—and constantly watching “Animal Planet.”

While Threatt-Presti knew she wanted to go to a four-year college someday, starting at Ivy Tech was an attractive way to take basic courses for less cost while living at home. “The teachers cared a lot and were available to talk to you,” she says. “I really loved the science instructors there. And the advisers were right on it, telling me which courses I needed. I loved Ivy Tech.”

After graduating with a general studies associate degree in spring of 2014, she says about 60 credits transferred to Ball State University, where she earned a bachelor’s



Hillary Threatt-Presti.

degree in biology in December of 2016. Since last February, Threatt-Presti has been working as a pharmacy technician at Seminary Square Kroger in Bloomington.

But Threatt-Presti has her eye on her end goal. She hopes to enroll in a veterinary school, probably at Purdue University, in 2018. Knowing the expense of graduate school, she’s so glad she was able to avoid loans so far, thanks to her parents and Ivy Tech’s affordable tuition. •
Barb Berggoetz

Ivy Tech Transfer Degrees

Ivy Tech offers Transfer Single Articulation Pathway (TSAP) associate degrees that transfer to ANY public four-year university in Indiana, upon student acceptance/admission.

- Biology - **NEW**
- Business Administration
- Chemistry - **NEW**
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Elementary Education
- Human Services - **NEW**
- Informatics
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- Psychology - **NEW**



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