

University-Wide Course Numbering Policy

Rationale

This policy establishes a standardized framework for course numbering across Illinois Institute of Technology to promote clarity, consistency, and transparency in undergraduate and graduate curricula. Consistent numbering supports accurate advising, degree planning, and transfer evaluation, particularly for students transferring into Illinois Tech or moving between programs.

The framework aligns Illinois Tech course numbering with common practice at Illinois institutions and with the assumptions underlying the Illinois Articulation Initiative, including a clear distinction between lower division undergraduate, upper division undergraduate, and graduate level coursework. Standardized numbering also provides a stable structural foundation for ongoing and future curriculum reform, including revisions to the undergraduate core curriculum, without introducing additional complexity for students or advisors.

This policy consolidates existing academic practices and does not alter degree requirements or curricular authority. Its purpose is to ensure that course numbering consistently reflects academic level and degree applicability across the university.

Proposed Course Numbering Policy

000-level (001-099)

000 level courses are developmental or preparatory courses that do not carry academic credit toward degree completion. These courses may be required for certain students based on placement, prior preparation, or program specific requirements. They carry administrative credit solely for purposes such as tuition assessment, enrollment status determination, and compliance with federal and institutional financial aid policies. Completion of 000 level coursework does not reduce the number of academic credits required for graduation.

100-level (100-199)

100 level courses provide introductory and foundational disciplinary knowledge and include introductory components of the undergraduate core curriculum. These courses are designed for students entering from secondary education and do not assume prior college level coursework unless they are part of a defined introductory sequence. 100 level courses do not carry advanced level credit and are open to all undergraduate students, subject to stated prerequisites and placement requirements.

200-level (200-299)

200 level courses build upon 100 level coursework and provide deeper engagement with foundational material within a discipline or interdisciplinary area. These courses typically require completion of relevant 100 level prerequisites or equivalent preparation and are intended for

students with sophomore standing or higher. Introductory courses that require prior college level preparation in another discipline are also included in this tier. Students with first year standing may enroll when prerequisites are satisfied through advanced placement credit, placement examination, or verified prior coursework.

300-level (300-399)

300 level courses are upper level undergraduate courses that require substantial prior preparation, typically including one or more 200 level prerequisites, or a minimum of junior standing when no specific prerequisite is defined. These courses emphasize advanced conceptual understanding, analytical skill, and integration of prior coursework within the discipline or professional program. Courses at this level are not eligible for graduate credit.

400-level (400-499)

400 level courses represent advanced undergraduate coursework that emphasizes high level synthesis, specialization, or application within a discipline. These courses are intended for students in the final stages of undergraduate study and often represent the highest level of coursework required for completion of a four year undergraduate degree. Graduate students may enroll in 400 level courses and receive graduate credit subject to university policy and any additional restrictions established by the relevant graduate program.

500-level (500-599)

500 level courses are designed for graduate students and postbaccalaureate professional-degree students and provide foundational graduate-level instruction. Advanced undergraduates are allowed to take these classes for credit on a case by case basis. Undergraduate programs cannot require 500 level classes but can allow them as a panel of electives. This tier typically includes standard coursework for graduate degrees, as well as master's level research, thesis, or project credit.

600-level (600-699)

600 level courses are advanced graduate courses intended for specialized study, independent research, dissertation related work, or other advanced academic activities beyond standard graduate coursework and normally require prior graduate-level preparation. These courses are not generally suitable for undergraduate enrollment except by explicit approval. This tier is reserved for coursework and credit structures that support advanced research training or professional development, including research, thesis, or project credit, at the doctoral level, as defined by program and university policy.

700-level (700-799)

700 level courses are graduate-level, credit-bearing courses intended for professionally oriented or practice-focused learning that lies outside the standard graduate curriculum. Credit earned in these courses applies toward degree or credential requirements only as defined by the approving graduate program and does not imply equivalence to standard 500- or 600-level coursework. 700 level courses may not be used for undergraduate degree credit.