

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.

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.

200-level (200-299)

200-level courses build upon introductory and foundational disciplinary knowledge and provide deeper engagement with foundational material within a discipline or interdisciplinary area. These courses are typically intended for students with second-year undergraduate level classification or

higher. Introductory courses that assume prior college level preparation in another discipline may also be included in this tier.

300-level (300-399)

300-level courses build upon intermediate disciplinary knowledge and emphasize deeper analysis, synthesis, and integration of prior learning within a discipline or interdisciplinary area. These courses are typically intended for students with third-year undergraduate classification or higher. Courses at this level are not eligible for graduate credit.

400-level (400-499)

400-level courses represent advanced undergraduate coursework emphasizing high-level synthesis, specialization, or application within a discipline. These courses are typically 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 elective options. 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 typically 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.