

Profile: The School of American Education, Sunway University



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The American Degree Transfer Program is a unique undergraduate transfer program offered in **Sunway University's School of American Education (SAE)**. **Sunway University** is a private not-for-profit university that is owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. Sunway University offers tertiary education leading to Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees in various fields of study.

SAE Vision: To be a world-class hub for an innovative American education experience

SAE Mission: To nurture the holistic development of individuals in the discovery and transmission of knowledge through an American education experience that meets the needs of our society and the global community

SAE Values: Integrity, excellence and humility

Sunway University School of American (SAE) Education's Goals:

The SAE students will:

- become independent and lifelong learners
- be empowered with the competencies for and exposure to a wide range of innovative subjects
- develop strong leadership qualities and communication skills
- be connected to the global education network and workforce
- be contributing members of society by embracing diversity and inclusivity

History of SAE: SAE was previously known as the Center for American Education (CAE) and offered the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) which was patterned after the American Community College system. It was developed specifically to allow students to complete the first two years of their undergraduate degree in Sunway and then transfer overseas for degree completion. The ADTP was birthed in 1987 as a Twinning Program with Western Michigan University in Sunway College. In 2004, Sunway College was upgraded to a University College by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education. At this time, distinctions were made between the "College" offering primarily pre-university courses, and the "University" offering degree programs. In 2011 Sunway was further upgraded by the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE) to full university status offering diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate programs and degrees.

Between 2010 and 2011, the ADTP in the Center for American Education (CAE) transitioned from the exclusive Twinning Program with Western Michigan University into a Transfer Program, allowing for other partnerships to develop. Subsequently the ADTP moved from Sunway College into Sunway University, new courses were added, more transfer pathways and partnerships were developed including a few agreements with universities in other countries outside of North America.

In 2023 the ADTP was upgraded from a Center for American Education to be its own School within Sunway University. The new **School of American Education (SAE)** now has two departments: the ADTP as previously existed and the new Liberal Arts & Sciences Program (LAS). In addition, in 2023 a special partnership with Arizona State University was formed and SAE became a part of the Cintana Alliance group which is powered by Arizona State University.

ADTP Courses and Transfer of Students: ADTP Courses offered through the SAE were developed in consultation with American universities to ensure that students can transfer seamlessly to America to complete their studies. Currently more than 100 courses are offered in the ADTP, many of which are freshman and sophomore-level courses that fulfil General Education/Liberal Education requirements as well as required courses for various majors for universities in Canada and the United States of America (herein referred to as “America”) In addition, the Malaysian Ministry of Education has approved Sunway University’s ADTP offering third year subjects for Advanced Standing Programs which allow students to complete up to 90 credits in Sunway’s ADTP. Currently these Advance Standing Programs are in Business, communications and Mechanical Engineering majors and were developed in collaboration with various U.S. universities.

<https://sunwayuniversity.edu.my/school-of-american-education/courses/american-degree-transfer-program>.

Some ADTP students who have already transferred overseas come back to take summer courses in Sunway’s ADTP to transfer additional courses needed for their degree completion overseas. Sunway University’s ADTP has also hosted students for a Semester Abroad and when the ADTP courses are articulated by the student’s home institution, our courses will transfer back to the institution overseas.

While most students complete approximately 60 credits (Year 1 and 2) in Sunway University’s ADTP before transferring overseas for completion of their bachelor’s degree, it is not compulsory for students to complete 60 credits before they transfer, and those students who join the Advanced Standing programs at Sunway University will complete more than 60 credits in the ADTP before their transfer. ADTP students have transferred to Cornell University, Ohio State University, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, the University of Waterloo and many other private and public universities in the America.



Location: Sunway University is strategically located within the modern, well-planned township of Sunway City. Residential housing, a hospital, shopping mall, hotel, convention centre, recreation facilities and many food options are available on campus as well as within the Sunway City, and all are within walking distance via our unique canopy walkway. Sunway University is conveniently linked to public transportation to the greater metropolitan areas of Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur.

SAE Calendar: The intakes annually are: January, June and August. The typical American university semester calendar is used with Spring (January), Summer (June) and Fall (August) intakes.

Accreditation and Recognition: All Sunway University programs (including the ADTP) have the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE/MOHE) approval, have met the Malaysian Qualifications

Assurance (MQA) accreditation standards and are compliant with Malaysia’s regulatory and quality systems. [ADTP Science/Engineering](#) and [ADTP Arts](#) (Arts includes Business and non-STEM programs).

The MQA has consistently rated Sunway University as a 5-Star (Excellent) Institution. In addition, QS rated Sunway University as a 5-Star institution for Teaching, Facilities and Employability. (Read more about Sunway University: <https://sunwayuniversity.edu.my/about/accolades-recognition>).

Language of Instruction: English is the medium of instruction for all courses and programs offered in the ADTP and Sunway University, except for two courses teaching the Malay and Mandarin languages;

SAE Grading System: The standard American university grading scale is used. The 4.0 scale is used for Grade Point Averages. The chart below gives details for grading of courses in Sunway’s SAE.

Grade	Percentage Scale %	Interpretation	Significance/GPA
A	90-100	Outstanding, Exceptional	4.00
B+	85-89	Very Good	3.50
B	80-84	Good	3.00
C+	75-79	Satisfactory	2.50
C	70-74	Acceptable	2.00
D+	65-69	Poor, Inadequate	1.50
D	60-64	Unsatisfactory but Not Fail	1.00
F	0-59	Fail	0.00
I	----	Incomplete	---
W	----	Withdraw	---

Student Body: There are about 10,000 students enrolled in Sunway University, and approximately 250 of these students are enrolled in the ADTP. Approximately 10% of the ADTP students are international students. Students can choose to major in any program overseas for which they qualify to complete the upper level courses for their major. About 60% of students enrolled in the ADTP plan to be STEM-field majors, 30% Business and 10% choose Communications, Psychology and other majors.

Co-Curricular Activities: Students enrolled in the ADTP have access to the 80+ clubs on campus to cater for various interests of students. In addition, ADTP students can go through a selection process to be on the Student Committee in the SAE. The Student Committee plans and conducts fund-raising charity events and various social activities for students throughout the year. Volunteerism is encouraged, so many ADTP students provide support for various events and activities in the university and community.

