

The Alabama Community College System defines an instructional program as a combination of courses and experiences that is designed to accomplish a predetermined objective or set of allied objectives such as preparation for advanced study, qualification for an occupation or range of occupations, or simply the increase of knowledge and understanding.

The **Associate in Science Degree** is an undergraduate award designed for a student who plans to transfer to a senior institution and is conferred by a college as official recognition for the successful completion of a prescribed program of study in a general field or in a specialized pre-professional field. The maximum number of semester credit hours that can be awarded for the AS degree is 64.

The **Associate in Arts Degree** is an undergraduate award designed for a student who plans to transfer to a senior institution and is conferred by a college as official recognition for the successful completion of a prescribed program of study in a liberal arts area. The maximum number of semester credit hours that can be awarded for the AS degree is 64.

The **Associate in Applied Technology Degree** is an undergraduate award designed for students attending Council on Occupational Education accredited technical colleges who successfully complete a prescribed program of study in a technical specialty. The AAT degree may offer a maximum of 76 semester hours.

The **Associate in Applied Science Degree** is an undergraduate award designed for students planning to specialize in technical, business, semi-professional, and supervisory fields that are career-oriented, or in selected fields, to transfer to a senior institution. The AAS degree may offer a maximum of 76 semester hours.

The **Certificate Award** is a formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a prescribed program of study. The certificate is less than a degree, and its curriculum is related to the student's employment or professional advancement. A certificate requires a minimum of 30 semester hours and a maximum of 60 semester hours.

The **Short-Term Certificate Award** is a formal award which prepares technicians and assistants for entry-level positions in business and industry. Short-term certificate programs must be a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours in length and a maximum of 29 semester credit hours.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Associate in Arts Degree:

Area I: Written Composition I and II..... 6 Credit Hours

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts.....12 Credit Hours

- * Must complete 3 semester hours in Literature.
- Must complete 3 semester hours in the Arts.

The remaining semester hours are to be selected from Humanities and/or Fine Arts. *Humanities and Arts disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics11 Credit Hours

- Must complete 3 semester hours in Mathematics at the Precalculus Algebra or Finite Math Level.
- Must complete 8 semester hours in the Natural Sciences which must include Laboratory Experiences.

In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences12 Credit Hours

- * Must complete 3 semester hours in History.
- Must complete at least 6 semester hours from among other disciplines in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Area I-IV: Minimum General Education Requirements.....41 Credit Hours

Area V: Pre-Professional, Pre-Major, and Elective Courses 19-23 Credit Hours**

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student and electives.

Students completing courses that have been approved for the General Studies Curriculum and are appropriate to their major and/or degree program may transfer these courses with credit applicable to their degree program among two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Area I-V: General Studies Curricula 60-64 Credit Hours**

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....64 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award ** 60-64 Credit Hours

* *Note: Must complete a 6 semester hour sequence either in Literature or in History. The sequence in Area II and IV in Literature or History needs to follow the sequence requirements according to the students major and transfer plans.*

** *Respective programs of study for baccalaureate degrees at Alabama public universities range from 120 to 128 semester credit hours in length. Dependent upon the total hours allocated for the bachelor's degrees, institutions in The Alabama College System will only be authorized to provide 50 percent of that total (60-64).*

Associate in Science Degree:

Area I: Written Composition I and II..... 6 Credit Hours

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts.....12 Credit Hours

- * Must complete 3 semester hours in Literature.
- Must complete 3 semester hours in the Arts.

The remaining semester hours are to be selected from Humanities and/or Fine Arts. *Humanities and Arts disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics11 Credit Hours

- Must complete 3 semester hours in Mathematics at the Precalculus Algebra or Finite Math Level.
- Must complete 8 semester hours in the Natural Sciences which must include Laboratory Experiences.

In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences12 Credit Hours

- * Must complete 3 semester hours in History.
- Must complete at least 6 semester hours from among other disciplines in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Area I-IV: Minimum General Education Requirements.....41 Credit Hours

Area V: Pre-Professional, Pre-Major, and Elective Courses** 19-23 Credit Hours

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student and electives.
- *Students completing courses that have been approved for the General Studies Curriculum and are appropriate to their major and/or degree program may transfer these courses with credit applicable to their degree program among two-year and four-year colleges and universities.*

Area I-V: General Studies Curricula** 60-64 Credit Hours

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....64 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award ** 60-64 Credit Hours

* *Note: Must complete a 6 semester hour sequence either in Literature or in History. The sequence in Area II and IV in Literature or History needs to follow the sequence requirements according to the students major and transfer plans.*

** *Respective programs of study for baccalaureate degrees at Alabama public universities range from 120 to 128 semester credit hours in length. Dependent upon the total hours allocated for the bachelor's degrees, institutions in The Alabama College System will only be authorized to provide 50 percent of that total (60-64).*

Associate in Applied Science Degree:

Area I: Written Composition I and II..... 3 - 6 Credit Hours

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts..... 3 - 6 Credit Hours

In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.

- **Note: Individual colleges may establish specific course requirements within program of study parameters as set forth in the general education core for the Associate in Applied Science Degree.**

Requirements Prescribe: Minimum of 9 hours in Area I and Area II which could include 6 hours in Written Composition I and II and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Written Composition I and 3 hours in Technical Writing and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Area I and 6 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Area I with 3 hours in Speech in Area II, plus 3 additional hours in Area I or II.

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics9 - 11 Credit Hours

In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science (Data Processing). Minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics is required. One Computer Science (Data Processing) course (2 are preferred) or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s). Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAS degree is awarded must take BIO 103 as the prerequisite for BIO 201, BIO 202, and BIO 220 to assure the transfer of courses within parameters of the AGSC Minimum General Education Semester Hour Distribution Requirements or in lieu, successfully complete the validated system-wide biology placement examination. Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAS degree is awarded may take BIO 211 and BIO 212 in which case BIO 212 would serve as the prerequisite for BIO 220.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences 3 - 6 Credit Hours

In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Programs in which the AAS represents the Terminal Award are not required to complete the 6 semester hour sequence in Area IV.

Minimum General Education Requirements..... 18 - 29 Credit Hours

Area V: Maximum General Education Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives 58 - 47 Credit Hours

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives

Students planning programs of study for which the AAS does not represent the terminal degree, and for which national or regional programmatic licensure and certification are required, should be encouraged to integrate the General Studies transfer courses whenever possible.

General Studies Curricula.....76 Credit Hours

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....76 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award 60 - 76 Credit Hours

Associate in Applied Technology Degree:

Area I: Written Composition I and II..... 3 - 6 Credit Hours

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts..... 3 - 6 Credit Hours

In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.

- **Note: Individual colleges may establish specific course requirements within program of study parameters as set forth in the general education core for the Associate in Applied Technology Degree.**

Requirements Prescribe: Minimum of 9 hours in Area I and Area II which could include 6 hours in Written Composition I and II and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Written Composition I and 3 hours in Technical Writing and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Area I with 3 hours in Speech in Area II, plus 3 additional hours in Area I or II.

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics 9 Credit Hours

In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science (Data Processing). Minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics required. One Computer Science (Data Processing) course (2 are preferred) or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s). Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAT degree is awarded must take BIO 103 as the prerequisite for BIO 201, BIO 202, and BIO 220 to assure the transfer of courses within parameters of the AGSC Minimum General Education Semester Hour Distribution Requirements or in lieu, successfully complete the system-wide biology placement examination.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAT degree is awarded may take BIO 211 and BIO 212 in which case BIO 212 would serve as the prerequisite for BIO 220.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences 3 Credit Hours

In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Programs in which the AAT represents the Terminal Award are not required to complete the 6 semester hour sequence in Area IV.

Minimum General Education Requirements..... 18 - 24 Credit Hours

Area V: Maximum General Education Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives 58 - 52 Credit Hours

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives

General Studies Curricula.....76 Credit Hours

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....76 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award 60 - 76 Credit Hours

Certificate Award:

Area I: Written Composition I and II..... 2 - 6 Credit Hours

COM 100 and COM 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts..... 2 - 6 Credit Hours

Speech is required in certificate programs unless provisions for addressing Oral Communication Competencies represent an integral module in a required discipline-specific course.

SPC 100 and SPC 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics 6 Credit Hours

Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science (Data Processing). One Computer Science (Data Processing) course (2 are preferred) or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s).

MAH 101, MAH 102, and MAH 105 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs. DPT 100 and DPT 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences 0 Credit Hours

Minimum General Education Requirements..... 10 - 18 Credit Hours

General Studies Curricula 60 Credit Hours

Area V: Maximum General Education Core,

Technical Concentration, and Electives 50 - 42 Credit Hours

Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....60 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award 30 - 60 Credit Hours

Short-Term Certificate Award:

Area I: Written Composition I and II.....0-3 Credit Hours

One technical writing course is recommended.

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts..... 0 Credit Hours

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics0-3 Credit Hours

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences 0 Credit Hours

Minimum General Education Requirements..... 0-6 Credit Hours

General Studies Curricula 29 Credit Hours

Area V: Maximum General Education Core,

Technical Concentration and Electives 23-29 Credit Hours

Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, and electives

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....60 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award 9-29 Credit Hours

Associate in Occupational Technologies Degree:

Area I: Written Composition 3 - 6 Credit Hours

- Written Composition I and/or Technical Writing

Area II: Humanities and Fine Arts..... 3 - 6 Credit Hours

In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.

Area III: Natural Science and Mathematics 9 Credit Hours

In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, Physical Science, and Data Processing/Word Processing.

A minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics is required. One Data Processing course or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s) is highly recommended. Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences 3 - 6 Credit Hours

In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Minimum General Education Requirements..... 18 - 24Credit Hours

Area V: Primary Technical Specialty/Secondary

Technical Specialty 58 - 52 Credit Hours

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, primary occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, secondary occupational or technical specialty requirements, and electives.

- Primary Technical Specialty (Major): A minimum of 28 credit hours in a single content area.
- Secondary Technical Specialty (Minor): A minimum of 12 credit hours in another related technical area.

Maximum Program Semester Credit Hours.....76 Credit Hours

Semester Credit Hour Range by Award 60 - 76 Credit Hours

Note: Stand-alone health related professions programs which award a certificate or, a diploma, or a certificate ≤ 29 semester hours, but not a degree, may participate in the associate in occupational technologies cluster; however, such awards will not be upgraded to degree status except on a case-by-case basis.

Note: With approval of the Chancellor, certain certificate, diploma, and certificate ≤ 29 semester hour program credit hour ranges may be extended to meet requirements of (1) formal cooperative arrangements, (2) certification, (3) licensure, (4) accreditation, or (5) other unique situations.