

BOARD OF REGENTS

BRIEFING PAPER

HANDBOOK REVISION: Associate of Applied Science Degree Requirements

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

The academic vice presidents from the community colleges recently undertook a review of the minimum degree requirements currently mandated by Board policy. In doing so, they recommend a revision to the general education requirements for an associate of applied science degree.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend the degree requirements for an associate of applied science (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 28*) by reducing the required credits in Science from 6 to 3 credit hours, and increasing the additional program requirements from 6 to 9 credit hours. (See attached Policy Proposal)

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

This is brought forward at this time at the request of the community college academic officers.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The proposed revisions to AAS degree requirements are strongly supported by the community colleges and reflect a trend among community colleges across the nation.
- The revised degree requirements generally match the number of science general education credits at the NSHE four-year institutions.
- The proposal does not change total number of credits required for graduation.
- Because the AAS degrees are workforce-related and usually highly technical in nature, the programs of study must include increasing numbers of essential courses. This flexibility will support the community colleges' abilities to match the curriculum to the workforce needs.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Students who intend to seek a Bachelor of Applied Science degree following the AAS will have 3 fewer credits in general education; however, the AAS is not a transfer degree except for the BAS.

**ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

Leave the AAS degree requirements as currently written.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 28*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Other:\_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No
- Explain:\_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 28**  
**Community College Degree Requirements**

Additions appear in boldface italics deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 28. Community College Certificate and Degree Requirements

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATE

Communications	3
Emphasis	24
Additional Program Requirements	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

NOTE: Computation & Human Relations must be included as courses or be clearly identified as content imbedded in other required courses.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Communications	3
English	3
Constitution	3
Human Relations	3
Social Science**	3
Humanities	
Mathematics	3
Science	<u>3</u> [6]
<b>Total General Education</b>	<b>21</b>
Emphasis	30
Additional Program Requirements	<u>9</u> [6]
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

\*\*When a Social Science course is used for Human Relations, the student must take a humanities class.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS\*

English	6
Constitution	3
Science (Lab Req.)	3
Mathematics	3
Social Science	9
Humanities	6
Fine Arts	3
Additional Program Requirements	<u>27</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES

Communications	6
Constitution	3
Science	3
Mathematics	3
Social Science	3
Humanities	3
Additional Program Requirements	<u>39</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

\*A minimum 15 credit optional emphasis may include courses used to fulfill the subject requirements outlined above.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE\*

English	6
Constitution	3
Mathematics	6
Science (Lab Req.)	12
Social Science	6
Fine Arts/Humanities	6
Additional Program Requirements	<u>21</u>
TOTAL	60

\*A minimum 15 credit optional emphasis may include courses used to fulfill the subject requirements outlined above.

ASSOCIATE OF BUSINESS

English	6
Constitution	3
Fine Arts/Humanities	9
Mathematics	6
Science (Lab Req.)	6
Social Science	6
Additional Program Requirements	<u>24</u>
TOTAL	60