

## General Education Guidelines

### Applied Associates Degrees<sup>1</sup>

Applied associate degrees (Associate of Applied Business and Associate of Applied Science), must include at least 30 semester of hours of non-technical coursework, which includes both general education and applied general education (i.e., “basic”) courses. The general education portion of the non-technical coursework must include at least fifteen semester credit hours. At least six semester hours must be found in the following two categories.

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Oral and Written Communication<sup>2</sup>** area (*e.g., English Composition, Public Speaking*)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Mathematics and Data Analysis** area (*e.g., Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Statistics, Logic*)

At least six semester hours must come from the following three categories and at least two of the three categories must be represented.

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Arts<sup>3</sup>, Humanities, Culture and Diversity** area (*e.g., Art History, Film Studies, History, Ethics, Philosophy, Communication, Diversity Studies, Literature, Foreign Language*)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** area (*e.g., Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Communication, Political Science*)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation** area (*e.g., Anatomy, Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science*)

Consistent with Ohio’s *Strategic Plan for Higher Education<sup>4</sup>* and Ohio’s *Articulation and Transfer Policy<sup>5</sup>*, institutions are strongly encouraged to implement general education programs that include coursework in all five general education categories. And, in order to assure maximum transferability of coursework taken as part of an applied associate degree, institutions are expected to use approved Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) courses and follow applicable Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs) when developing general education requirements<sup>6</sup> for applied associate degrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements for applied associate degree programs

<sup>2</sup> Note that the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) includes 3 semester credits of English Composition as a minimum general education requirement; for maximum transferability, students should complete a 3-semester credit English Composition course to fulfill this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Does not include “performance” courses, such as painting, sculpting, etc.

<sup>4</sup> <http://uso.edu/strategicplan/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/policy/CreditTransferPolicy.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Recognizing that the skills needed for some OTM courses (particularly in the mathematics and science areas) exceed the skill needed for the successful completion of some applied degrees, OTM-approved courses are not required to fulfill the mathematics and science requirements in applied associate degrees.

## Academic Associate Degrees<sup>7</sup>

Academic associate degrees, (Associate of Arts and Associate of Science), must include a minimum of 36 semester of hours of general education coursework. Each academic associate degree must utilize 15 of the required 36 semester credit hours as follows:

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Oral and Written Communication<sup>8</sup>** area (*English Composition, Public Speaking*)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Mathematics and Data Analysis** area (*College Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Statistics, Logic*)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the **Arts<sup>9</sup>, Humanities, Culture and Diversity** area (*e.g., Art History, Film Studies, History, Ethics, Philosophy, Communication, Ethnic and Gender Studies, Literature, Foreign Language*)
- At least one courses (3 semester credit hours) in the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** area (*e.g., Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Communication, Political Science*)
- At least one courses (3 semester credit hours) in the **Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation** area (*e.g., Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science*)

The remaining 21 required semester credit hours can be distributed<sup>10</sup> among the categories as desired. Typically, an Associate of Arts degree would include more credit hours in the oral and written communication and arts, humanities and culture and diversity areas, while an Associate of Science degree would include more credit hours in the mathematics and science areas. Applied general education (i.e., basic) coursework shall not be counted as general education in academic associate's degrees.

Consistent with the belief that academic associate degrees serve as the first two years of a bachelor's degree and provide maximum transferability of courses from the associate's level to the bachelor's level, all coursework used to fulfill the minimum of 36 semester credit hours in general education must be included among the institution's approved OTM courses.

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<sup>7</sup> Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements for degree programs

<sup>8</sup> Note that the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) includes 3 credits of English Composition as a minimum general education requirement; for maximum transferability, students should complete a 3-semester English Composition course to fulfill this requirement.

<sup>9</sup> Does not include "performance" courses, such as painting, sculpting, etc.

<sup>10</sup> The distributive model outlined above is not meant to discourage institutions from experimenting with thematically clustered or multidisciplinary general education courses, particularly when those courses are approved as OTM or TAG courses.

## **Baccalaureate Degrees**<sup>11</sup>

For bachelor's degrees (e.g., Bachelor of Arts—BA, Bachelor of Fine Arts—BFA, Bachelor of Science—BS or Bachelor of Applied Studies—BAS), the *minimum* general education requirements are the same as for the academic associate's degrees. However, many BA, BS, BAS and BFA degree programs will require general education coursework beyond those minimum expectations, and students may be required to complete general education requirements beyond the minimum upon transfer.

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<sup>11</sup> Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements for degree programs