

## **Associate of Arts Degree Transfer Policy Information and FAQ**

### **Overview**

Effective for new students applying to the university on or after 09/01/2011, a student who has completed an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from a regionally accredited Community College will have LD General Education and Elective credits satisfied for our standard 54 credit General Education block bachelor degree programs. Credits will be awarded up to the amount of credits earned for the AA degree. Students are still required to meet Math and English pre-requisite content requirements, and any state specific content requirements. The full policy itself can be found in section 105 of the P and P after 09/01.

### **Impact to Students**

With this policy we are looking at the AA degree as a credential in its entirety for a block credit transfer, and not assessing the credits on a course by course basis. Students utilizing this policy will enter the University effectively CORE ready, and won't need to take LD Gen Ed and Elective courses for the most part. Because of specific degree requirements we will still need to confirm Math and English Pre-requisites and any state-specific content requirements (NV, AR, MN) are met individually, but all other Gen Ed and elective content areas will automatically be satisfied with this policy for eligible programs.

### **Key Points**

- This policy only applies to students who have earned an Associate of Arts degree from a regionally accredited community college. This is different from Associate in/of Science (AS), Associate in Applied Science (AAS), Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS), etc. The key distinction is an Associate of Arts degree is a transfer degree and other associate degree types are considered more terminal in nature.
- This policy only applies to our programs with our standard 54 credit general education block. Programs with unique general education builds (BSN, BSED for example) are excluded.
- Credits will transfer in as a block to satisfy LD General Education and Elective requirements and individual course requirements will not be reviewed except for Math and English Pre-requisite requirements or state-specific content requirements.
- Credits will be applied in a block only up to the amount of credits earned for the AA degree as listed on the transcript.
- This policy is applicable for any regionally accredited Community College offering Associate of Arts degrees. Formal articulation is not required to have this policy enforced on an incoming student.

### **Policy Benefits**

*Enrollment* - Provides a clear transfer pathway to students with regionally accredited AA degrees from community colleges and provides a transfer credit benefit that may not be afforded to students going into other Universities.

*Academics*- Provides students a more seamless transfer to make them ready to enter their Required Course Sequence. Since credits are also applied in a block, it limits the need for students to complete additional LD activities while pursuing their major.

## **FAQ**

**Q.** Why does this policy only apply to Associate of Arts (AA) Degrees and not other Associate degree types?

**A.** Associate of Arts (AA) Degrees are administered and built with the purpose of transferring into Bachelor degree studies, whereas other associate degree types are generally built with the purpose of entering some sort of profession or vocational field (sometimes called terminal degrees). Associate of Arts degrees by nature require the breadth of General Education credits and content to make them transfer friendly when moving into bachelor level studies at a University. While some other Associate degree types are now being built to require more General Education studies, from a policy standpoint the AA degree is the only one that allows us to apply this globally.

**Q.** What degree programs does this policy apply towards?

**A.** This policy is applicable towards programs with our standard 54 credit General Education block. Current programs that are active are the BSB (any concentration), BSA, BSM, BSCJA, BSOSM , BS/COM, BSHA (any concentration), BSHS, BSHS/M, and BS/P. Programs not listed have a unique Gen Ed design and specific requirements which would not lend them as being a good fit for this policy.

**Q.** Do we have to have an articulation agreement in place in order for a student to qualify for this policy?

**A.** No, a formal articulation agreement is not necessary for this policy to apply to a student's record. All students attending regionally accredited Community Colleges who offer AA degrees can benefit from this policy.

**Q.** I have a student who applied to UOPX and transferred an AA degree to us before 09/01/11, can they have this policy applied?

**A.** With a SAC appeal it may be possible. We will have to review each student in this situation on a case by case basis due to the financial and academic progression ramifications it would have on their record since impacts could occur to scheduling and FA.

**Q.** With this policy it indicates we are still checking for courses that satisfy Math and English Pre-requisites. How often would a student complete an AA degree and not have completed courses that satisfy these areas?

**A.** This occurrence should be very rare, if ever. A course in English Composition is a staple of an AA degree and a course at the College Algebra level is a standard requirement as well. Based on the samples used in the research we conducted for the implementation of this policy a regionally accredited Community College not requiring a composition course was not found, and community colleges not requiring a college algebra or appropriate college math course (or higher) was very rare and only under unique circumstances.

**Q.** What will happen if I have a student that starts in a program that is eligible for this policy and then changes into a program that is not eligible (i.e. BSB/M to BSIT)?

**A.** If a student changes into a non-eligible program from an eligible program, the block transfer will be removed and credits will be individually evaluated from the AA degree. As with any program change deficiencies in credit could occur due to the change in degree requirements and program policies.

**Q.** How will I know if this policy was applied to a certain student's record?

**A.** You should be able to identify this easily by the transfer credit block. Students who have this policy applied will show a transfer credit block activity on their degree audit of AADTP 001 or AADTP 002 in CA.

### **Special Circumstances**

There are a few special circumstances that can occur with the application of this policy since it has an impact on a national level. A few things to note:

- Students who reside in NV, AR, and MN may have some additional content requirements that need to be met based on state specific general education requirements:
  - Students who reside in NV, but earned their AA degree in a different state may need to take a Nevada constitution course to satisfy state specific Gen Ed requirements. This is not an issue for students who completed their AA degree in NV as this is a requirement for AA degrees earned in NV
  - Students who reside in AR, but earned their AA degree in a different state have specific GE content requirements in Math, Hum, Soc Sci, and PH/Bio that must be satisfied. This is not an issue for students who completed their AA degree in AR as AA degrees in this state are built to satisfy state content specific requirements.
  - Students who reside in MN need to complete 9 credits of their General Education requirements at the Upper Division level. Since community colleges offer courses at the Lower Division level students residing in this state will need additional Gen Ed credits to meet this requirement.
- Most students will see their credits evaluated for standard Gen Ed and Elective areas as a large transfer block shown as AADTP 001 on their degree audit except in California. CA students will still have individual courses evaluated for Cal Grant GPA purposes based on our current system design. For content areas where a CA student didn't transfer a course that meets our Gen ed areas we will satisfy those credits with an activity that will be shown as AADTP 002 on the student's degree audit. Sample Degree audit PDFS will be provided to the CA campus as a reference.
- Be careful when working with a student who wants to go into the BSM 003 program who may be able to utilize this policy. This program has 72 LD credits between Gen Eds and Electives, and the policy only allows the student to transfer in a block of credit up to the amount of credits earned to obtain the AA degree. Since most AA degree are obtained by the completion of at least 60 credits it is possible a student may need to complete up to 12 additional LD elective credits to satisfy degree requirements for minimum credit totals to earn the BSM degree.