

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE (AA)

The Associate in Arts degree is often referred to as the university transfer program. Students planning to complete a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree or enter a professional program at a four-year college or university should work toward an Associate in Arts degree.

Students awarded A.A. degrees are assured transfer to Missouri public universities through the Missouri Articulation Agreement and are accepted with junior standing at most Missouri public institutions, having fulfilled freshman and sophomore requirements with a solid foundation for upper class study. Credits earned in this program are accepted at state colleges and universities and many private institutions.

Students receive individualized advisement in the selection of courses in order to meet the requirements of the transfer institutions in the college majors selected. Articulation guides for specific course transfer are available from academic advisors, the Counseling Department, and the NCMC website at www.ncmissouri.edu.

Transfer students not planning to earn the Associate in Arts degree should carefully select courses that meet the general education or transfer requirements of their particular transfer school. A minimum recommendation is that students complete NCMC's 42 credit hour General Education Core.

General Education Rationale

General education is the curricular foundation for Associate in Arts Degree students at North Central Missouri College. It encourages students to acquire and use the intellectual tools, knowledge and creative capabilities necessary to study the world as it is, as it has been understood and as it might be imagined. It also furnishes students with skills which enable them to deepen that understanding and to communicate it to others. Through general education, North Central Missouri College equips students for success in their specialized areas of study and for fulfilled lives as educated persons, as active citizens and as effective contributors to their own prosperity and to the general welfare of society.

As knowledge of the world is structured, so must general education be constructed to introduce students to the traditional disciplines of the arts and sciences. As that knowledge is ever changing, so must general education alert students to connections between the traditional disciplines and to the potential for interaction among all branches of knowing, ordering, and imagining the real world. As the real world is diverse, so must general education inform students that the world is understood in different ways and provide them with the means to come to terms, intelligently and humanely, with the diversity. As the diversities of knowing and understanding must be made open and accessible, so

students must acquire appropriate investigative, interpretative, and communicative competencies.

General Education Policy

In order to facilitate the transfer of students among institutions of higher education in the state, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has supported the development of a statewide general education policy that is intended to ensure the portability of general education credit among Missouri's colleges and universities. State-level curricular goals and institutional-level student competencies for general education fall into two categories: academic skills and knowledge.

1. Skills Areas

a. Communicating

To develop students' effective use of the English language and quantitative and other symbolic systems essential to their success in school and in the world. Students should be able to read and listen critically and to write and speak with thoughtfulness, clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness.

b. Higher-Order Thinking

To develop students' ability to distinguish among opinions, facts, and inferences; to identify underlying or implicit assumptions; to make informed judgments; and to solve problems by applying evaluative standards.

c. Managing Information

To develop students' abilities to locate, organize, store, retrieve, evaluate, synthesize, and annotate information from print, electronic, and other sources in preparation for solving problems and making informed decisions.

d. Valuing

To develop students' abilities to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society and to understand that many courses of action are guided by value judgments about the way things ought to be. Students should be able to make informed decisions through identifying personal values and the values of others and through understanding how such values develop. They should be able to analyze the ethical implications of choices made on the basis of these values.

2. Knowledge Areas

a. Social and Behavioral Sciences

To develop students' understanding of themselves and the world around them through study of content and the processes used by historians and social and behavioral scientists to discover, describe, explain, and predict human behavior and social systems. Students must understand the diversities and complexities of the cultural and social world, past and

present, and come to an informed sense of self and others. (Students must fulfill the state statute requirements for the United States and Missouri constitutions.)

b. Humanities and Fine Arts

To develop students' understanding of the ways in which humans have addressed their condition through imaginative work in the humanities and fine arts; to deepen their understanding of how that imaginative process is informed and limited by social, cultural, linguistic, and historical circumstances; and to appreciate the world of the creative imagination as a form of knowledge.

c. Mathematics

To develop students' understanding of fundamental mathematical concepts and their applications. Students should develop a level of quantitative literacy that would enable them to make decisions and solve problems and which could serve as a basis for continued learning. (The mathematics requirement for general education should have the same prerequisite(s) and level of rigor as college algebra.)

d. Life and Physical Sciences

To develop students' understanding of the principles and laboratory procedures of life and physical sciences and to cultivate their abilities to apply the empirical methods of scientific inquiry. Students should understand how scientific discovery changes theoretical views of the world, informs our imaginations, and shapes human history. Students should also understand that science is shaped by historical and social contexts.

Associate in Arts (AA) Degree Requirements

COMMUNICATIONS	9 hours
English I and II.....	6
Speech Communications.....	3
HUMANITIES	9 hours
(Select one course each from three of the four categories.)	
1. Literature (except Lit. for Children or Preschool Lit.)	
2. Fine Arts	
Art Appreciation	
Music Appreciation	
Introduction to Theatre	
3. Humanities/Cultural Studies	
Introduction to Humanities: Pre-Renaissance <u>or</u> Humanities:	
Renaissance to Present	
Western Civilization to 1700 <u>or</u> Western Civilization since	
1700	
4. Philosophy/Foreign Language	
Introduction to Ethics	
Introduction to Philosophy	
Introduction to Religion	
Foreign Language	
MANAGING INFORMATION	3 hours
Microcomputer Applications I	
MATHEMATICS	3 hours
College Algebra, Elementary Statistics or Math Concepts	
NATURAL SCIENCE	9 hours
(Must have one course with lab from each area)	
1. Life Science	
Ecology	
General Biology	
General Botany	
General Zoology	
2. Physical Science	
Intro. to Chemistry	
Chemistry I	
Intro. to Physical Science	
College Physics I	
SOCIAL SCIENCE	9 hours
(Prefixes: HI, PL, GE, PY, SO, EC)	
American History to 1877 <u>or</u> National Government...3	
Social Science Requirements	6
TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION CORE	42 hours
<i>(A.A. degree requirements continue on next page.)</i>	

Transfer Programs

Additional A.A. Degree Requirements

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3 hours

1. Health Education 2
2. Physical Education Activity 1

ELECTIVES 17 hours

Elective courses should be chosen from those required and accepted for the anticipated major at the transfer university. Students should work closely with their advisor to plan electives that transfer.

TOTAL A.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 62 hours

IMPORTANT NOTES: All humanities course selections should be based upon the specific requirements of the anticipated major and transfer school.

A minimum final cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and a minimum of 62 credit hours are required for completion of the A.A. degree.

Developmental Studies classes do not apply toward any degree requirements in any program.

A maximum of six hours in religion courses will be applied toward a degree.

A maximum of two hours of physical education activities will be applied toward any degree.

To enhance your AA degree with transferable course work in specific areas of study, please refer to the transfer guides on the NCMC website (www.ncmissouri.edu) and/or consult with your academic advisor. Course work in specific areas of study will vary with each individual university. Below are possible options for the most common areas of study. For other areas of interest, please contact an NCMC counselor or advisor for additional information.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Art

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Criminal Justice

Education

English

Forestry

Health Occupations

Journalism

Mass Media

Mathematics

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Physical Education

Political Science

Pre-Engineering

Pre-Law

Pre-Medical

Pre-Veterinary

Psychology

RN to BSN

Social Work

Speech & Theatre

Wildlife & Conservation

Associate in Arts in Teaching (AAT) Degree Requirements

COMMUNICATIONS	9 hours
English I and II.....	6
Speech Communications.....	3
HUMANITIES	9 hours
(Select one course each from three of the four categories.)	
1. Literature (except Lit. for Children or Preschool Lit.)	
2. Fine Arts (a selection from this category is required)	
Art Appreciation	
Music Appreciation	
Introduction to Theatre	
3. Humanities/Cultural Studies	
Introduction to Humanities I or II	
Western Civilization I or II	
4. Philosophy/Foreign Language	
Introduction to Ethics	
Introduction to Philosophy	
Introduction to Religion	
Foreign Language	
MANAGING INFORMATION	3 hours
Microcomputer Applications I or Technology for Teachers P-12	
MATHEMATICS	3 hours
*College Algebra or Elementary Statistics	
<i>*Refer to transfer school degree requirements</i>	
NATURAL SCIENCE	9 hours
(Must have one course with lab from each area)	
1. Life Science	
General Biology	
General Botany	
General Zoology	
2. Physical Science	
Intro. to Physical Science	
Intro. to Chemistry	
Chemistry I	
College Physics I	
SOCIAL SCIENCE	9 hours
American History I & National Government	6
General Psychology.....	3
TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION CORE	42 hours
<i>(A.A.T. degree requirements continue on next page.)</i>	

General education credits should be carefully selected with the help of an advisor whenever possible to meet degree requirements, prerequisites and planned level and area of teacher preparation.

Additional A.A.T. Degree Requirements

***REQUIRED TEACHER EDUCATION CORE COURSES . 12 hours**

ED 200 Foundations of Education	3
ED 201 Teaching Profession with Field Experience	3
ED 270 Educational Psychology	3
ED 275 Technology for Teachers P-12	3

**Must receive a C or better upon course completion*

ELECTIVES 8 hours

ED 265 Multicultural Education	
ED 283 Health & PE Methods for Elementary Teachers	
ED 285 Education of Exceptional Learners P-12	

*EN 196 Literature for Children

*GE 106 Introduction to World Geography

MT 110 Intermediate Algebra (if needed)

MT 121 Math Concepts

*PY 225 Child Psychology

**PY 226 Adolescent Psychology

**Elementary Education*

***Secondary Education*

Electives may be selected from education electives, content areas or any other courses. They should be carefully selected with the help of an advisor to meet degree requirements, prerequisites and planned level and area of teacher preparation.

TOTAL A.A.T. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 62 hours

IMPORTANT NOTES: *A minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for graduation.*

Students must achieve minimum scores of 235 on each sub-section of the CBASE.

Developmental Studies classes do not apply toward any degree requirements in any program.

A maximum of six hours in religion courses will be applied toward a degree.

A maximum of two hours in physical education activity credit will be applied toward a degree.