

FACULTY GOVERNANCE AGENDA ITEM

Date: 9/11/23

Submitted by: Jennifer Ball, Associate Provost, x1840

SUBJECT: Modifications to catalog to accommodate associate of applied science (AAS) degrees

Description:

Technical and community colleges have long offered associate of applied science (AAS) degrees, and Washburn University, including Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech), should be competitive in this market. According to the Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS), excluding Washburn Tech, an average of 44% of all Kansas technical college students earning a certificate also earn an associate degree. At Washburn Tech, this number is 6%. One significant difference between Washburn Tech and other technical colleges in Kansas is that the others offer AAS degrees, while Washburn Tech historically has offered only AA or AS degrees through the School of Applied Studies (SAS) and has only recently begun offering one AAS (in Surgical Technology). This latter degree was approved by the Washburn Board of Regents in 2021, to be conferred by Washburn Tech beginning in 2022. It has recently come to our attention through reporting challenges that the AAS degree must be conferred by the University. Therefore, this change to the catalog is necessary, effective as soon as possible.

The current Washburn university catalog refers to “all associate degrees,” but the policies only apply to our existing associate degrees (associate of arts (AA), associate of science (AS), and associate of liberal studies (ALS)). This proposal suggests we (re)introduce the AAS degree at Washburn University. As well as accommodating Washburn Tech students, the SAS also has several AA and AS degrees in their more technical programs (such as Radiology and Respiratory Therapy) they would like to convert to AAS degrees (or at least add an AAS option), as the AAS degree is not covered by the new general education policy, per the Kansas Board of Regents. (These additions or changes from SAS and Washburn Tech will come forward as separate information items or proposals, as appropriate.) Proposed requirements are based on Kansas Board of Regents guidelines, in order to be competitive.

Requirements for an AAS degree are the following:

1. At least 15 hours of general education courses including EN 101 First Year Writing, MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics or higher, and nine hours from three different disciplines, one course from each of the following general education distribution areas: Natural Sciences/Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities.
2. At least 30 credit hours in the area of specialized preparation are required, with at least 15 hours in each area of focus.*
3. Normally, AAS degrees will not require more than 68 credit hours. External accreditation, licensing, or industry standards may make it necessary to exceed this limit.

*This will allow a student to earn two certificates (e.g., welding and business) and pursue this degree.

Rationale: The attached changes in the university catalog are necessary to accommodate the reporting of AAS degrees from Washburn Tech/Washburn University, and also to allow the School of Applied Studies to offer these degrees and be competitive in this market.

Financial Implications: While AAS degrees require fewer general education hours than our other associate degrees, it is clear from the data from other technical colleges that many more Washburn Tech students will likely pursue AAS degrees than currently pursue AA or AS degrees, and therefore, the financial implications are likely positive.

Proposed Effective Date: Immediate upon approval

Request for Action: Approval by Faculty Senate

Approved by: AAC 9/18/23

Attachments Yes No

Proposed catalog language

Relevant KBOR policy

Current catalog language

Washburn University Undergraduate Academic Catalog: Program, Degree, and Graduation Requirements

University Requirements Common to All Associate Degrees

A minimum of 60 hours. Some associate degrees may require additional hours. See specific degree/major.

1. Six hours of course-specific core coursework including EN 101 First Year Writing (communication), and MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics or higher (quantitative and scientific reasoning and literacy) further described under Core Requirements. With the exception of the Associate of Liberal Studies degree, any mathematics course taken to satisfy this requirement may also be used to meet the distribution requirements for Mathematics and Natural Sciences.
2. Complete WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) with a minimum grade of C. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience.

Notes:

- a. Students entering Washburn University direct from high school enroll in WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program).
 - b. Students not direct from high school entering Washburn University with less than 24 hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution who have not completed a university success course with a minimum grade of C enroll in WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) as determined by their Academic Advisor.
 - c. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution (after graduating from High School) with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience. They are strongly encouraged to complete a series of independent online modules introducing them to the Washburn University Community of Learning.
 - d. Students not falling in designated categories will be reviewed by Academic Advisors for applicable placement recommendations.
 - e. Students originally determined as being required to complete WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience who advance beyond 24 hours of credit without fulfilling the requirement with a minimum grade of C are required to complete a 3-credit hour Directed Readings project (IS 110 Special Topics) administered by the FYE Lecturer/Coordinator.
3. The number of hours in each distribution grouping may vary by degree. In all associate degrees a minimum of 18 credit hours is required in distribution groupings (See General Education Groups and Subject Areas). The individual student should check with the major department. With the

exception of the Associate of Liberal Studies degree, courses in the student's major discipline cannot fulfill general education distribution requirements; however, in many cases, courses required by the major department in correlated areas will fulfill some of the requirements. Any mathematics course taken to satisfy the quantitative and scientific reasoning and literacy core coursework may also be used to meet the distribution requirements for Natural Science and Mathematics.

4. A cumulative grade average of at least 2.0.
5. To count toward a major, minor, or required correlated area, work must be of C grade or better. A correlated area is defined as any course or courses outside the major discipline required for the completion of that major.
6. A/pass/fail option cannot be taken in the major department or correlated area unless written permission is obtained from the head of the major department for that course and filed with the Registrar's Office.
7. At least 15 of the last 30 hours required to complete the degree must be earned from Washburn University. Programs with professional accreditation standards may have more stringent requirements. The academic residency requirement will be waived in the case of formal articulation agreements.
8. Forty-two hours must be graded. (Cooperative programs with Washburn Institute of Technology are exempt). For international students presenting transfer credit from an international tertiary institution accredited by the Ministry of Education (or its equivalent) in that country, a minimum of 30 hours presented for graduation must be on a graded basis since Washburn converts grades earned in these transfer courses to CR, P and NC.
9. A student may be awarded a degree after completing the requirements for that degree in effect when he/she first enrolled or, if he/she chooses, in effect in any subsequent year except that no degree shall be awarded based upon requirements not in effect within six years of the date of graduation.

Proposed language

University Requirements Common to All Associate Degrees

A minimum of 60 hours. Some associate degrees may require additional hours. See specific degree/major.

1. A cumulative grade average of at least 2.0.
2. Course grades of C or better are necessary to fulfill specific courses required by the university (further explained in Core Requirements) or programs. General education distribution requirements may be fulfilled by earning a D or better.
3. A/pass/credit/fail option cannot be taken in courses required by the university (further explained in Core Requirements) or specific courses required by a program unless written permission is obtained from the head of the major department for that course and filed with the Registrar's Office.
4. At least 15 of the last 30 hours required to complete the degree must be earned from Washburn University (which includes Washburn University Institute of Technology). Programs with professional accreditation standards may have more stringent requirements. The academic residency requirement will be waived in the case of formal articulation agreements.

5. Forty-two hours must be graded (credit hours from Washburn University Institute of Technology count as graded). For international students presenting transfer credit from an international tertiary institution accredited by the Ministry of Education (or its equivalent) in that country, a minimum of 30 hours presented for graduation must be on a graded basis since Washburn converts grades earned in these transfer courses to CR, P and NC.
6. A student may be awarded a degree after completing the requirements for that degree in effect when the student first enrolled or, if the student chooses, in effect in any subsequent year except that no degree shall be awarded based upon requirements not in effect within six years of the date of graduation.
7. General education requirements vary by type of degree (associate of science, associate of arts, associate of liberal studies, and associate of applied science); please see additional requirements for specific associate degrees.

Additional Requirements for Associate of Science (AS), Associate of Arts (AA), and Associate of Liberal Studies (ALS) Degrees

1. Six hours of course-specific core coursework including EN 101 First Year Writing and MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics or higher further described under Core Requirements. With the exception of the Associate of Liberal Studies degree, any mathematics course taken to satisfy this requirement may also be used to meet the distribution requirements for Mathematics and Natural Sciences.
2. Complete WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) with a minimum grade of C. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience.

Notes:

- a. Students entering Washburn University direct from high school enroll in WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program).
- b. Students not direct from high school entering Washburn University with less than 24 hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution who have not completed a university success course with a minimum grade of C enroll in WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience (conditional upon admittance into the Honors Program) as determined by their Academic Advisor.
- c. Students transferring to Washburn University with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution (after graduating from High School) with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt from the requirement to take WU 101 The Washburn Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience. They are strongly encouraged to complete a series of independent online modules introducing them to the Washburn University Community of Learning.
- d. Students not falling in designated categories will be reviewed by Academic Advisors for applicable placement recommendations.
- e. Students originally determined as being required to complete WU 101 The Washburn

Experience or HN 101 Honors First Year Experience who advance beyond 24 hours of credit without fulfilling the requirement with a minimum grade of C are required to complete a 3-credit hour Directed Readings project (IS 110 Special Topics) administered by the FYE Lecturer/Coordinator.

- f. The number of hours in each distribution grouping may vary by degree. In all associate degrees a minimum of 18 credit hours is required in distribution groupings (See General Education Groups and Subject Areas). The individual student should check with the major department. With the exception of the Associate of Liberal Studies degree, courses in the student's major discipline cannot fulfill general education distribution requirements; however, in many cases, courses required by the major department in correlated areas will fulfill some of the requirements. Any mathematics course taken to satisfy the quantitative and scientific reasoning and literacy core coursework may also be used to meet the distribution requirements for Natural Science and Mathematics.

Additional Requirements for all Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degrees

1. At least 15 hours of general education courses including EN 101 First Year Writing, MA 112 Contemporary College Mathematics or higher, and nine hours from three different disciplines, one course from each of the following general education distribution areas: Natural Sciences/Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities.
2. At least 30 credit hours in the area of specialized preparation are required, with at least 15 hours in each area of focus.
3. Normally, AAS degrees will not require more than 68 credit hours. External accreditation, licensing, or industry standards may make it necessary to exceed this limit.

Current language for "General Education Core Requirements" will be changed to "General Education Core Requirements for Bachelor, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Liberal Studies Degrees"

Current language for "General Education Distribution Requirements" will be changed to "General Education Distribution Requirements for Bachelor, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Liberal Studies Degrees"

KBOR POLICY

COORDINATED INSTITUTIONS RULES & REGULATIONS - 88-26-5 GRADUATION OR COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

88-26-5. Graduation or completion requirements. (a) Any community college may award the associate in arts degree, the associate in science degree, or the associate in general studies degree to each student who has satisfactorily completed 60 or more credit hours in a curriculum that parallels that of a Kansas public university for freshmen and sophomores.

(b) Any community college or technical college may award the associate in applied science degree to each student who has satisfactorily completed a program in a career technical curriculum consisting of at least 60 credit hours but not more than 68 credit hours, in which at least 15 credit hours in general education and at least 30 credit hours in the area of specialized preparation are required. The 68-credit-hour maximum shall not apply to any programs having external accreditation or industry requirements that exceed the 68-credit-hour limit.

(c) Any institution may grant a career technical certificate to each student who has satisfactorily completed any technical program that is less than 60 credit hours in length but is more than 15 credit hours.

(d) Any institution may award a certificate of completion to each student who has satisfactorily completed a course of study not exceeding 15 credit hours. (Authorized by K.S.A. 72-7514, 74-32,140, and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 74-32,141; implementing K.S.A. 71-801, 74-32,140, and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 74-32,141; effective Oct. 29, 2004; amended April 10, 2015.)