

Policy No.: 4005
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Degree Types and Related Distribution of Credits

Hagerstown Community College offers the following degree types, Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T) and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.). All degree types must include credits in each of the six general education areas outlined in Policy 4010, as well as program specific credits. Each degree may elect to offer program support courses as restricted electives, as well as unrestricted general electives.

General education requirements at Hagerstown Community College leading to an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree, Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, or Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T) degree must include not less than 28 and not more than 36 credit hours of designated courses. General education requirements leading to the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree must include at least 18 credit hours of designated courses.

In compliance with COMAR and SB740, Hagerstown Community College, requires 60 credits hours for graduation from an associate degree program. A list of state approved exceptions to the 60 credit hour maximum is housed with the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services. As of December 2016, the following HCC degree programs are approved by the state to exceed 60 credits hours due to requirements for accreditation, certification or licensure, and/or articulation: Dental Hygiene, Engineering Technology, Engineering Transfer, Health Information Management, Nursing, Paramedic Emergency Services, and Radiography.

All new proposed degree programs must conform to the distribution of credits outlined in this policy before approval would be granted by the President and the Board of Trustees.

Associate of Arts (A.A.) - Awarded for successful completion of a degree sequence in the liberal arts (social sciences, humanities, and similar subjects) and in the fine arts (music, art, etc.).

Program Specific: At least 12 credits in the major, which are essential to the programmatic outcomes and transfer requirements

Program Support: Optional credits that may be outside of the program specific courses, but support programmatic outcomes and/or transfer requirements. May be listed as restricted electives

Free Electives: Optional courses which may be in any discipline, except developmental

General Education: 28-36 credits

English: 6 credits

Arts and Humanities: 6 credits

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 6 credits

Science: 7-8 credits (at least one course must have a lab)

Mathematics: 3 credits
Globalization and Diversity: 3 credits

Associate of Science (A.S.) – Awarded for successful completion of a degree sequence in science or technology (engineering, agriculture, the natural sciences) with a heavy emphasis on undergraduate mathematics or science.

Program Specific: At least 12 credits in the major, which are essential to the programmatic outcomes and transfer requirements
Program Support: Optional credits that may be outside of the program specific discipline, but support programmatic outcomes and/or transfer requirements. May be listed as restricted electives
Free Electives: Optional courses which may be in any discipline, except developmental
General Education: 28-36 credits
English: 3 credits
Arts and Humanities: 6 credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences: 6 credits
Science: 7-8 credits (at least one course must have a lab)
Mathematics: 3 credits
Globalization and Diversity: 3 credits

Associate of Art in Teaching (A.A.T.) – Awarded for the successful completion of the lower-level degree academic content, outcomes, and requirements for teacher education, similar to the first 2 years of a bachelor's program in teacher education; evidence of qualifying scores as established by the State Superintendent of Schools on the teacher certification tests approved by the State Board of Education; and a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.00 scale.

Program Specific: At least 12 credits in the major, which are essential to the programmatic outcomes and transfer requirements
Program Support: Optional credits that may be outside of the program specific discipline, but support programmatic outcomes and/or transfer requirements. May be listed as restricted electives
Free Electives: Optional courses which may be in any discipline, except developmental
General Education: 28-36 credits
English: 6 credits
Arts and Humanities: 3 credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences: 6 credits
Science: 8 credits
Mathematics: 3 credits
Globalization and Diversity: 3 credits

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) – Awarded for the successful completion of a degree sequence in vocational-technical occupational skills, including law enforcement, computer technology, and engineering technology.

Program Specific: At least 12 credits in the major, which are essential to the programmatic outcomes and transfer requirements

Program Support: Optional credits that may be outside of the program specific discipline, but support programmatic outcomes and/or transfer requirements. May be listed as restricted electives

Free Electives: Optional courses which may be in any discipline, except developmental

General Education: at least 18 credits

English: 3 credits

Arts and Humanities: 3 credits

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 credits

Science: 3 credits

Mathematics: 3 credits

Globalization and Diversity: 3 credits