

Current DTA Associate Degree Guidelines

(Approved by ICRC October 10, 1996 – Effective Fall 1998)

For the purpose of these Guidelines, the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) Associate degree (sometimes called the Associate in Arts, Associate in Arts and Sciences, etc.) is defined as that degree awarded by a community college to students who have completed a transfer curriculum. In order to fulfill most general education requirements for a baccalaureate degree, the Associate degree should possess the following characteristics:

- I. Be issued only to students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00, as calculated by the degree awarding institution.
- II. Be based on 90-quarter hours of transferable credit including:
 - A. A minimum of 60-quarter hours of general education courses distributed as follows:

1. Basic Requirements

a. Communication Skills (10 credits)

Must include at least two courses in English composition, which total to at least six credits. Remaining credits, if any, may be an additional composition course or designated writing courses or courses in basic speaking skills (e.g., speech, rhetoric, or debate).

b. Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning Skills (5 credits)

1. One of the following (5 credits)

(1) Symbolic reasoning course

(2) Quantitative reasoning course in computer science, statistics, mathematics, or other discipline for which intermediate algebra is a prerequisite.

2. Intermediate Algebra Proficiency

All students must be proficient in intermediate algebra. May be satisfied by completion of high school mathematics through second year algebra, by course challenge or other examination demonstrating mastery of intermediate algebra skills, or by completion of an intermediate algebra course (to be numbered below 100) or a mathematics course for which intermediate algebra is a prerequisite.

2. Distribution Requirements

Within the distribution requirements, integrative, synthesizing courses and programs, including interdisciplinary courses and linked sequences of courses, are to be encouraged, especially for colleges requiring a minimum of two disciplines per area.

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a. Humanities¹ (15 – 20 credits)

Selected from at least two disciplines. No more than 10 credits allowed from any one discipline. (No more than 5 credits in foreign language at the 100 level.) No more than 5 credits in performance/skills courses are allowed. Suggested disciplines include³: Art; Music History²; Philosophy²; Foreign Language/American Drama/Theater; Sign Language⁴; Speech; Literature

b. Social Sciences¹ (15 – 20 credits)

Selected from at least two disciplines. No more than 10 credits allowed from any one discipline. Suggested disciplines include³: History²; Philosophy²; Anthropology; Political Science; Economics; Psychology; Geography; Sociology

c. Natural Sciences (15 – 20 credits)

Selected from at least two disciplines. No more than 10 credits allowed from any one discipline. At least 10 credits in physical, biological and/or earth sciences. Shall include at least one laboratory course. Suggested disciplines include³: Astronomy; Geology; Biology; Mathematics²; Botany; Physics; Chemistry; Zoology

3. Electives

Other college-level courses, of which a maximum of 15 credits may be in college-level courses as defined by the community college, and the remainder shall be fully transferable as defined by the receiving institution. Where appropriate, preparation courses for the major should be included in this course work.

NOTES:

¹Within appropriate distribution areas, colleges are encouraged to develop curriculum which provides students with an understanding of and sensitivity to cultural differences by completing courses requiring study of cultures other than their own. To most, this may include minority, non-Western ethnic, or other area studies.

²A specific course may be credited toward no more than one distribution or skill area requirement.

³A list of suggested disciplines is subject to review by the ICRC.

⁴Faculty teaching first-year language courses are encouraged to include cultural aspects of study in their courses.

CLARIFICATIONS:

- A. Associate degrees (DTA) meeting the distribution system in these Guidelines represent but one model for valid general education programs. Community colleges and baccalaureate institutions are encouraged to develop models, including interdisciplinary core requirements or vertical general education requirements with courses at the upper division level. Institutions using such alternative approaches are further encouraged to develop individual interinstitutional transfer agreements.
- B. The Associate degree (DTA) agreement will provide for the fulfillment of college and university general education requirements only, and it is not intended that this agreement should cause modifications of unique requirements (religion, philosophy, etc.). Further, it should be clearly understood that agreements based upon these Guidelines in no way alter admission criteria established by baccalaureate institutions.
- C. The Associate degree will generally provide the transferring student with at least 90-quarter (60-semester) credits upon entry to a baccalaureate institution.
- D. Community colleges should strictly enforce stated requirements without undue use of waivers, substitutions, or exceptions.
- E. Institutions developing mutual agreements must clearly identify degree titles and effective dates in order to provide clarity for students and their advisers and for transcript evaluation.
- F. Community colleges agree to develop precise language concerning their direct transfer Associate degree and to publish this information with all degree requirement information. Baccalaureate institutions agree to publish information about the details of their Associate degree agreements.
- G. Remedial courses (courses numbered below 100) shall not be included in the 90-quarter hours of the Associate degree.
- H. A list of the specific courses which satisfy Associate degree requirements shall be published.
- I. Community colleges and baccalaureate institutions agree to state their credit-by-exam policies in their catalogs. While accepting the Associate degree, receiving institutions shall grant credit for extra-institutional learning on the same basis for transfer students as for native students.

PROVISOS September 2004 (Updates through July 2008)

(SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS)

Bastyr University

Prospective students who have completed an Associate Degree (DTA) from a Washington State community college may enter Bastyr University at the junior level, provided they have earned at least a 2.25 cumulative GPA and have completed the specified prerequisite courses outlined in Bastyr University's Health Sciences or Applied Behavioral Sciences Transfer Guide. Bastyr University does not accept transfer courses for which a student has earned a "D" grade.

Cornish College

A student transferring to Cornish College of the Arts who has earned a Direct Transfer Associate degree (DTA) will transfer sufficient credits to complete the Humanities and Sciences requirements at Cornish College of the Arts. This transfer credit will satisfy Cornish's Literature, English Composition, Western Civilization, Science, Social Science, Philosophy of Art, and Humanities and Sciences electives.

Transfer credit for major courses and for arts elective courses will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Courses are subject to the transfer guidelines established by Cornish College and may be approved for transfer after the student completes a portfolio review or audition.

Eastern Washington University

Eastern Washington University recognizes the approved ICRC transfer degrees from Washington community colleges as fulfilling the university basic skills requirements, general education core requirements, and university competencies with the proviso that courses equivalent to intermediate algebra and EWU English 101 (English composition) be completed with a minimum grade of 2.0.

Students must also meet university proficiency requirements in English and Math, Cultural and Gender Diversity, International Studies, and the Liberal Arts Enrichment as set forth by the EWU implementation schedule. Many of these courses may be incorporated into the approved AA degree.

Gonzaga University

Students who have completed the AA-DTA and AS-T degrees from Washington State community colleges are granted junior standing.

The AA-DTA fulfills the core requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences. The University core is fulfilled, except for the following: college mathematics course above intermediate algebra, Introduction to Speech, and six courses in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

AS-T coursework is evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Those students wishing to transfer to Gonzaga with an AS-T are advised to contact the Transfer Counselor well in advance for assistance with course selection.

Heritage College

Students who have completed the appropriate Associate in Arts transfer degree from Washington community colleges are admitted with junior standing at Heritage College and have satisfied general college requirements provided that a logic/critical thinking course and a world history course are included. Transfer students who have not completed the Associate in Arts transfer degree must satisfy the general college requirements of Heritage College. This agreement is effective for students beginning classes for the first time at Heritage College in spring 1991.

Northwest University

Northwest University will accept a student who transfers with an AA degree (direct transfer program) from any public community college in Washington as having met the general college requirements, but not the religion component of the GCR.

Pacific Lutheran University

Students who have completed the appropriate Degree Transfer Agreement (DTA) Associate Degree from any community college in Washington will be admitted with junior standing (60-64 semester hours) and will be regarded as having satisfied General University Requirements, except for one Religion course (Biblical Studies or Christian Thought, History, and Experience) and one Perspectives on Diversity course. PLU College of Arts and Sciences requirement is not fulfilled by the DTA Associate Degree.

Saint Martin's University

Saint Martin's University recognizes the articulated Direct Transfer Associate degree (DTA) from Washington Community Colleges. Students completing the designated degree with a minimum GPA of 2.0 will be granted junior standing upon transfer. These students will have met the Saint Martin's general education requirements with the exception of a course each in philosophy (transferable) and religious studies (generally completed at Saint Martin's University).

Seattle Pacific University

Students who have earned, prior to matriculation at SPU, an approved direct transfer associate are considered to have completed the Exploratory Curriculum and University Core (but not University Foundations) requirements, as well as the foreign language and mathematics proficiency requirements of SPU. Most students who have earned an approved Direct Transfer degree enter with 90 credits and junior class standing. However, courses that do not meet SPU's minimum grade policies will not be transferred.

Seattle University

Students admitted to Seattle University for the first time with a completed Associate transfer degree will be granted 90 credits and junior standing. The following provisions apply: 1) Courses used to satisfy the DTA communication skills, quantitative/symbolic reasoning skills as well as the lab science requirement must be graded C- (1.5) or higher; 2) Additional philosophy and religious studies courses will be required to satisfy lower division Core at SU; 3) Specific requirements of professional degree programs and upper division core must be satisfied.

The Evergreen State College

Any student presenting the transfer Associate degree (DTA) will be granted junior status and considered as having met all general education requirements at The Evergreen State College.

Trinity Lutheran College

Trinity Lutheran College accepts the AA-DTA degree from Washington community colleges. Students entering Trinity with a completed DTA will be granted junior standing and be considered to have completed all general education requirements, excluding Trinity's Biblical Core.

University of Washington

The University of Washington transfers credit on a course-by-course basis. The UW's College of Arts and Sciences agrees that transfer students from Washington community colleges who complete approved associate degree programs, as determined by the UW Office of Admissions, will be considered to have satisfied the College's general education and proficiency requirements with the following provisos:

1. If the transfer degree requires 45 credits of distribution (15-15-15), in order to satisfy the Arts and Sciences Areas of Knowledge requirement, students will be required to take up to an additional 5 credits in each area plus an additional 15 credits drawn from their choice of one or more of the three areas.
2. Up to 15 credits in the student's major may be applied towards the 75-credit Areas of Knowledge requirement.
3. Students who complete first-year language courses as a part of the transfer degree distribution requirement, and later use that foreign language to satisfy the Arts and Science language proficiency requirement (see item 5), will not be allowed to use those foreign language credits towards the Arts and Science Areas of Knowledge requirement.
4. Aside from the above exceptions, approved degree-holders may count transfer courses toward the UW Areas of Knowledge requirements comparable to those the community college used toward associate degree distribution requirements, even if those courses would not otherwise be allowed toward specific Areas of Knowledge requirements.
5. Students will be required to complete foreign language study through the 103-level or to demonstrate language proficiency at the 103-level through an examination.
6. Ten credits in courses emphasizing writing (W-courses or English composition) are required in addition to the 5-credit English composition requirement. W-courses must have attributes as defined by Arts and Sciences. If not completed as part of the transfer degree, this requirement must be completed at the University

University of Washington – Tacoma

The University of Washington Tacoma transfers credit on a course-by-course basis. The University agrees that direct transfer students from Washington community colleges who complete approved associate degree programs, as determined by the UW Tacoma Office of Admissions, will be considered to have satisfied the University of Washington Tacoma's general education and proficiency requirements with the following provisos:

1. For guaranteed admission to the University of Washington Tacoma, students must earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 for all transferable academic course work at the time the first associate degree was completed and at the time of admission. The guarantee of admission does not apply to admission to any school or program nor to any particular major or professional field of study within the University. The minimum cumulative grade point average for guaranteed admission includes course work completed at all colleges attended.
2. Two years of one foreign language in high school or two quarters of a single foreign language at the college-level are required.

Western Washington University

To substitute fully for WWU's General University Requirements (GURs) the DTA degree must include 90 credits, 75 of which must be on the Associate Degree Course List. Transfer distribution courses should be completed on a lettered or numeric grading scale, not P/F. Note: English 101 must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

Whitworth College

Whitworth College grants junior standing to holders of the approved ICRC transfer Associate degree. In addition, transfer students are required to complete the one-course Biblical literature requirement; one year of study in the same modern language at the college level; one of the three interdisciplinary Western Civilization Core courses (Core 150, Core 250, Core 350).