

CURRENT [DTA](#) ASSOCIATE DEGREE GUIDELINES 2013

Approved August 2013—Effective January 2014

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

- I. Be issued only to students who have earned a cumulative college-level 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 including¹:
 - A. A minimum of 60 quarter hours of general education courses distributed as follows:
 1. *Basic Requirements.*
 - a. Communication Skills (10 credits)²
 - A minimum of five credits of English composition.
 - Remaining credits may be used for 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)^{3,4}
 - Five credits of college level mathematics, a course with a Mathematics prefix numbered 100 or above, that furnishes the quantitative skills required in the commonly recognized educational transfer pathways toward a baccalaureate

¹ In accordance with Section D, the numerical value of credits shall be maintained in transfer. When a course is acceptable in transfer, the receiving institution shall grant to the student the same number of credits as originally assigned to the course. When translation is required between semester and quarter credits, the conversion to be used is 1.5 quarter credits for each semester credit, or 2/3 of one semester credit for each quarter credit.

² A minimum of 4.5 transferable credits of English composition is allowed as long as nine credits are earned for the total Communication Skills distribution area to meet the requirement that a student may not be more than one credit short within an individual distribution area and must complete at least 60 distribution area credits.

³ To qualify for QSR, college level math and logic courses must require high school or college intermediate algebra course work with a grade of 2.0 or higher as a prerequisite.

⁴ A minimum of 4.5 transferable credits for the Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning Skills distribution area. This meets the requirement that a student may not be more than one credit short within an individual distribution area and must complete at least 60 distribution area credits.

degree. Accepted courses in these pathways are Pre-calculus or higher, Mathematics for Elementary Education,⁵ Business Pre-calculus/Finite Mathematics, Statistics, and Math in Society; or

- Five credits of a symbolic logic course that focuses on (a) sentence logic with proofs and (b) predicate logic with quantifiers and proofs and/or Aristotelian logic with Venn Diagrams.

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 area⁶.

a. Humanities⁷ (15 – 20 credits)

- Selected from a minimum of two disciplines.
- A maximum of 10 credits is allowed from any one discipline within the Humanities disciplines
- A maximum of 5 credits in performance/skills can be credited in the Humanities distribution.
- A maximum of 5 credits in 100-level world language can be credited in the Humanities distribution. Additional 100-level world language credits completed may apply to elective requirements.
- 200-level world language credits may be applied towards the Humanities distribution area, up to the maximum 10 credits from any one Humanities discipline.
- Suggested disciplines include⁸:
 - Art
 - Drama/Theater

⁵ The University of Washington accepts Mathematics for Elementary Education for elective credit, but not as meeting its QSR requirement, since UW offers no degree pathway for which it is appropriate.

⁶ A student may not be more than one credit short within an individual distribution area and must complete at least 60 distribution area credits.

⁷ Within 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.

⁸ A list of suggested disciplines is subject to review by the Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC) for discussion of appropriate inclusion in each distribution area.

- World Language/American Sign Language⁹
 - History¹⁰
 - Literature
 - Music
 - Philosophy¹⁰
 - Speech/Communication Studies
- b. Social Science⁸ (15 – 20 credits)
- Selected from a minimum of two disciplines.
 - A maximum of 10 credits is allowed from any one discipline within the Social Science distribution.
 - Suggested disciplines include⁸:
 - Anthropology
 - Economics
 - Geography
 - History¹¹
 - Philosophy
 - Political Science
 - Psychology¹¹
 - Sociology
- c. Natural Sciences⁷ (15 – 20 credits)
- Selected from a minimum of two disciplines.
 - A maximum of 10 credits is allowed from any one discipline within the Natural Science distribution.
 - A minimum of 10 credits in physical, biological and/or earth sciences is required
 - Required to complete a minimum of one laboratory course.
 - Suggested disciplines include
 - Astronomy
 - Biology
 - Botany
 - Chemistry
 - Geology
 - Mathematics¹⁰

⁹ Faculty teaching first-year language courses are encouraged to include cultural aspects of study in their courses.

¹⁰ A specific course may be credited toward no more than one distribution or skill area requirement.

- Physics
- Zoology

B. *Electives*. Electives include other college-level courses. A maximum of 15 credits may be in college-level courses as defined by the community or technical college. The remainder shall be fully transferable as defined by the receiving institution or through inclusion in Appendix J. Where appropriate, preparation courses for the major should be included in electives toward this degree.

Clarifications

- A. DTA Associate degrees meeting the distribution system in these Guidelines represent but one model for valid general education programs. Community and technical 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 inter-institutional transfer agreements.
- B. The DTA Associate degree 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 DTA Associate degree will generally provide the transferring student with at least 90 quarter or 60 semester credits upon entry to a baccalaureate institution.
- D. Community and technical 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 to provide clarity for students and their advisers and for transcript evaluation.
- F. Community and technical colleges agree to develop precise language concerning their DTA Associate degree and to publish this information with all degree requirement information. Baccalaureate institutions agree to publish information about the details of their DTA Associate degree agreements.
- G. Remedial courses, courses numbered below 100, shall not be included in the 90 quarter hours of the DTA Associate degree.
- H. A list of the specific courses which satisfy DTA Associate degree requirements shall be published.
- I. Community and technical colleges and baccalaureate institutions agree to state their credit-by-exam policies in their catalogs. While accepting the DTA Associate degree,

receiving institutions shall grant credit for academic credit for prior learning on the same basis for transfer students as for first year students.

- J. Community and technical colleges agree to state that community and technical college students must apply for graduation through their community or technical college.
- K. Community and technical colleges agree to state GPA requirements specific to courses and degrees within their catalogs.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROVISO AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS

Provisos and specific requirements are submitted by each baccalaureate institution. The intent of the provisos is to: (1) identify exceptions to the DTA Associate degree (2) recognize additional requirements to the DTA Associate degree, and (3) provide transparency and clarity to support a student-focused transfer degree.

At the Spring ICRC meeting, the executive board will call for proviso reviews and updates to be reported at the subsequent Fall meeting. Changes reported at the Fall ICRC meeting will be reflected in the ICRC Handbook on the ICRC website prior to the next meeting.

Baccalaureate institutions shall notify community and technical colleges of changes in lower division course requirements for baccalaureate degrees two years prior to their implementation for transfer students (see Section II.A. of the [Umbrella Policy](#)).

Individual campus requirements are found in the ICRC Handbook <https://www.wa-council.org/icrc/>.