

EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
POLICY NO. BP-3.6

TITLE: GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

SECTION 1: GENERAL

- 1.1 Scope This policy applies to the general education goals and curriculum requirements for all associate and certificate degree programs at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.
- 1.2 Authority Title 133, Procedural Rule, Higher Education Policy Commission, Series 24, “Preparation of Students for College”; The Higher Education Policy Commission Core Coursework Transfer Agreement, effective January, 1994; American Association of Community Colleges, *Position Statement on the Associate Degree*, adopted August, 1998; and The Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Accreditation Criteria and Standards.
- 1.3 Effective Date November 29, 2002

SECTION 2: RATIONALE

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College defines its vision of what it means to be an educated person through the associate and certificate degree programs it establishes. Awarding an associate or a certificate degree is the way by which the College indicates that the student has completed a program of academic development and has achieved a level of performance reflected in student learning outcomes sufficient to move on to upper division collegiate work or to enter directly into specific occupations in the workplace. Each associate and certificate degree program must consist of a coherent and sequenced set of courses that lead to the attainment of the defined outcomes of the learning process.

The general education curriculum is the foundation of all associate degrees. Through the general education requirements, the College establishes its vision for the common core of learning outcomes that are essential to the definition of an educated person regardless of the field of study undertaken. The general education curriculum demonstrates the College’s commitment to provide appropriate and relevant education to enhance the growth and development of learners as they face the challenges of the 21st Century.

SECTION 3: GOALS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

The Board of Governors establishes as the goals for the general education of all students who seek to earn an associate degree awarded by the College that the students will demonstrate post-secondary competencies and accuracy in:

3.1 Critical Thinking Skills

Students will demonstrate their ability to think critically by observing critically, reading critically, planning, reflecting, analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing.

3.2 Oral and Written Communications

Students will demonstrate their oral and written communication skills by listening actively, speaking effectively, and writing effectively.

3.3 Mathematical Skills and Reasoning

Students will demonstrate their abilities to think mathematically by applying mathematical concepts in problem-solving including estimation, computation, analysis, assimilation, application, transference and modeling strategies as needed for living in today's and tomorrow's world.

3.4 Informational Access and Literacy Skills

Students will demonstrate their inquiry and research skills by using electronic tools and non-electronic resources to acquire, process, and manage information as well as to locate, retrieve, and evaluate information.

3.5 Scientific Inquiry and Research Skills

Students will demonstrate their scientific inquiry and research skills by using scientific methods effectively in problem solving; posing a question to be answered or make a prediction about objects or events; using multiple lines of inquiry to collect information; organizing, evaluating, analyzing, and interpreting findings.

3.6 A Cultural, Artistic, and Global Perspective

Students will demonstrate cultural, artistic and global perspectives through understanding their own culture; recognizing and valuing differences among cultural groups, artistic modes, and cultural artifacts; and understanding the role of diversity in the expanding global context.

3.7 Workforce and Citizenship Skills

Students will demonstrate workforce and citizenship skills needed for professional success through punctuality, cooperation, negotiation, self-discipline, teamwork, leadership, conflict resolution, ethics, commitment/loyalty, responsibility and accountability; and by recognizing the benefits and the need for participating in lifelong learning activities and civic and community programs.

SECTION 4: GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

4.1 To achieve the goals for general education, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College establishes the following requirements for all associate degrees, and appropriately for all certificate degree programs.

4.1.1 The General Education Curriculum will consist of a coherent and sequenced set of courses, including an evaluation procedure that assesses the learning outcomes of the goals for general education. Courses will be organized according to the nationally recognized curriculum categories of: Communications, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Information Sciences, and the Arts.

4.1.2 Each degree and certificate program will include an appropriate percentage or standard number of semester hours dedicated to the general education competencies. The following are the minimum number of semester hours required in each of the degree and certificate program areas:

Degree Program	Minimum Number of General Education Semester Hours
Associate in Arts	45 semester hours
Associate in Science	35 semester hours
Associate in Applied Science	21 semester hours
Certificate	6 semester hours

4.2 The Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree prepares students to transfer to an upper division baccalaureate degree program and gives emphasis to those majoring in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and similar areas. According to national guidelines, a substantial component of the associate in arts degree, three quarters of the work required, shall be in general education. Therefore, a minimum of forty-five (45) semester hours of general education shall be required for completion of the associate in arts degree.

The required distribution of the curriculum sequence shall be:

Communications	9 semester hours
Humanities	6 semester hours
Social Sciences	12 semester hours
History	3 semester hours
Natural Sciences	4 semester hours
Mathematics	3 semester hours
Information Sciences	3 semester hours
General Education Electives	<u>5 semester hours</u>
Total	45 semester hours

- 4.3** The Associate in Science (A.S.) degree prepares students to transfer to an upper division baccalaureate degree program and gives emphasis to those majoring in engineering and technology, natural sciences, mathematics, and similar areas. According to national guidelines, a large component of the associate in science degree, at least one-half of the work required, shall be in general education. Therefore, a minimum of thirty-five (35) semester hours of general education shall be required for completion of the associate in science degree.

The required distribution of the curriculum sequence shall be:

Communications	9 semester hours
Humanities	3 semester hours
Social Sciences	6 semester hours
Natural Sciences	8 semester hours
Mathematics	6 semester hours
Information Sciences	<u>3 semester hours</u>
Total	35 semester hours

- 4.4** The Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree is designed to lead the individual directly to employment into a specific career. According to national guidelines, at least one-third of the work for the associate in applied science degree shall be in general education. Therefore, a minimum of twenty-one (21) semester hours of general education shall be required for completion of the associate in applied science degree.

The required distribution of the curriculum sequence shall be:

Communications	6 semester hours
Social Sciences	6 semester hours
Mathematics/Science	6 semester hours
Information Sciences	<u>3 semester hours</u>
Total	21 semester hours

4.5 The Certificate degree program (C.P.) is designed for direct employment into a specific career. The six semester hour general education core requirements consist of:

Communications	3 semester hours
Information Sciences	<u>3 semester hours</u>
Total	6 semester hours

BOARD OF GOVERNORS, CHAIR

DATE