General Education Guidelines

Applied Associates Degrees

1. These degrees (such as the Associate of Applied Business, AAB, and Associate of Applied Science, AAS) are awarded in recognition of successful completion of career/technical education programs which require a minimum of 90 quarter hours (or 60 semester hours) of credit.

2. The Ohio Board of Regents describes curricula for applied associate’s degree programs in terms of technical and non-technical studies. Non-technical studies include general education (“gen ed”) and courses that serve as a base for the technical field (sometimes referred to as “applied general education” or “basic” coursework). Non-technical studies should make up approximately 50% of the curriculum.

3. In alignment with existing requirements of the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS), applied associate degree programs approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents should include at least 21 quarter hours (14 semester hours) of general education courses and at least 42 quarter hours (28 semester hours) of non-technical education courses (combined general education and applied general education). Programs in some areas may require a higher number of credits in the technical field due to professional accreditation standards (making the percentage of technical slightly more than 50% of the degree program); however, the degree program should still reflect a relatively even balance between technical and non-technical studies.

4. Typically, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents expects general education to include coursework in each of the following core competency areas:

   - English Composition – Written and Oral Communication (Writing, communication, public speaking, information literacy)

   - Mathematics (Mathematics, data analysis)

   - Arts and Humanities (Art Appreciation/Art History, Western Civilization, History of the U.S., Ethics)

   - Social and Behavioral Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Geography, Political Science)

   - Natural and Physical Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

But, at this time, the Chancellor does not require a general education course in natural/physical science for the Associate of Applied Business degree. Although a course in natural/physical science is not a requirement at this time, it is strongly encouraged as it is likely to be required in the future. Please be aware that this applies only to Associate of Applied Business degrees—not the Associate of Applied Science degrees.

5. Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements.
Academic Associate Degrees

1. These degrees (such as the Associate of Arts—AA, and Associate of Science—AS) provide the first two years of a baccalaureate degree for students planning to transfer to a four-year institution. Each degree requires successful completion of a minimum of 90 quarter hours (or 60 semester hours) of credit. This degree shall not be used to deliver programs in technical education.

2. Typically, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents expects general education to include coursework in each of the following core competency areas:
   - English Composition – Written and Oral Communication (Writing, communication, public speaking, information literacy)
   - Mathematics (Mathematics, data analysis)
   - Arts and Humanities (Art Appreciation/Art History, Western Civilization, History of the U.S., Ethics)
   - Social and Behavioral Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Geography, Political Science)
   - Natural and Physical Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

3. For an Associate of Arts degree, general education must include a minimum of 54 quarter (36 semester) credit hours including:
   - English Composition and Literature—a minimum of 9 quarter (6 semester) credit hours
   - Sciences and Mathematics—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours
   - Arts and Humanities—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours
   - Social and Behavioral Sciences—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours

4. For an Associate of Science degree, general education must include a minimum of 54 quarter (36 semester) credit hours including:
   - English Composition and Literature—a minimum of 9 quarter (6 semester) credit hours
   - Sciences and Mathematics—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours
   - Arts and Humanities—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours
   - Social and Behavioral Sciences—a minimum of 15 quarter (10 semester) credit hours

5. Applied general education (or basic) coursework, which is often narrowly focused, shall not be counted as general education in the academic associate degrees.

6. Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements.
Baccalaureate Degrees

1. For a Bachelor of Arts (BA), a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), a Bachelor of Science (BS) or a Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) degree, the minimum general education degree requirements are the same as for the academic associate’s degrees.

2. But, many BA, BS, BAS and BFA degree programs will require general education coursework beyond those minimum expectations and may tailor the general education specifically for the particular degree program.

3. Applied general education (or basic) coursework, which is often narrowly focused, shall not be counted as general education in the baccalaureate degrees.

4. Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements.
Faculty Qualifications for Associate and Bachelor’s Level Programs

The Ohio Board of Regents Standards (Rule 8) state:

“Faculty persons must be fully competent to undertake the level of instruction to which assigned and shall possess academic preparation and experience, including professional practice, appropriate to the field of knowledge taught”.

The following guidelines apply:

- **Department Leaders** (e.g., chair, lead teacher, etc.) should hold either a master’s degree or a bachelor’s degree with other advanced preparation and have experience in the appropriate field of concentration.

- **Faculty members teaching technically/occupationally related courses** should possess formal education appropriate to the specialization. They should hold a degree one level above the program in which they are teaching (e.g., hold a bachelor’s degree if primarily teaching in an associate degree program or hold a master’s degree if teaching in a baccalaureate degree program). These faculty members should also demonstrate practical experience other than teaching and should show evidence of professional development in the field of concentration.

- **Faculty members teaching general education courses** should generally hold a master’s degree or above in the subject matter discipline and should show evidence of professional development in the field of concentration.

The Regents' reviewers will expect the majority of program faculty to meet these guidelines. However, individual exceptions may be granted for individuals teaching technically/occupationally related courses in areas where a degree one level above the student are uncommon in the field and when it can be shown that the individual faculty member has clear expertise in the field (demonstrated by expertise, licensure, or certification).