

ASSOCIATE DEGREE DEFINITIONS

On May 3, 1973, the Commission on Higher Education adopted the following definitions for Associate Degrees:

1. Transfer programs shall mean those programs whose major goal is to prepare the student, upon completion of two years or less of work, to be eligible for transfer in pursuit of a higher degree.

In order to qualify as a transfer program, a minimum of 60% of the credit hours required for completion of that program shall consist of college level courses in the arts and sciences. Arts and sciences courses shall be defined as those which are generally considered to be independent from association with a specific occupation, which emphasize "theoretical knowledge" over "practical knowledge", which do not chiefly deal with manipulative skills and techniques, and which generally do not bear the adjective "applied". Those courses which make up the arts and sciences "core" shall be distributed among the various areas such as English, Language, and Literature; Fine Arts and Philosophy; Mathematics; Social Sciences; and Laboratory Sciences in a manner which does not cause the core to be clearly directed towards specialized study or a specific occupational or professional objective. Among courses not considered arts and sciences are: Physical Education; Health; R.O.T.C.; Home Economics; Agriculture; Engineering; Technologies; Education and Educational Methodology; Secretarial; Business (including courses specifically designated as Business Math, Business English, etc.); Journalism; Library; Nursing; and Commercial Art. Courses in the "gray area" will be considered as not belonging to the arts and sciences for the purpose of this definition.

2. Occupational programs shall mean those programs whose major goal is to prepare students to be eligible for gainful employment in a specific occupation after a course of study requiring no longer than two years for completion. Examples of listings of some programs of this kind may be found in Section II, Page 18, A Taxonomy of Instructional Programs in Higher Education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., 1970, OE-50064.

3. Degree titles to be conferred should be consistent with these definitions and are further defined as follows. Transfer programs should lead to Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degrees. In curricula leading to the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, arts and sciences courses as defined above should make up 60% of the course load. The chief difference between the AA and AS degrees will generally be the predominance of language, humanities, fine arts, and social science courses for the AA and of science and mathematics courses for the AS. Occupational programs should lead to the Associate in Applied Science degree, where it is deemed that sufficient training in the arts and sciences is required to warrant the award of an associate degree rather than a "diploma" or "certificate".