

**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

ITEM: Follow-up Report for the AS Associate in Science Degree Program

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: *RESOLVED*, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors receive and approve the follow-up report for the AS Associate in Science Degree Program as requested by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical Education.

STAFF MEMBER: Dr. Cindy McCoy

BACKGROUND:

During the 2010-2011 academic year the Division of University Transfer Programs conducted a program review of the AA Associate in Arts and AS Associate in Science Degree Programs in accordance with the provisions of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Council), Title 135 Procedural Rule, Series 10, *Policy Regarding Program Review*. At its April 19, 2011 meeting, Southern's Board of Governors (Board) approved continuation of the programs with corrective action and submitted the program review to the Council for review and approval.

At its meeting of October 20, 2011, the Council received information regarding program review recommendations. At that time Council requested a follow-up report on the AA Associate in Arts and AS Associate in Science (University Transfer) Degree Programs addressing the issue of credit-hours exceeding the standards established in Title 135 Procedural Rule, Series 11, *Degree Designation, General Education Requirements, New Program Approval, and Discontinuance of Existing Programs*.

The Council cited the institution for having 63 credit hours in the AS Associate in Science Degree Program. Series 11, effective July 24, 2011, states “. . . the commonly accepted program length is 60 semester credits for associate's degrees . . .”

The concerns cited in the follow-up report request were addressed at the December 2, 2011, Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting where a revised curriculum (attached) for the AS Associate in Science Degree Program was approved effective fall 2012. The AA Associate in Arts Degree Program was in compliance with the credit hour mandate of Series 11 at the time of the comprehensive program review.

Beginning fall 2012 all Associate Degree Programs will comply with the 60 credit-hour mandate and all Certificate Programs will be at 30 credit-hours. It should be noted that Southern is the first institution in the system to comply with Series 11.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION REQUEST FORM
PROGRAM CHANGE FORM

PROGRAM NAME : Associate in Science Degree (University Transfer)

NATURE OF REVISION: NEW PROGRAM : _____ REVISED PROGRAM : __X__

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT : University Transfer Division

LIST ALL PROGRAM(S) THIS PROGRAM ACTION WILL IMPACT AND HOW:

Associate in Science: The proposed change will bring the required credit hours into alignment with the legislative mandate to have no more than 60 hours required for an associate degree. The change is also intended to promote greater transferability to receiving institutions and increase the number of degree completers at Southern.

REVISION DESCRIPTION: See the attachment for the proposed structuring of the program.

WHAT ASSESSMENT DATA/INFORMATION PROMPTED THESE CHANGES?

These changes were prompted by a legislative mandate to have associate degree programs require no more than 60 credit hours for completion. Additional considerations that guided deliberation on the proposed changes were, to avoid decreasing the math and science component of the Associate in Science degree, keep general education as robust as possible, avoid elimination of an entire discipline (such as physical education), improve transferability of degree completers and increase the number of degree completers by allowing students some ability to tailor the program according to receiving institution degree requirements.

Recommended By / Date Guy Lowes and Mindy Saunders September 9th, 2011

Approved by Department/ Date

Curriculum and Instruction Chairperson / Date
Mordon Hensley 12/2/11

Approve/ Disapprove

Chief Academic Officer / Date
Janeta D. Alderman 12/9/11

Approve/ Disapprove

Recommended effective implementation date: Fall 2012 **Fall**

Associate in Science 60 Credit Hours

Students planning to earn a baccalaureate degree at a four-year institution may complete the first two years at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College by earning the Associate in Science degree.

A student may attend full-time (12 hours or more per trimester) or part-time (less than 12 hours per trimester) to complete the Associate in Science degree. Classes are offered day and evening. After meeting all the prerequisites, a full-time student can complete the degree in four or five trimesters and a part time student can complete in six or seven trimesters. The program is delivered in various formats. Students may take traditional, online or blended courses.

Dept/No.	Title	Credit Hours
Communications/Humanities		
EN 101	English Composition I	3
EN 102	English Composition II	3
Speech Elective	SP 103 Speech Fundamentals	3
	OR	
Literature Elective	SP 202 Introduction to Public Speaking Choose 3 hours from: EN 200, EN 201, EN 202, or EN 204	3
OR 110	Introduction to College	1
Any Art, Music, or Theater		3
Social Science		
PY 201	General Psychology	3
	OR	
SO 200	Introduction to Sociology	
American History Elective	Choose 3 hours from: HS 104, HS 105, HS 230 or HS 231	3
Social Science Elective	Choose 6 hours from: Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, or Sociology	6
Natural Science		
Laboratory Science Elective	Choose 12 hours from: BS 101, BS 102, BS 216, BS 199, CH 213, CH 214, CH 223, CH 224, CH 225, CH 226, IS (any), GL 110, PH 210, PH 220, or PH 222	12
Math		
Math Elective	Choose 5 hours from: MT 125, MT 130, MT 229, MT 230, MT 231, MT 235, or MT 245	5
Technology		
Technology Elective	Choose 2 hours from: Computer Science, Drafting, Information Technology, or Surveying	2
¹ Degree Specific Electives (required)		13

¹See your academic advisor for a list of electives specific to your area of interest.

A trimester-by-trimester program course sequence is available at <http://www.southernwv.edu/programs/associate-in-science>