

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Credits for an Associate's Degree

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

In June 2011, the Board approved a policy to limit the number of credits for a baccalaureate degree to 120 credits with certain exceptions. That policy included limiting the associate's degree to 60 credits, also with certain exceptions. There was an omission in the proposal and not all references to the prior 60 credit "minimum" were updated to reflect the new proposed standard. The attached policy proposal aligns Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25 (effective Fall 2012) with the provisions adopted in June.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25, to align with the Board's action taken in June 2011 to generally limit associate's degrees to 60 credits in the section effective Fall 2012.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Staff discovered the omission of the 60 credit reference following the action taken by the Board in June to limit associate degrees to 60 credits.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Corrects the policy codification to align with prior Board action.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25 (Effective Fall 2012)*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 25
Community College Degree Requirements

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 25. Community College Certificate and Degree Requirements (Effective Fall 2012)

[~~The required minimum~~] *Except as otherwise provided, the standard* number of semester hours for an associate of arts, associate of business, and associate of science is 60. Specific requirements for all other certificates and degrees are as follows:

CERTIFICATE

Communications	3
Emphasis	24
Additional Program Requirements	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	30

NOTE: Computation & Human Relations must be included as courses or be clearly identified as content included in other required courses.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Communications	3
English	3
Constitution	3
Human Relations	3
Social Science*/ <i>Humanities</i>	3
[Humanities]	
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Emphasis	30
Additional Program Requirements	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	60

*When a Social Science course is used for Human Relations, the student must take a humanities class.

ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES

Communications	6
Constitution	3
Science	3
Mathematics	3
Social Science	3
Humanities	3
Additional Program Requirements	<u>39</u>
TOTAL	60