General Education Guidelines

The guidelines for general education are divided into two sections—one for public institutions and one for private institutions. Although the general education credit hour expectations and breadth of experience are the same for public and private institutions, the general education requirements are more specific for public institutions because they must align their general education curriculum with the Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) and with Ohio’s Articulation and Transfer Policy¹.

Throughout the document, the following definitions are used:

**General Education Courses:** Those courses in written and oral communication, quantitative principles, biological and physical sciences, social and behavior sciences and the arts and humanities that provide the foundation and common experience expected among individuals holding associate and baccalaureate degrees. These courses, along with courses within a major, provide opportunities for critical thinking, problem solving and analytic skills.

**Applied General Education (Basic Education) Courses:** Courses within applied associate degrees that emphasize the application of general education to an occupational or technical area. Courses such as, technical communication, business mathematics, calculations for health professionals, study skills, applied computing, and practical psychology are examples that fall in this category. Applied general education (i.e., basic) coursework shall not be counted as general education in an associate of arts or associate of science degree.

**General Education Courses in the Arts:** Courses in this category do not include “performance” courses, such as painting, sculpting or dance, but may include courses in the history of art, dance, film or theater.

**General Education Courses in Technology and Innovation:** Courses in this area include the analysis and understanding of how discovery and invention impact society.

**Note:** Developmental or remedial courses cannot be counted toward general education requirements for any degree program.

¹ [http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/policy/CreditTransferPolicy.pdf](http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/policy/CreditTransferPolicy.pdf)
General Education Guidelines—Ohio Public Institutions

Applied Associates Degrees

Applied associate degrees (Associate of Applied Business, Associate of Applied Science, and Associate of Technical Studies), must include at least 30 semester hours of non-technical coursework, which includes both general education and applied general education (i.e., “basic”) courses. The general education portion of the non-technical coursework must include at least fifteen semester credit hours. A minimum of six semester hours must be found in the following two categories:

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the English Composition and Oral Communication area (e.g., First Writing, Second Writing, Public Speaking)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Mathematics and Data Analysis area (e.g., Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Formal/Symbolic Logic)

A minimum of six semester hours must come from the following three categories, and at least two of the three categories must be represented.

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Arts, Humanities, Culture and Diversity area (e.g., Art History, Ethics, American History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Ethnic or Gender Studies)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area (e.g., Communication, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation area (e.g., Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Physiology)

In order to assure maximum transferability, institutions are strongly encouraged to implement general education programs that include coursework in all five general education categories and to use a 3 semester hour First Writing course to fulfill the minimum requirement in the oral and written communication area.

Institutions are expected to use approved Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) courses and follow applicable Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs) when developing general education requirements for their applied associate degrees. However, recognizing that the skills needed for some OTM courses (particularly in the mathematics and science areas) exceed the skills needed for the successful completion of some applied degrees, OTM-approved courses are not required to fulfill the mathematics and science requirements in applied associate degrees.
**Academic Associate Degrees**

Consistent with the belief that academic associate degrees serve as the first two years of a bachelor’s degree and to provide maximum transferability of courses from the associate’s level to the bachelor’s level, the general education component of the associate of arts and the associate of science degrees at Ohio’s public Institutions must fulfill the institution’s Ohio Transfer Module (OTM).

**Ohio Transfer Module (OTM)**

The Ohio Transfer Module contains 36-40 semester hours of coursework in general education. It is a subset of or the complete set of general education requirements at each college or university. In order for general education courses to be a part of an institution’s transfer module, all coursework is subject to a review by the statewide transfer module panels against the Ohio Transfer Module Guidelines and learning outcomes.

Each transfer module must include a minimum of 24 semester hours of approved OTM courses as outlined in the Ohio Transfer Module Guidelines below, and the remaining 12-16 semester hours must also contain approved coursework distributed among the following five categories:

- At least 3 semester credit hours in **English Composition and Oral Communication** (e.g., First Writing, Second Writing, Public Speaking)
- At least 3 semester credit hours in **Mathematics and Data Analysis** (e.g., College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Formal/Symbolic Logic)
- At least 6 semester credit hours in **Arts, Humanities, Culture and Diversity** (e.g., Art History, Ethics, American History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Ethnic or Gender Studies)
- At least 6 semester credit hours in **Social and Behavioral Sciences** (e.g., Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- At least 6 semester credit hours in **Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation** (e.g., Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geology, Physical Geography, Physics)

The additional 12-16 semester credit hours needed to complete the OTM is often distributed differently in the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees. Typically an Associate of Arts degree would include more credit hours in the oral and written communication and arts and humanities areas, while an Associate of Science degree would include more credit hours in the mathematics and science areas. In order to maximize the transferability and applicability of credits, each college or university may include Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) approved courses to meet the requirements beyond the Ohio Transfer Module.

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2 The Ohio Transfer Module Requirements are available on the Articulation and Transfer Policy website at [http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/policy/transfer_policy_d2aa.php](http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/policy/transfer_policy_d2aa.php)

3 The distributive model outlined above is not meant to discourage institutions from experimenting with thematically clustered or multidisciplinary general education courses, particularly when those courses are approved as OTM or TAG courses.
Baccalaureate Degrees

For bachelor’s degrees (e.g., Bachelor of Arts—BA, Bachelor of Fine Arts—BFA, Bachelor of Music—BM, Bachelor of Science—BS, or Bachelor of Applied Studies—BAS), the minimum general education requirements are the same as for the academic associate’s degrees. However, many baccalaureate programs will require general education coursework beyond those minimum expectations, and students may be required to complete general education requirements beyond the minimum upon transfer.
General Education Guidelines—Private and Out-of-State Institutions

Applied Associates Degrees

Applied associate degrees (Associate of Applied Business, Associate of Applied Science, and Associate of Technical Studies), must include at least 30 semester hours of non-technical coursework, which includes both general education and applied general education (i.e., “basic”) courses. The general education portion of the non-technical coursework must include at least fifteen semester credit hours. A minimum of six semester hours must be found in the following two categories:

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the English Composition and Oral Communication area (e.g., English Composition, Public Speaking)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Mathematics and Data Analysis area (e.g., Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Formal/Symbolic Logic)

A minimum of six semester hours must come from the following three categories, and at least two of the three categories must be represented.

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Arts, Humanities, Culture and Diversity area (e.g., Art History, Ethics, American History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Ethnic or Gender Studies)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area (e.g., Communication, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in the Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation area (e.g., Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Physiology)
**Academic Associate Degrees**

Academic associate degrees, (Associate of Arts and Associate of Science), must include a minimum of 36 semester hours of general education coursework. Each academic associate degree must utilize 15 of the required 36 semester credit hours as follows:

- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in **Oral and Written Communication** *(English Composition, Public Speaking)*
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in **Mathematics and Data Analysis** *(College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Formal/Symbolic Logic)*
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in **Arts, Humanities, Culture and Diversity** *(e.g., History of Art, Dance, Film, Music, or Theater, Ethics, History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Ethnic or Gender Studies)*
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in **Social and Behavioral Sciences** *(e.g., Communication, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)*
- At least one course (3 semester credit hours) in **Natural Sciences, Technology and Innovation** *(e.g., Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Physiology)*

The additional 12-16 semester credit hours needed to complete the OTM is often distributed differently in the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees. Typically an Associate of Arts degree would include more credit hours in the oral and written communication and arts and humanities areas, while an Associate of Science degree would include more credit hours in the mathematics and science areas.

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4 The distributive model outlined above is not meant to discourage institutions from experimenting with thematically clustered or multidisciplinary general education courses.
Baccalaureate Degrees

For bachelor’s degrees (e.g., Bachelor of Arts—BA, Bachelor of Fine Arts—BFA, Bachelor of Music—BM, Bachelor of Science—BS, or Bachelor of Applied Studies—BAS), the minimum general education requirements are the same as for the academic associate’s degrees. However, many baccalaureate programs will require general education coursework beyond those minimum expectations.