The Associate of Arts and Science Degree

I. Degree Description

To fulfill the UWC mission, the degree requires that core requirements in writing and mathematics be completed as well as a distribution of credits in breadth of knowledge categories.

The breadth categories in the degree are defined as follows:

A. Fine Arts and Humanities

Students must acquire knowledge of ideas, beliefs, and abiding concerns pertaining to the human condition as represented in literature, philosophy and cultural history. They must acquire a level of aesthetic appreciation of the human imagination as expressed in the fine arts, and appreciation of the impact of the arts upon the quality and character of human life.

B. Mathematical and Natural Sciences

Students must know of the nature and workings of the physical universe. They must understand scientific method, the functions of numerical data and the solving of problems through mathematical and statistical computations, as well as the application of the scientific method in laboratory and experimental work. For this, an appropriate level of computer literacy is required. Students must also be aware of environmental conditions and challenges, the interrelationships of life forms and ecosystems, and the impact of human activities upon natural environments.
C. Social Sciences
Students must understand the nature and dynamics of human social systems and how and why people organize their lives and resources. In doing so, students will learn about both their own and diverse cultures to acquire a historical perspective on long-term characteristics and consequences of social change and an informed understanding of the variety of human conditions and the interrelationships of nations, regions, peoples and individuals.

D. Application and Performance
Students must demonstrate an understanding of concepts, theory and knowledge through the application of their skills and understanding to specific problems and activities.

E. Ethnic Studies
Students must become aware of and sensitive to diversity issues and problems. Courses fulfilling this requirement will have a substantial emphasis on cultural diversity issues within the United States and examine these issues from at least one of the following perspectives: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, and American Indian topics.

F. Interdisciplinary Studies
Students must acquire an appreciation for the multiple dimensions of any given subject by applying the content, methods and assumptions of two or more disciplines. Students will learn to integrate knowledge from across the curriculum. A course is an interdisciplinary studies course if instructors from two or more disciplines teach the course.

II. Degree Proficiencies
Revised by the Senate 2011-04-29
Revised 2012-04-27
Revised by the Senate (SAC) 2013-01-09
Revised by the Senate (SAC) 2015-11-13

To fulfill its mission, the UW Colleges has identified the following areas of proficiency to be of primary importance in the education of our students. Assessment methods to determine student acquisition of proficiencies at the course level have been developed. Students may be required to participate in course assessment.

A. Analytical Skills
Students must be able to:
1. Interpret and synthesize information and ideas
2. Analyze and evaluate arguments
3. Construct an argument in support of a conclusion
4. Select and apply scientific and other appropriate methodologies
5. Integrate knowledge and experience to arrive at creative solutions
6. Locate and assess information from printed sources, electronic sources, and observation
7. Construct and support hypotheses
B. **Quantitative Skills**
   Students must be able to:
   1. Solve quantitative and mathematical problems
   2. Interpret graphs, tables, and diagrams
   3. Use statistics appropriately and accurately

C. **Communication Skills**
   Students must be able to:
   1. Read, observe, and listen with comprehension and critical perception
   2. Communicate clearly, precisely, and in a well-organized manner
   3. Demonstrate a large and varied vocabulary
   4. Recognize and use a variety of communication forms and styles
   5. Use computer technologies for communication

D. **Aesthetic Skills**
   Students must be able to:
   1. Create or perform a work of art
   2. Critically reflect upon a work of art

E. **Intercultural Skills**
   Students must be able to:
   1. Apply an understanding of different cultures to an analysis or interpretation of course content
   2. Exhibit competence while interacting with people, ideas, or artifacts from a variety of cultures

III. **Degree Requirements**
    Revised by the Senate April 25, 2008
    Revised by the Senate (SSC) 2013-01-09

   A. A minimum of 60 credits is required. When completing these 60 credits students must satisfy one of the following:
      1. At least 36 of the 60 credits must be earned in the UW Colleges, or
      2. At least 12 of the final 24 credits must be earned in the UW Colleges.

   B. A student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 earned at the UW Colleges and a 2.0 overall GPA in credits applied to the Associate of Arts and Science degree.

   C. The UW Colleges General Education Requirements must be fulfilled.

IV. **General Education Requirements**
    Revised by the Senate March 7, 2008
    Revised by the SSC 2015-05-22

   A. Core Requirements
Grade of C or better in or exemption from the following:

**WRITING** - ENG 102

**MATHEMATICS** - MAT 108, 109, or MAT 110

Courses used to satisfy the writing and mathematics requirements and their prerequisites may not be used to satisfy a breadth requirement except that:

1. A core course or its prerequisite will be eligible for IS credit when it is linked with another course and meets the criteria and procedures specified in Institutional Policy 101.01 for Interdisciplinary Studies.
2. A student who earns credit in MAT 108 or 109, and MAT 110 with a grade of C or better in at least one of those courses may use the other course to satisfy part of the MS/NS breadth requirement.
3. A student who earns a C or better in MAT 124 or in both MAT 110 and MAT 113 may use the course(s) to satisfy part of the MS/NS breadth requirement.

**B. Breadth Requirements**

Courses within disciplines can have different degree designations. It is important to use the specific degree designation for a course for academic planning and advising. These courses can be found in a variety of disciplines.

1. Fine Arts (FA) and Humanities (HU)
   A student must earn a minimum of nine credits in these categories with at least one course designated as Fine Arts and at least one course designated as Humanities.

2. Mathematical (MS) and Natural Sciences (NS)
   A student must earn a minimum of 11 credits in these categories. A minimum of eight of these credits must be in at least two disciplines of the Natural Sciences and must include one laboratory science (LS) course.

3. Social Sciences (SS)
   A student must earn a minimum of nine credits in these categories. Social Sciences courses must be selected from at least two disciplines.

4. Application and Performance (AP)
   A student must earn a minimum of three credits in courses designated as Application and Performance.

5. Ethnic Studies (ES)
   A student must earn a minimum of three credits in courses designated as Ethnic Studies. Ethnic Studies courses may also be counted toward another breadth category. Courses with degree designations of ES include courses listed in many disciplines and may vary on different UW Colleges campuses.

6. Interdisciplinary Studies (IS)
A student must earn a minimum of three credits in courses designated as Interdisciplinary Studies. Interdisciplinary Studies courses may also be counted toward another breadth category.

V. Electives (EL)

A student who has met the core requirements and the other breadth category minimums may complete the 60 credit minimum requirement with courses in this category or any other breadth category.

VI. Exemption from ENG 102

Rewritten by Eng Dept and adopted by Senate March 5, 2010
Revised by the SSC 2013-02-25

Students may be exempted from English 102 based on a Wisconsin English Placement Test subscore of 605 or better in English and 605 or better in Reading and demonstrated competence in academic writing. Each request for exemption is to be treated individually and the campus English Department Associate Chair or her /his designee will review the following materials to determine the student’s achievement of the UW Colleges English Department Learning Outcomes for English 102 (see below).

- a portfolio of at least 10 pages of academic writing
- a portfolio cover letter assessing the student’s achievement of the course learning outcomes
- a timed essay assigned by a campus faculty member in the English Department

The Associate Chair or her /his designee will inform the campus Student Affairs office and the Department Chair when an exemption is granted. The Department Chair will then inform the Office of the Registrar. The Associate Chair or her /his designee will also inform the Department Chair when a request for exemption is denied. Students who receive an exemption from English 102 and who plan to transfer to another institution should consult with that institution regarding its first year writing requirements. Exemption from the English 102 exemption does not constitute credit for the course.

VII. Exemption from Mathematics Core Requirement

Revised by the Senate March 7, 2008

A student is exempted from the Mathematics Core Requirement by obtaining a grade of C or better in either MAT 124, or both MAT 110 and MAT 113, or any mathematics course of three or more credits for which MAT 110 is a prerequisite, or by placing into a 200 level course on the mathematics placement test.

VIII. Departments and Disciplines

Revised by the Senate March 11, 2011
Revised by the Senate 2011-04-29
Revised by the SSC 2011-10-21
Revised by the SSC 2015-09-30
The following list includes all departments and the disciplines included within each department.

*Anthropology and Sociology*
  Anthropology, Sociology

*Art*
  Art

*Biological Sciences*
  Biology

*Business and Economics*
  Business, Economics

*Chemistry*
  Chemistry

*Communication and Theatre Arts*
  Communication, Theatre

*Computer Science, Engineering, Physics and Astronomy*

  Engineering, Engineering Graphics, and Engineering Mechanics count as the same discipline for the AAS degree requirement.

*English*
  English, Learning Resources (LEA) (non-degree credit classes)

*Geography and Geology*
  Geography, Geology, Meteorology

  Geography and Meteorology count as the same discipline for the AAS degree requirement.

*Health, Exercise Science and Athletics*
  Exercise Science, Health, Physical Education

*History*
  History

*Mathematics*
  Mathematics


**Music**
- Music, Music Applied

**Philosophy**
- Philosophy, Religious Studies

**Political Science**
- American Indian Studies, Political Science

**Psychology**
- Education, Psychology

**World Languages**
- French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian

**Other Programs and Courses**
- Interdisciplinary Studies (INT)
- Lecture Forum (LEC)
- Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSW)

**IX. Course Degree Designations**

**A.** Each degree credit course may have only one of the degree breadth designations FA, HU, NS, MS, SS, or AP.

**B.** A course may also be designated as ES or IS or both.

**C.** A NS course may also have the designation LS.