

## Summary Chart: Required Credit Hours per Area by Award

Areas of Study		Credit Hours Required By Award						
		AA	AS	AAS	AAT	AOT	CER	STC
Area I	Written Composition	6	6			3 – 6	2 - 6	0 – 3
Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	12	12	9 – 12	9 – 12	3 – 6	2 - 6	0
Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	11	11	9 – 11	9	9	6	0 – 3
Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	12	12	3 – 6	3	3	0	0
<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21 – 29</b>	<b>21 – 24</b>	<b>18 – 24</b>	<b>10 – 18</b>	<b>0 – 6</b>
Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives	19 – 23	19 – 23	39 – 55	39 – 55	42 – 58	20 – 50	9 – 29
<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>30 – 60</b>	<b>9 – 29</b>

*Note: All Degrees/certificates have other specific requirements and/or recommendations for distribution of credit-hours among disciplines in each area and some have restrictions on the particular courses which may serve to meet those requirements. Refer to the individual expanded charts on pages 2 through 7 to view the precise requirements for each award.*

Associate in Arts (AA) Degree			
Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit Hours
Designed for students planning to transfer to a senior institution to complete a program of study in a liberal arts area.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	6
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	12
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	11
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	12
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>41</b>
	Area V	Pre-professional, Pre-major, and Elective Courses	19 – 23
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required**</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>

**NOTES:**

**Area II**

Must complete 3 semester hours in Literature\* and 3 semester hours in the Arts.

The remaining semester hours are to be selected from Humanities and/or Fine Arts.

*Humanities and Arts disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

**Area III**

Must complete 3 semester hours in Mathematics at the Pre-Calculus Algebra or Finite Math level.

Must complete 8 semester hours in the Natural Sciences which must include laboratory experiences.

*In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

**Area IV**

Must complete 3 semester hours in History\* and at least 6 semester hours in other disciplines in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

*Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

**Area V**

Courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student and electives.

*Students completing courses that have been approved for the General Studies Curriculum and are appropriate to their major and/or degree program may transfer these courses with credit applicable to their degree program among two-year and four-year colleges and universities.*

**\* Must complete a 6 semester hour sequence either in Literature or in History. The sequences in Area II and IV in Literature and History need to follow the sequence requirements according to the student's major and transfer plans.**

**\*\*Respective programs of study for baccalaureate degrees at Alabama public universities range from 120 to 128 semester credit hours in length. Institutions in The Alabama College System are only authorized to provide 50 percent of that total (60-64, depending on the total hours allocated for the bachelor's degree).**

Associate in Science (AS) Degree			
Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit Hours
Designed for students planning to transfer to a senior institution to complete a program of study in the sciences or in a specialized pre-professional field.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	6
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	12
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	11
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	12
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>41</b>
	Area V	Pre-professional, Pre-major, and Elective Courses	19 – 23
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required**</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>

**NOTES:**

**Area II**

Must complete 3 semester hours in Literature\* and 3 semester hours in the Arts.

The remaining semester hours are to be selected from Humanities and/or Fine Arts.

*Humanities and Arts disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

**Area III**

Must complete 3 semester hours in Mathematics at the Pre-Calculus Algebra or Finite Math level.

Must complete 8 semester hours in the Natural Sciences which must include laboratory experiences.

*In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

**Area IV**

Must complete 3 semester hours in History\* and at least 6 semester hours in other disciplines in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

*Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

**Area V**

Area V courses are courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student and electives.

*Students completing courses that have been approved for the General Studies Curriculum and are appropriate to their major and/or degree program may transfer these courses with credit applicable to their degree program among two-year and four-year colleges and universities.*

**\* Must complete a 6 semester hour sequence either in Literature or in History. The sequences in Area II and IV in Literature and History need to follow the sequence requirements according to the student's major and transfer plans.**

**\*\*Respective programs of study for baccalaureate degrees at Alabama public universities range from 120 to 128 semester credit hours in length. Institutions in The Alabama College System are only authorized to provide 50 percent of that total (60-64, depending on the total hours allocated for the bachelor's degree).**

## Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree

Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit Hours	
Designed for students planning to specialize in technical, business, semi-professional, and supervisory fields that are career-oriented. Portions* of this degree may, in selected fields, transfer to a senior institution.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	3 – 6	9 – 12
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	3 – 6	(See Notes)
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	9 – 11	
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	3 – 6	
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>21 – 29</b>	
	Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives	39 – 55	
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	

### NOTES:

**Area II:** *In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

Individual colleges may establish specific course requirements within program of study parameters as set forth in the general education core for the Associate in Applied Science Degree.

Requirements Prescribe: Minimum of 9 hours in Area I and Area II which could include 6 hours in Written Composition I and II and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Written Composition I and 3 hours in Technical Writing and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Area I with 3 hours in Speech in Area II, plus 3 additional hours in Area I or II.

*Note: For purposes of SACS/COC accreditation, courses in basic composition that do not contain a literature component, courses in oral communication (Speech), and introductory foreign language courses are considered skills courses and may NOT be the one course designated to fulfill SACS/COC Core Requirement 2.7.3 for a humanities/fine arts course. See the [SACS/COC Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation](#) for complete information on this restriction.*

**Area III:** *In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science. Minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics required. One Computer Science course (2 are preferred) or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s). Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAS degree is awarded must take BIO 103 as the prerequisite for BIO 201, BIO 202, and BIO 220 to assure the transfer of courses within parameters of the AGSC Minimum General Education Semester Hour Distribution Requirements.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAS degree is awarded may take BIO 211 and BIO 212 in which case BIO 212 would serve as the prerequisite for BIO 220.

**Area IV:** *In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

**Area V:** Area V courses are courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives

**\*Students planning programs of study for which the AAS does not represent the terminal degree, and for which national or regional programmatic licensure and certification are required, should be encouraged to integrate the General Studies transfer courses whenever possible.**

## Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) Degree

Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit Hours	
Designed for students attending Council on Occupational Education (COE) accredited technical colleges, the AAT provides specialization in technical, business, or semi-professional fields leading to employment upon graduation.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	3 – 6	9 – 12
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	3 – 6	(See Notes)
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics		9
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences		3
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>		<b>21 – 24</b>
	Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives		39 – 55
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Semester Hours for Award</b>		<b>60 – 76</b>

### NOTES:

**Area II:** *In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

Individual colleges may establish specific course requirements within program of study parameters as set forth in the general education core for the Associate in Applied Technology Degree.

Requirements Prescribe: Minimum of 9 hours in Area I and Area II which could include 6 hours in Written Composition I and II and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Written Composition I and 3 hours in Technical Writing and 3 hours in Area II; or 3 hours in Area I with 3 hours in Speech in Area II, plus 3 additional hours in Area I or II.

*Note: For purposes of SACS/COC accreditation, courses in basic composition that do not contain a literature component, courses in oral communication (Speech), and introductory foreign language courses are considered skills courses and may NOT be the one course designated to fulfill SACS/COC Core Requirement 2.7.3 for a humanities/fine arts course. Colleges planning to transition from COE to SACS/COC accreditation should design degree plans accordingly. See the [SACS/COC Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation](#) for complete information on this restriction.*

**Area III:** *In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science. Minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics required. One Computer Science course (2 are preferred) or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s). Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAT degree is awarded must take BIO 103 as the prerequisite for BIO 201, BIO 202, and BIO 220 to assure the transfer of courses within parameters of the AGSC Minimum General Education Semester Hour Distribution Requirements.

Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAT degree is awarded may take BIO 211 and BIO 212 in which case BIO 212 would serve as the prerequisite for BIO 220.

**Area IV:** *In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

**Area V:** Area V courses are courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives.

## Associate in Occupational Technologies (AOT) Degree

Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit Hours
Designed for students seeking to become multi-skilled technicians, the AOT includes both a Primary Technical Specialty and a Secondary Technical Specialty.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	3 – 6
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	3 – 6
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	9
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	3
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>18 – 24</b>
	Area V	Primary* and Secondary** Technical Specialties	42 – 58
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>

**NOTES:**

**Area II:** In addition to Literature, disciplines include but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.

*Note: For purposes of SACS/COC accreditation, courses in basic composition that do not contain a literature component, courses in oral communication (Speech), and introductory foreign language courses are considered skills courses and may NOT be the one course designated to fulfill SACS/COC Core Requirement 2.7.3 for a humanities/fine arts course. Colleges planning to transition from COE to SACS/COC accreditation should design degree plans accordingly. See the [SACS/COC Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation](#) for complete information on this restriction.*

**Area III:** In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

A minimum of 3 hours in Mathematics is required. One Computer Science course or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s) is highly recommended. Appropriate 100 level courses (or higher) as denoted in *The Alabama Community College System Course Directory* may be substituted.

**Area IV:** In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

**Area V:** Area V courses are courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives.

\*Primary Technical Specialty (Major): A minimum of 28 credit hours in a single content area.

\*\*Secondary Technical Specialty (Minor): A minimum of 12 credit hours in another related technical area.

**Note:** Stand-alone health related professions programs which award a certificate or short-term certificate, but not a degree, may participate in the associate in occupational technologies cluster; however, such awards will not be upgraded to degree status except on a case-by-case basis.

**Note:** With approval of the Chancellor, certain certificates and short-term certificates may be extended to meet requirements of (1) formal cooperative arrangements, (2) certification, (3) licensure, (4) accreditation, or (5) other unique situations.

Certificate			
Award Description	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit hours
Designed for students seeking a specialized set of skills for employment or professional advancement.	Area I	Written Composition I and II	2 - 6
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	2 - 6
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	6
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	0
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>10 – 18</b>
	Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration and Electives	20 – 50
	<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>30 – 60</b>
<b>NOTES:</b>			
<i>Area I: COM 100 and COM 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.</i>			
<i>Area II: Speech is required in certificate programs unless provisions for addressing oral communication competencies represent an integral module in a required discipline-specific course.</i>			
<i>SPC 100 and SPC 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.</i>			
<i>Area III: Requirements Prescribe: Distributed in Mathematics or Science or Computer Science: At least one Computer Science course or demonstrated computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s).</i>			
<i>MAH 101, MAH 102, and MAH 105 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs. DPT 100 and DPT 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.</i>			
<b>Area V:</b> Courses appropriate to the degree requirements or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives			

Short-Term Certificate			
Award	Degree Requirements by Area		Credit hours
Designed to equip the student with a focused set of skills for an entry-level position in business or industry.	Area I	Written Composition I & II	0 – 3
	Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	0
	Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	0 – 3
	Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	0
	<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>0 – 6</b>
	Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration and Electives	9 – 29
	<b>Areas I - V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>9 – 29</b>
<b>NOTES:</b>			
<b>Area I:</b> One technical writing course is recommended.			
<b>Area V:</b> Courses appropriate to the degree requirements or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives			

## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AT A GLANCE

Areas of Study		Credit Hours Required By Award						
		AA	AS	AAS	AAT	AOT	CER	STC
Area I	Written Composition I and II	6	6	9 – 12	9 – 12	3 – 6	2 - 6	0 – 3
Area II	Humanities and Fine Arts	12	12			3 – 6	2 - 6	0
Area III	Natural Science and Mathematics	11	11	9 – 11	9	9	6	0 – 3
Area IV	History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences	12	12	3 – 6	3	3	0	0
<b>Areas I – IV</b>	<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21 – 29</b>	<b>21 – 24</b>	<b>18 – 24</b>	<b>10 – 18</b>	<b>0 – 6</b>
Area V	Technical Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives	19 – 23	19 – 23	39 – 55	39 – 55	42 – 58	20 – 50	9 – 29
<b>Areas I – V</b>	<b>Total Hours Required</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>	<b>60 – 64</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>60 – 76</b>	<b>30 – 60</b>	<b>9 – 29</b>

*Note: Refer to individual expanded charts to view the more precise requirements for each award, which may include parameters for distribution of credit-hours among disciplines in each area or restrictions on particular courses which may serve to meet specific area credit-hour requirements.*

### Award Descriptions

**Associate in Arts (AA) Degree:** Designed for students planning to transfer to a senior institution to pursue a baccalaureate degree in the liberal arts.

**Associate in Science (AS) Degree:** Designed for students planning to transfer to a senior institution to pursue a baccalaureate degree in the sciences or a specialized professional field

**Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree:** Offers specialization in a technical, business, or semi-professional field qualifying the student for employment upon graduation while providing (in certain cases) the opportunity for transfer of some credit to a senior institution

**Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) Degree:** Provides specialization in a technical, business, or semi-professional field qualifying the student for employment upon graduation. This degree is offered only by technical colleges accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE) and is not designed for students seeking to transfer credit to a senior institution.

**Associate in Occupational Technology (AOT) Degree:** Designed for students seeking to become multi-skilled technicians. Students must complete at least 28 semester hours in a primary technical specialty (the major) and at least 12 semester hours in a closely related secondary technical specialty (the minor).

**Certificate (CER):** Provides the student with a specialized set of skills for employment or professional advancement.

**Short-Term Certificate (STC):** Equips the student with a focused set of skills for an entry-level position in business or industry.



