

The Associate in Arts Degree

University Transfer Program

The associate in arts (AA) degree is designed primarily to meet the requirements for a student to transfer to the upper division level of a college or university to continue to work toward a bachelor's degree.

Students should be aware of the specific requirements for the AA degree imposed by state regulations and law. For example, general education and elective credit requirements integrate requirements established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Florida's Gordon Rule.

Other components of the community college to university transfer process include the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) and, in some cases, foreign language requirements. (See this section for specific details.)

Meeting graduation requirements for an AA degree from a Florida community college is not synonymous with meeting the specific course requirements to enter a specific program at a state university or private college belonging to the Independent Colleges of Florida.

HCC prepares students for hundreds of possible transfer majors, each of which has a distinct listing of common prerequisite courses designated by the Florida University System. To ensure accuracy in selecting courses, students should refer to the student advising guides available in the counseling and advising offices. These guides can be adapted to a specific university major including, but not limited to:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Building Construction
- Business Administration
- Communications, Mass
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Dramatic Arts
- Education and Teacher Preparation
- Engineering
- Graphic Design
- Hospitality Administration Management
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Medical Science
- Music
- Pharmacy

Sample course sequences for the AA degree tracks can be viewed on the following pages.

Catalogs from colleges and universities are available from the student services office at each campus. In addition, advising guides for each major at a state university and most of Florida's regionally accredited private colleges are available from any campus advising and transfer office.

To earn an AA degree, students must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours with no less than 36 credits of specified general education courses and 24 credits in the university transfer program electives. Legislation may further affect the graduation requirement; therefore, students are advised to obtain more current information from the advising and transfer offices.

The articulation agreement between Florida community colleges and state universities specifies that students who have been certified as having satisfactorily completed the general education requirements in a university transfer program are exempt from any additional general education requirements after transferring to a state university or community college. However, to be eligible for admission into a limited access program at a state university, students may be required to take specific prerequisite courses (which may exceed the 60 credit hours) and meet other requirements such as a minimum GPA, minimum ACT/SAT test scores or audition/portfolio.

Students may pursue any combination of university transfer programs, but only one AA degree will be awarded.

Students are advised to contact the specific department of the institution where they plan to transfer as early as possible for information regarding courses to be taken at HCC. Courses required at transfer institutions may fulfill HCC general education requirements or electives.