

02-01-00 General Education Core and Degree Requirements Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to specify the general education core requirements for an Associate Degree or Technical Certificate.

POLICY/GUIDELINE

I. General Education Core Requirements

- A. Nashville State Community College subscribes to the general education core requirements state in the policy sections below and as published in the TBR Core framework document, effective fall semester 2025 (see exhibit A.)
- B. These requirements consist of forty-one (41) semester hours in the following subject categories and are required for completion of the Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate of Science in Teaching (A.S.T.), and Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.).
 - 1. Communication: 9 semester hours
 - a. Six (6) semester hours of English composition and three (3) semester hours of English oral presentational communication are required
 - 2. Humanities and/or Fine Arts: 9 semester hours
 - a. One course must be in literature.
 - 3. Social/Behavioral Sciences: 6 semester hours
 - 4. History: 6 semester hours
 - 5. Natural Sciences: 8 semester hours
 - 6. Mathematics: 3 semester hours
- C. Courses specified as meeting general education requirements are published in the catalog of Nashville State Community College.
- D. Student pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts degree in Music as a Tennessee Transfer pathway will complete all of the required general education hours in Section b. above except for six hours of the humanities requirement, including one course in literature, which must be completed at a university upon transfer.

II. Degree Requirements and Provisions

- A. All Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees at Nashville State community College shall be designated on the THEC Academic Program inventory as University

Parallel degrees and require a maximum of 60 semester hours except in certain degree programs in which approval to exceed the maximum has been granted. The programs approved as exceptions to the maximum are identified in the Nashville State Community College catalog. For students who complete a Tennessee Transfer Pathway, the corresponding Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Fine Arts degree shall include the title of the pathway in the catalog and on the diploma.

- B. Students pursuing an Associate of Arts degree shall be required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to completing one year of college-level work.
- C. The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree is not generally designed to transfer to baccalaureate programs without the creation of specific articulation agreements; however, a general education component is required.
- D. The following distribution of general education core courses is required for the A.A.S. degree in all community colleges within the Tennessee Board of Regents System:
 - 1. English Composition: 3 semester hours
 - 2. Humanities and/or Fine Arts: 3 semester hours*
 - 3. Social/Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours*
 - 4. Natural Science/Mathematics: 3-4 semester hours*
 - 5. One additional course from the categories of Communication, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Natural Science/Mathematics 3-4 semester hours
- E. Total 15-17 semester hours

*Specific courses satisfying these requirements must be the same courses that satisfy the general education core requirement for the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees.

III. Core Course Approval

- A. Nashville State Community College lists its general education core courses in its catalog and on its website where appropriate.
- B. All core courses must be approved by the systemwide Core Review Committee.
- C. The Core Review Committee will include one representative from each community college as appointed by its Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- D. The Core Review Committee may include one representative from each of the six locally governed TN public universities and one from the UT system.

IV. Transfer Provisions of the General Education Core

- A. Community college students who do not complete the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Science in Teaching, or Associate of Fine Arts degree and transfer to another community college within the Tennessee Board of Regents System but who complete blocks of subject categories will have satisfied the general education requirements for the categories of note.
 - 1. For example, if the eight (8) semester hours of natural sciences are completed, then this block of the general education requirement is fulfilled upon transfer to another community college within the Tennessee Board of Regents System.
 - 2. When a subject category is incomplete, a course-by-course evaluation will be conducted, and the student will be subject to specific requirements of the receiving institution.

- V. All associate degree programs at Nashville State Community College shall require 60 semester hours with an overall grade point average of at least 2.0.** At least 25% must be earned in residence at Nashville State Community College. Credit hours earned in learning support (remedial or developmental courses) are for institutional credit only and are not applicable to credit hours required for the degree.

- VI. A college success course is required for all degree-seeking students enrolled at Nashville State Fall 2018 or later.** Exemptions are granted to students who have completed a similar course or transferred 12 or more credit hours from another institution.

- VII. Requirements for the Technical Certificate vary in required credit hours in technical specialty courses.** Requirements for the Technical Certificate include:

- A. Grade point average of at least 2.0 in courses required for the certificate.
- B. At least 25% of the hours earned toward this certificate must be earned in residence at Nashville State.

VIII. Guidelines for Degrees and Certificates

- A. The College will not award the A.A. or A.S. degree to persons who already hold an A.A., A.S., A.S.T., or A.F.A. degree. Individuals holding a Baccalaureate degree or higher without an A.A., A.S., A.S.T or A.F.A. degree may be awarded an Associate degree designed for transfer if the degree sought has a different concentration from the major of the advanced degree(s).

- B. Students may be awarded the A.S.T. if they have been awarded an A.A. or A.S. degree previously; however, students previously awarded the A.S.T. degree are not eligible for the A.A., A.S. or A.F.A. degree.
- C. Students holding advanced degrees or a transfer Associate degree may be awarded the A.A.S. degree or Technical Certificate provided they meet the stated requirements.
- D. Students who have been awarded an A.A.S. degree who complete a different major which includes 15 semester hours over and above those required for the first A.A.S. degree will earn a second A.A.S. degree.
- E. Students completing an A.A.S., A.A., A.F.A., A.S., or a technical certificate must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to graduate. Students completing an A.S.T. degree must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.75 to graduate.
- F. Students completing an A.A.S. degree or technical certificate must complete a departmental exit exam prior to graduation. Students who fail to do so will not graduate.
- G. Students may earn multiple Technical Certificates as long as 25% of the required hours were not required for previously earned certificates.
- H. All financial and other obligations to Nashville State must be met for diplomas and/or transcripts to be released.
- I. Any exception to requirements listed in section IV of this policy must be approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

SOURCES

- [TBR Policy 2.01.00.00 General Education Core and Degree Requirements](#)

HISTORY

Approved by NSCC Cabinet June 27, 2022; administrative changes made October 6, 2026, to comply with TBR Policy.