

## General Education Guidelines: Ohio Public Institutions

### Applied Associate Degrees

Applied associate degrees (Associate of Applied Business, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Technical Studies, and Associate of Individualized 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 15 semester credit hours. A minimum of six semester hours must be found in the following two categories:

- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the **English Composition and Oral Communication** area (e.g., *First Writing, Second Writing, Public Speaking*)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the **Mathematics, Statistics and Logic** 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 (three semester credit hours) in the **Arts and Humanities** area (e.g., *Art History, Ethics, History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Ethnic or Gender Studies*)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** area (e.g., *Communication, History, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology*)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the **Natural Sciences** 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 three semester hour *First Writing* course to fulfill the minimum requirement in the English composition and oral 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 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.

### **Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Degrees**

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

#### **Ohio Transfer Module (OTM)<sup>23</sup>**

The Ohio Transfer Module contains 36-40 semester hours of coursework in general education. It is a subset 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 below:

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

The additional 12-16 semester credit hours needed to complete the OTM are distributed<sup>24</sup> among the same five categories but may be 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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<sup>23</sup> The Ohio Transfer Module requirements are available on the Articulation and Transfer Policy website at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/policy>

<sup>24</sup> 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.