

# COLUMBUS STATE

## ARTS AND SCIENCES

### Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What can I do with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree?**

The Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees are not training for a specific career field. Rather, they are the general education requirements (Math, English, History, Science, etc.) of bachelor's degrees at most four-year colleges.

#### **Is my major at Columbus State called the same thing as my bachelor's degree major?**

In some cases, yes. For example, the Associate of Arts, Psychology transfer major is designed for students who are planning to transfer to a four-year college or university with the goal of completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. The full list of A.A. and A.S. major options is available at: <https://www.cscs.edu/academics/transfer/degrees.shtml>. If you don't see a major that matches your intended transfer goals, work with an Academic Advisor to discuss how the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree can fit with the major you plan to pursue at your chosen four-year college or university.

#### **What is the difference between an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree?**

Associate of Arts - Additional History, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Literature/Culture/Visual & Performing Arts classes are required.

Associate of Science - Additional classes in upper level math and sciences are required.

#### **Should I enroll in the Associate of Arts degree program or the Associate of Science degree program?**

Choose whichever one matches your academic strengths. We suggest that students research their bachelor's degree major to determine which science courses are required. If the bachelor's degree major requires more/higher level science courses, and you feel that you can excel in these courses, you may want to consider the Associate of Science degree. Engineering, Medical/Health, and Science majors are the most common fields of study that match well with the Associate of Science degree. The Associate of Arts degree is appropriate for most other majors.

#### **What if I know that I want to earn a bachelor's degree in the future, but am not sure which major or career I am interested in pursuing later?**

Begin working with the Career Services office for major exploration as early as possible -

<http://www.cscs.edu/services/careers/>

Students typically do not waste any time by completing the Associate of Arts or Science degree because the general education requirements must be completed regardless of the bachelor's degree major. Additionally, students often figure out what they like and what they don't like while completing the variety of required general education courses.

#### **What are the advantages of completing an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree rather than transferring prior to earning it?**

Having a college degree benefits students with regard to employment, internships, and scholarship opportunities. Students who have earned an associate's degree prior to transferring can take advantage of those opportunities much sooner, even as they are pursuing their remaining bachelor's degree coursework. Completing the general education requirements of a bachelor's degree costs less at Columbus State than it does at a four-year college. We also offer flexible scheduling options, including online and evening courses, making our classes more convenient. Students who have graduated with an Associate of Arts or Science degree are much more likely to be successful and complete a bachelor's degree at their four-year college.

#### **Arts and Sciences Advising**

<https://www.cscs.edu/services/advising/arts-sciences-advisors.shtml>

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### **What are Preferred Pathways?**

Columbus State has formal transfer agreements with Preferred Pathway Partner colleges. For some four-year programs, there are transfer plans available that outline which classes here at Columbus State will transfer well and apply toward a specific bachelor's degree major. Arts & Sciences Advisors encourage students to also work with their four-year college Advisors. Many colleges visit our University Transfer Center, which makes that connection much more convenient. To view the schedule, visit – <http://www.cscs.edu/academics/transfer/meet-university-advisors.shtml>

### **If I am pursuing the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science, am I allowed to take courses that are not in that degree program?**

Courses may be taken for personal enrichment or for skill development, as long as a student meets the prerequisites. However, courses that are not part of an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree program will not apply toward graduation requirements and they may not be financial aid eligible.

### **How can I use the college credits I received while in high school toward my AA or AS degree?**

Please see details below on which credit we accept. In all cases, you will need to submit official transcripts or score reports to the Registrar's Office for evaluation. Send your documentation to:

Columbus State Community College  
ATTN: Office of the Registrar  
PO Box 1609  
550 E. Spring St.  
Columbus OH 43216

#### Advanced Placement:

Scores of 3 or higher on AP exams will be reviewed for college credit. Students who did not take the exams, or did not score above a 3, will not be awarded credit.

Students must submit an official AP Score Report - [www.collegeboard.com/ap/students/](http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/students/)

#### International Baccalaureate:

Credit is given only for Higher Level exams with a score of 4 or higher.

Students must submit official transcripts from IB -

<http://www.ibo.org/en/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/requesting-transcripts/>

#### College Credit Plus/PSEO/Dual Enrollment:

If the credit was awarded from somewhere other than Columbus State, official transcripts must be sent to the address above from the college that awarded you the credit. We will not grant credit for dual enrollment courses based on a high school transcript. Any questions regarding what college may have awarded the dual enrollment credit should be directed to your high school guidance counselor.

### **I have decided to pursue an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science. When should I meet with an Arts & Sciences Advisor?**

Arts & Sciences Advisors begin meeting with students as early as their second semester. We specialize in academic planning for degree completion. Students who have questions prior to that should contact New Student Programs as outlined on their website - <http://www.cscs.edu/services/advising/new-advising.shtml>

### **For more information about Arts & Sciences Advising, please visit our website -**

<https://www.cscs.edu/services/advising/arts-sciences-advisors.shtml>

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