

Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree

The Associate of Arts in General Studies (A.A.) degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a senior college or university. This degree includes general education courses such as English, foreign language, history, government, mathematics, and lab science, which are considered to be core requirements for almost all baccalaureate degree programs. (*See a listing of core courses above.*)

Students should keep in mind the advantages of completing the requirements of a degree at Southwest Texas Junior College even if they are planning to transfer to another college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree. An obvious advantage of completing any degree is the fact that this action reflects commitment to a specific educational goal and success in meeting that goal. Earning an associate degree is evidence of taking one definable step beyond a high school diploma or the high school equivalency examination, and it is the minimum educational requirement for employment in certain positions in area businesses and industries.

Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree Requirements:

1. Satisfy minimum entrance requirements.
2. Complete the Core Curriculum (see Core Curriculum Requirements).
3. Complete additional academic coursework for a total of 60 semester credit hours, not including semester credit hours earned in ORIE 0100 or any developmental course.
3. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
4. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
5. Make formal application for graduation.
6. Must satisfy TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
7. Must follow catalog requirements of the academic year when student first enrolled at SWTJC or current catalog. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation.

Associate of Science Degree

The Associate of Science (A.S.) degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a senior college or university and major in science, mathematics, or engineering. This degree includes general education courses such as English, foreign language, history, government, mathematics, and lab science, which are considered to be core requirements for almost all baccalaureate degree programs. Also, it includes additional lab science and mathematics courses required in most science, mathematics, and engineering Bachelors of Science degree programs. (*See a listing of core courses above.*)

Students should keep in mind the advantages of completing the requirements of a degree at Southwest Texas Junior College even if they are planning to transfer to another college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree. An obvious advantage of completing any degree is the fact that this action reflects commitment to a specific educational goal and success in meeting that goal. Earning an associate degree is evidence of taking one definable step beyond a high school diploma or the high school equivalency examination, and it is the minimum educational requirement for employment in certain positions in area businesses and industries.

Associate of Science Degree Requirements:

1. Satisfy minimum entrance requirements.
2. Complete the Core Curriculum (see Core Curriculum Requirements).
3. Complete additional academic coursework for a total of 60 semester credit hours including 8 semester credit hours of sophomore level lab science, 3 semester credit hours of sophomore level mathematics, and not including semester credit hours earned in ORIE 0100, COLS 0300 or any developmental course.
4. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
5. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
6. Make formal application for graduation.