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EDUCATION

[PART 1](#)

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

[CHAPTER 9](#)

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

[SUBCHAPTER J](#)

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

RULE §9.183

Degree Titles, Program Length, and Program Content

(a) An academic associate degree may be called an associate of arts (AA), an associate of science (AS), or an associate of arts in teaching (AAT) degree.

(1) The AA is the default title for an academic associate degree program if the college offers only one type of academic degree program.

(2) If a college offers both AA and AS degrees, the degree programs may be differentiated in one of two ways, including:

(A) The AA program may have additional requirements in the liberal arts and/or the AS program may have additional requirements in disciplines such as science, mathematics, or computer science; or

(B) The AA program may serve as a foundation for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree and the AS program for the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree.

(C) Each academic associate degree must provide a clearly-articulated curriculum that can be associated with a discipline or field of study leading to a baccalaureate degree, and must be identified as such in the institution's program inventory.

(3) The AAT is a specialized academic associate degree program designed to transfer in its entirety to a baccalaureate program that leads to initial Texas teacher certification. This title should only be used for an associate degree program that consists of a Board-approved AAT curriculum.

(b) Academic associate degree programs must consist of 60 semester credit hours (SCH).

(c) If the number of SCH required to complete a proposed academic associate's degree exceeds 60, the institution must provide detailed written documentation describing the compelling academic reason for the number of required hours, such as programmatic accreditation requirements, statutory requirements, or licensure/certification requirements that cannot be met without exceeding the 60-hour limit. The Coordinating Board will review the documentation provided and make a determination to approve or deny a request to exceed the 60-hour limit. Institutions of higher education must be in compliance with this subsection on or before the 2015 fall semester.

(d) Except as provided in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection, academic associate degree programs must incorporate the institution's approved core curriculum as prescribed by §4.28 of this title (relating to Core Curriculum) and §4.29 of this title (relating to Core Curricula Larger than 42 SCH).

(1) A college may offer a specialized academic associate degree that incorporates a Board-approved field of study curriculum as prescribed by §4.32 of this title (relating to Field of Study Curricula) and a portion of the college's approved core curriculum if the coursework for both would total more than 60

SCH; or

(2) A college may offer a specialized academic associate degree that incorporates a voluntary statewide transfer compact and a portion of the college's approved core curriculum if the coursework for both would total more than 60 SCH.

(3) A college that has a signed articulation agreement with a General Academic Teaching Institution to transfer a specified curriculum may offer a specialized AA or AS (but not AAT) degree program that incorporates that curriculum.

Source Note: The provisions of this §9.183 adopted to be effective May 25, 2004, 29 TexReg 5070; amended to be effective August 11, 2004, 29 TexReg 7672; amended to be effective November 25, 2009, 34 TexReg 8324; amended to be effective May 24, 2011, 36 TexReg 3186; amended to be effective February 24, 2014, 39 TexReg 1135; amended to be effective September 4, 2014, 39 TexReg 6847

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