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 associate of arts (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 associate of arts (AA) and associate of science (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 BA degree and the AS program for the 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 associate of arts in teaching (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 a minimum of 60 SCH and a maximum of 66 SCH.

(c) 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 Semester Credit Hours).

(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 66 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 66 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

RULE §9.184 Criteria for New Academic Associate Degree Programs and Steps for Implementation

Approval of new academic associate degree programs is automatic if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The institution shall certify that the following criteria have been met:

(A) The program has institution and governing board approval.

(B) There is recent evidence of both short-term and long-term student demand for the program.

(C) Enrollment projections reflect student demand estimates to ensure the financial self-sufficiency of the program.

(D) The institution has an enrollment management plan for the program.

(E) If the program does not follow a Board-approved field of study curriculum or a Board-approved statewide articulation transfer curriculum, the institution has or will initiate a process to establish transfer of credit articulation agreements for the program with senior-level institutions.

(F) The program is designed to be consistent with the standards of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, other applicable accrediting agencies, and is in compliance with applicable licensing authority requirements.

(G) Adequate funding is available to cover all new costs to the institution over the first five years after the implementation of the program.

(H) The program complies with all applicable provisions contained in divisions of this subchapter and, adheres to the Standards for Academic Associate Degree Programs approved by the Board.

(2) The Coordinating Board shall post the proposed program online for public comment for a period of 30 days. If no objections are received, the Coordinating Board staff shall update the institution's program inventory accordingly. If objections to the proposed program are received by the Coordinating Board staff, the proposed program shall not be implemented until all objections are resolved. The Coordinating Board reserves the right to audit a certificate or degree program at any time to ensure compliance with any of the criteria contained in paragraph (1)(A) - (H) of this section.

(3) New Program Approval. The Board delegates to the Commissioner final approval authority for all certificate programs, applied associate degree programs, and academic associate degrees that meet Board policies for approval as outlined in the Guidelines for Instructional Programs in Workforce Education and this subchapter. The Commissioner may delegate this final authority.

Source Note: The provisions of this §9.184 adopted to be effective November 25, 2009, 34 TexReg 8325

RULE §9.185 Academic Certificates

A college may award an academic certificate to a student who completes:

(1) the college's approved core curriculum; or

(2) a Board-approved field of study curriculum; or

(3) fifty percent of the courses specified in a voluntary statewide transfer compact.

Source Note: The provisions of this §9.185 adopted to be effective November 25, 2009, 34 TexReg 8325; amended to be effective May 24, 2011, 36 TexReg 3186