



*HLC Accreditation Evidence*

Title: Associates Degree Requirements

Office of Origin: Kansas Board of Regents

## Chapter II: Policies and Procedures

(7) “Part-time student” means a student who is not engaged in academic study as the primary occupation, thus ordinarily requiring less than 36 hours per week divided between interaction with teachers and independent preparation. A part-time student receives “part-time instruction,” ordinarily less than 12 teacher hours per week.

(8) “Academic Year” means a period of time approximately 9 months in length commencing with the fall term during which full-term instruction is provided. An academic year is generally divided into two equal length semesters. (5-16-02)

### b. Standards

In order to receive and hold authorization to offer a given degree, an institution must remain open to inspection at all times and continuously satisfy each of the following standard requirements as written, except where the Office approves modification in writing.

#### (1) Quality.

(a) All institutions shall justify a degree offer by assuring the quality of all attendant teaching, learning, and faculty-student interaction.

(b) The quality and content of each course or program of instruction, training, or study shall be such as may reasonably and adequately achieve the stated objective for which the course or program is offered.

#### (2) Curriculum.

The curriculum shall have a structure that reflects acceptance of responsibility by the faculty at the degree-granting institution for what is to be learned overall, as well as in each course, and thus for the logical sequence and increasing difficulty of subjects and instructional levels. The curriculum shall reflect the distinction between the liberal disciplines and the occupations and professions, the nature of specialization in study and work, the contribution of liberal arts and sciences, and the relationship between teaching and faculty creativity. A graduate curriculum shall reflect a concept of the graduate school as a group of scholars, the faculty members of which have had extensive collegiate teaching experience and are engaged in the advancement of knowledge. Periods of study and other fundamental requirements for the five levels of academic degree are as follow:

(a) “Associate degree” means a degree consisting of courses totaling a minimum of 60 semester credit hours. Additional requirements for specific types of associate degrees follow:

(i) “Associate in arts degree” means a transfer-oriented degree:

(A) Granted to those who successfully complete programs equivalent to the freshman and sophomore level requirements for a bachelor of arts degree; and

(B) In which not less than 30 semester credit hours in general education are required.

(ii) “Associate in science degree” means a transfer- or professional-oriented degree:

(A) Granted to those who successfully complete programs equivalent to the freshman and sophomore level requirements for a bachelor of science degree; and

(B) In which not less than 30 semester credit hours in general education are required.

(iii) “Associate in applied science degree” means a degree:

(A) Granted to those who successfully complete programs which emphasize preparation in the applied arts and sciences for careers, typically at the technical or semi-professional level; and

(B) Consisting of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours and a maximum of 68 semester credit hours, in which not less than 15 semester credit hours in general education and not less than 30 semester credit

## *Chapter II: Policies and Procedures*

hours in the area of specialized preparation are required. An exception/waiver to the 68 semester credit hour limit may be granted to meet specific criteria such as external program accreditations or other special requirements. Selected courses may transfer to a college or university upon validation of applicable coursework.

- (iv) “Associate in general studies” means a degree:
  - (A) Granted to those who successfully complete programs with an emphasis on a broad range of knowledge; and
  - (B) In which not less than 24 semester credit hours in general education and not less than 36 semester credit hours in a program of college-level work are required.
- (v) Other specific types of associate degrees may be offered upon approval by the Office.
- (b) “Baccalaureate degree” means a degree:
  - (i) Requiring the equivalent of at least four academic years of full-time postsecondary study consisting of courses totaling a minimum of 120 semester credit hours in the liberal arts, sciences or professional fields. (10-21-10)
  - (ii) Incorporating in its program design the equivalent of two or more academic years of full-time study consisting of courses totaling a minimum of 60 semester credit hours from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals at or above the baccalaureate level, and a minimum of 45 semester credit hours in upper division courses. Institutions are not permitted to make programmatic exceptions. Institutions may make a limited number of exceptions from the 60-hour requirement for individual students, up to a maximum of 6 hours.
  - (iii) The degree shall require distinct specialization, i.e., a “major,” which should entail approximately the equivalent of one academic year of work in the main subject plus one academic year in related subjects, or two academic years in closely related subjects within a liberal arts interdisciplinary program.
  - (iv) The equivalent of the first two academic years of full-time study (associate degree programs ordinarily require 64, but in some cases may extend up to 72, semester credit hours) may be from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals below the baccalaureate level. (5-16-02)
- (c) “Master’s degree” means a degree:
  - (i) Granted to those who successfully complete an educational program in the liberal arts and sciences or a professional field; and
  - (ii) Requiring not less than one year of academic work or the equivalent in part-time attendance beyond the baccalaureate degree.
  - (iii) The curriculum shall specialize in a single discipline or single occupational or professional area and culminate in a demonstration of mastery such as a research thesis, a work of art, or the solution of a practical professional problem.
  - (iv) A professional practice master’s degree may be authorized for study beyond fulfillment of undergraduate requirements approved by the Office if the total period of study is at least five academic years.
- (d) “Educational specialist degree” means a degree granted to those who successfully complete an educational program requiring not less than one year of academic work or the equivalent in part-time attendance beyond the master’s degree in the field of education.
- (e) “Doctor’s degree” means a degree: