

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)  
**Associate in Arts (AA) Degree**  
2026-2027

**Description**

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts (AA) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits and a maximum of 64 semester credits for the program of study; minimum total credits vary by specific emphasis (for example, Associate in Arts, Emphasis in Psychology). Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for credit minimums. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (4.0 scale) and grades of “C” or better are required in all courses to earn the degree. The AA degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for Degrees Designed for University Transfer.

**The Associate in Arts degree includes the following components:**

- I. Plan Course Prerequisites (as specified by emphasis area)
- II. General Education
- III. Plan Course Requirements
- IV. MCCCD Requirements
- V. Plan Course Electives
- VI. General Electives (if needed to reach minimum credits for degree)

**Purpose of the Degree**

The Associate in Arts (AA) degree is designed for students planning to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors in the Liberal Arts or programs of study other than business or science. Generally, the degree will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona’s public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCCD Associate in Arts (AA) will apply to general university graduation requirements of the majors that align with the AA degree; however, students need to be aware of any specific requirements of their intended major at the university to be sure they select courses that will meet them. Information regarding the articulation of the AA with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed via the following website: [aztransfer.com/tools](http://aztransfer.com/tools)

## Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) follow. The AA degree requires at least 60 credits and a maximum of 64 credits; however, minimum credits for the AA vary for a specific area of emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) and [course sequence](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums. The AGEC Matrix identifies the courses that apply to the General Education Curriculum (Arizona General Education Curriculum).

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit may be applied toward Plan Course Prerequisites, General Education, Plan Course Requirements, Plan Course Electives, and General Electives that count toward the student's elected degree. Some restrictions may apply depending on the specific program of study (See Credit for Prior Learning Administrative Regulation 2.2.4).

### **I. Plan Course Prerequisites** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credits varies**

Plan Course Prerequisites for the AA degree vary by specific emphasis, and are neither required for all emphases nor for the AA degree without a specific emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and Plan Course Prerequisites credit minimums.

### **II. General Education** \_\_\_\_\_ **Minimum 35 credits**

The AA degree requires the completion of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) at a minimum of 35 credits (or 32 credits overall if a student transfers in a single course from an Arizona public university that fulfills the **Written Communication [WCM]** requirement in full). Courses applied to meet AGEC requirements vary by emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.

**A single course can simultaneously count between** the AGEC and the Plan Course Prerequisites, Plan Course Requirements, MCCCDC requirements, and Plan Course Electives, but its credits are only counted once toward the total for the degree.

**Courses with different credit systems** (quarter hours, trimester, units) are converted to semester credit hours as outlined in MCCCDC Administrative Regulation 2.2.4. A deficiency in an AGEC category due to quarter-hour or other credit system application must be recovered by additional credits within any

requirement area of the AGEC as applicable to a total of 35 AGEC credits overall (or 32 credits overall. If a student transfers in a single course from an Arizona public university that fulfills the Written Communication requirement).

AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.

**In cases where students have a certified AGEC from another public Arizona community or tribal college with fewer than 35 credits, credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate. Students who have received a certified AGEC, independently or within another degree, before Fall 2026 from MCCCDC or another Arizona public institution will not need to complete **Oral Communication [OCM]** or **Institutions in the Americas [IAM]** designations, and credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate. AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.**

The minimum **Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]** and **Natural Science [NSI]** requirements for the awarding of the AGEC, when not specified by the degree requirements, may be fulfilled with any course(s) that meet the designation. Students are urged to refer to university requirements and academic advisors from both institutions to be certain that all their selected coursework is applicable to the requirements of their intended transfer degree and will not require additional general education coursework to be fulfilled upon transfer.

A. Written Communication [WCM]\_\_\_\_\_ 6 Credits

- ENG101 or ENG107 AND
- ENG102 or ENG108

**Note:** The 6-credit requirement may be met with fewer credits if a student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU or UA for a single course that meets [WCM] in full.

B. Oral Communication [OCM]\_\_\_\_\_ 3 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [OCM] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified [OCM] requirements by degree or emphasis

C. Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]\_\_\_\_\_ 3 Credits

Requires a course in

- College Mathematics (MAT140, MAT141, MAT142, MAT145, MAT146) or
- College Algebra (MAT150, MAT151, MAT152, MAT155, MAT156) or
- Higher mathematical level [QNR] approved General Education Course with a MAT prefix, not including MAT206

The minimum math Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] requirement for graduation defaults to the lowest base-level math, as identified above. Some emphasis may require a specific or higher mathematical-level Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] course; refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specific Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] emphasis math requirements by emphasis.

D. Arts and Humanities [AHM]\_\_\_\_\_ 6 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis require specific [AHM] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified Arts [AHM] requirements by degree or emphasis
- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline

E. Social and Behavioral Sciences [SCB]\_\_\_\_\_ 6 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [SCB] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified [SCB] requirements by degree or emphasis
- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline

F. Institutions in the Americas [IAM]\_\_\_\_\_ 3 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [IAM] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified [IAM] requirements by degree or emphasis.

G. Natural Sciences [NSI] \_\_\_\_\_ 8 Credits

- The lecture courses selected for [NSI] must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory courses.
- Credits for lecture and lab components may be combined or each may carry separate credit.
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified Natural Sciences [NSI] requirements by degree or emphasis.

**III. Plan Course Requirements** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credits varies**

Students must select the Plan Course Requirements for the specific AA degree emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.

**IV. MCCCD Requirements** \_\_\_\_\_ **Minimum 1 Credit**

- FYE101 (1 Credit): Introduction to College, Career, and Personal Success  
OR  
FYE103 (3 Credits): Exploration to College, Career, and Personal Success
- See Administrative Regulation: For more details, see the General Graduation Requirements [Administrative Regulation 2.3.9](#).

**V. Plan Course Electives**

- Plan course electives for the AA degree vary by specific emphasis and are not required for the general AA degree without a specific emphasis.
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.

**VI. General Electives** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credits Varies**

Select courses 100-level or higher if needed to complete a minimum of 60 semester credits but no more than a total of 64 semester credits, which is the maximum number of credits accepted toward most degree programs at Arizona's public universities. Ideally, students should select courses that meet requirements for their major/area of interest and transfer institution. See General Associate Degree Academic Policies for further details, limitations, and guidelines. MCCCD has established recommended courses and sequencing to

align with various Emphasis Areas in one of nine different Fields of Interest. See [Degrees](#) for links to these transfer pathways.

Maricopa courses and external courses evaluated as Maricopa equivalents, departmental electives (e.g., HISELC for a history elective), or general electives (GENELC) that are numbered 100 level or higher, and completed with a grade of "C" or higher may be applied in the elective area, regardless of potential transferability to other institutions. It is recommended, however, that students planning to transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution meet these general elective requirements with courses that are transferable and applicable to their intended university degree. [Transfer](#) and [major guides](#) as well as those of individual universities are available. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_ **60-64 credits**

64 semester credits is the maximum accepted toward most degree programs at Arizona's public universities. Some exceptions apply; consult with an academic advisor for additional transfer information.