

**Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)
2025-2026 Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) Degree**

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits for the program of study; however, minimum total credits for the AAFA vary by specific emphasis. Students must select one of the emphasis areas: [Art](#), [Dance](#), [Music](#), [Musical Theatre](#), or [Theatre](#). If an emphasis area is not selected, this program is not eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid. Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis. 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 AAFA degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for associate degrees designed for university transfer.

The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree includes the following components:

- I. Program Prerequisites (as specified by emphasis area)
- II. Required Courses (as specified by area of emphasis)
- III. Restricted Electives (as specified by area of emphasis)
- IV. Arizona General Education Curriculum for Arts (AGEC-A)
- V. MCCCD Additional Requirements (Oral Communication and Critical Reading)
- VI. General Electives (if needed to reach minimum credits for degree)

Purpose of the Degree

The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) 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 Fine Arts. The degree is designed to prepare students to meet selective admission criteria for programs such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts; program admission may have an additional emphasis-specific portfolio or performance requirements.

In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCCD Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) will apply to general university graduation requirements of the majors that align with AAFA degree; however, students need to pay attention to any specific requirements of their intended focus at the university to be sure they select courses that will meet them. Information regarding the articulation of the AAFA degree with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed via the following website: aztransfer.com/tools

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) follow. The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree requires at least 60 credits; however, minimum total credits for the AAFA vary by specific emphasis (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre). Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums; review course sequence at maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates. The following websites identify the courses that apply to the different General Education Core and Awareness Areas: [AGEC-A](#) and the [AGEC matrix](#). Courses available for both Areas during a current or upcoming semester can also be found using the “[Find a Class](#)” tool on maricopa.edu and on each MCCCD college’s website. Industry-recognized credentials can be counted as general electives.

I. Required Courses..... Number varies

Students must complete FYE101 or FYE103 ([see General Graduation Requirements Administrative Regulation 2.3.9](#)) and the required (major-specific) courses listed in the Associate in Arts Fine Arts degree Required Courses area for the specific emphasis (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre).

Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis.

II. Restricted Electives..... Number varies

Restricted electives for the Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree vary by specific emphasis: (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre). Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis.

III. Arizona General Education Curriculum--Arts (AGEC-A)..... up to 44

The AGECA requires a minimum of 35 credits (32 if FYC is met by single transfer course)*. However, depending on courses selected, it may take as many as 44 credits to satisfy all the General Education criteria. Any required/restricted elective courses that also have one or more AGECA designation(s) may be applied toward both requirements. Credits for such shared courses are only counted once toward the total credits for the degree.

AGECA designations are subject to change. See [AGEC matrix](#) for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken. Some of the courses may have been approved for more than one designation. Notes below will show how such courses may be used to meet multiple degree requirements.

- A. First-Year Composition [FYC]..... **6***
 ENG101 OR ENG107..... **(3)***
 AND ENG102 OR ENG108..... **(3)***
- B. Literacy and Critical Inquiry [L]..... **3**
- C. Mathematical Applications [MA]..... **3-6**
 Requires a course in college mathematics (MAT140, MAT141, MAT142, MAT145, MAT146) or college algebra (MAT150, MAT151, MAT152, MAT155, MAT156) or higher [MA]-approved general education course.

 The minimum math requirement for graduation defaults to the lowest base-level math, as identified above. Some emphasis may require higher-level math; refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for specific emphasis math requirements.
- D. Computer/Statistics/Quantitative Applications [CS]..... **3**
- E. Humanities, Arts and Design [HU]..... **6**
- F. Social-Behavioral Sciences [SB]..... **6**
 Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.
- G. Natural Sciences [SQ/SG]..... **8**
 The lecture courses selected for Natural Sciences must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory courses for a total of four credits each. Credits for lecture and lab components may be combined or each may carry separate credit. At least four credits must be designated as SQ-Science Quantitative. Eight credits of SG-Science General will not satisfy this requirement.
- H. Awareness Areas..... **0-6**
 The same course(s) may be used to satisfy one or more Awareness Area(s) as well as other AGECA requirements. (See [AGEC matrix](#) at <https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/agec.woa/3/wa/agecMatrixReport?inst=001075> for current course values). Credits for such shared courses may only be counted once.
 - 1. Cultural Diversity in the United States [C]..... **(0-3)**
 - 2. Global Awareness [G] OR Historical Awareness [H]..... **(0-3)**
 May be met by [HU] and/or [SB] course(s) depending on specific courses selected. (AGECA designations are subject to change. See [AGEC matrix](#) for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.)

IV. MCCC Additional Requirements..... 0-6

As noted below, courses in this area may also be applied toward AGECA requirements.

- A. Oral Communication..... **(0-3)**
Refer to emphasis area (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre) for specific COM course to select from the following list:
 COM100 [SB] Introduction to Human Communication OR
 COM110 [SB] Interpersonal Communication OR
 COM225 [L] Public Speaking OR
 COM230 [SB] Small Group Communication (3 credits) OR
 COM100AA & COM100AB & COM100AC [SB] (3 credits) OR
 COM110AA & COM110AB & COM110AC [SB] (3 credits)

B. Critical Reading..... (0-3)
CRE101 [L] Critical Reading OR equivalent as indicated by assessment

V. General Electives..... 0-25

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. MCCCDD has established recommended courses and sequencing to align with the Fine Arts Emphasis Areas. See maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates 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 are accessible on the following websites: aztransfer.com/tools, curriculum.maricopa.edu, as well as those of individual universities. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.

*FYC may be met with fewer than 6 credits if student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU or UAZ for a single course that meets FYC in full.

**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.