

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)
Associate in Science (AS) Degree
2026-2027

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Science (AS) 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 Science, Emphasis in Physics). 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 AS degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for Degrees Designed for University Transfer.

The Associate in Science 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 Science (AS) 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 with more stringent mathematics and mathematics-based science requirements. 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.

It does not, however, guarantee acceptance into particular university majors/programs with a limited number of students. Students should consult with their

transfer institution for any specific admission requirements (e.g., GPA, letters of reference, work experience).

In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCC Associate in Science (AS) will apply to general university graduation requirements of the majors that align with the AS 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 AS with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed via [AZTransfer](#).

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Science (AS) follow. The AS degree requires at least 60 credits and a maximum of 64 credits; however, minimum credits for the AS may vary for a specific area of emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.

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

II. **General Education** _____ **Minimum 35 Credits**

The AS degree requires the completion of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) at a minimum of 35 credits (32 if **Written Communication [WCM]** is met by a single transfer course). Courses applied to meet AGEC requirements vary by emphasis. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required 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.

Per AZTransfer Policy 103: AGEC Transfer Institutions and 104: Transferability of the AGEC Courses Between Community Colleges: The certified (i.e., completed and documented on the transcript) AGEC is transferable from any Arizona public community or tribal college to ASU, NAU, and UA as well as to any other Arizona public community or tribal college. Arizona public community and tribal colleges will accept AGEC coursework from any other Arizona public community or tribal college. AGEC requirements will be accepted and applied as defined by the source institution.

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).

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. AGECE designations are subject to change. See AGECE 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 AGECE, 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 require specific [OCM] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified [OCM] requirements by degree or emphasis

C. Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] _____ 3 Credits

- The first semester of a calculus sequence designed for scientists and engineers (MAT220 or MAT221) or any other mathematical level [QNR] designated course for which Calculus I is a prerequisite
- The minimum [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] 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

- Students must complete General Chemistry, University Physics, General Biology for Majors, or Physical and Historical Geology
- The lecture courses selected for Natural Sciences [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 credits
- Some degrees or emphasis may require certain courses to meet this designation; refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified Natural Sciences [NSI] requirements by degree or emphasis

- **General Chemistry**
 [(CHM150 or CHM151) and CHM151LL] or CHM150AA or CHM151AA
 and
 (CHM152 and CHM152LL) or CHM152AA
- **University Physics**
 PHY121 and PHY131
- **General Biology for Majors**
 BIO181 or BIO181XT and
 BIO182 or BIO182XT
- **Physical and Historical Geology**
 GLG101IN or
 GLG101 and GLG103

 and
 GLG102IN or
 GLG102 and GLG104

III. Plan Course Requirements _____ Credits varies

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

IV. MCCCDC Requirements _____ Minimum 1 Credit

- Students must complete
 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 _____ **Credits varies**

Plan Electives for the AS degree vary by specific emphasis and are not required for the general AS 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. MCCCDC 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 are accessible on [AZTransfer](#), [Maricopa Transfer Partners](#), as well as the official websites of individual universities. 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.