

# ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (AA) DEGREE

## Maricopa County Community Colleges District (MCCCD) 2023-2024

### Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts (AA) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits for the program of study; minimum total credits vary by specific emphasis (for example, Associate in Arts, Emphasis in Psychology). Refer to [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for credit minimums. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 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 (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/curriculum/degrees-certificates/associate-degrees/academic-policies/>).

The Associate in Arts degree includes the following components:

- I. Program Prerequisites (as specified by emphasis area)
- II. Required Courses
- 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 (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: [www.aztransfer.com/tools](http://www.aztransfer.com/tools) (<http://www.aztransfer.com/tools>)

### Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) follow. The AA degree requires at least 60 credits; however, minimum credits for the AA vary for a specific area of emphasis. Refer to [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) and click on Current Programs to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums; review course sequence at [maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates#programs](https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/#programs) (<https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/#programs>). The following websites identify the courses that apply to the different General Education Core and Awareness Areas: AGECA (https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/agec.woa/2/wo/qEBwEeu9k5ESxdFSGt3Jxw/5.0.105.5/) and the AGECA matrix

(<https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/agec.woa/3/wa/agecMatrixReport/?inst=001075>).

### Degree Requirements

- I. Program Prerequisites - **Credits: Number Varies**  
Program 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 [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.
- II. Required Courses - **Credits: Number Varies**  
Students must complete FYE 101 (1) or FYE 103 (3) and select the required courses for the specific AA degree emphasis. Refer to [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.
- III. Restricted Electives - **Credits: Number Varies**  
Restricted electives for the AA degree vary by specific emphasis and are not required for the general AA degree without a specific emphasis. Refer to [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.
- IV. Arizona General Education Curriculum-Arts (AGEC-A) - **Credits: up to 44**  
The AGECA requires a minimum of 35 credits (32 if FYC is met by single transfer course)<sup>1</sup>. Courses applied to meet AGECA requirements vary by emphasis. Refer to [curriculum.maricopa.edu](https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/) (<https://curriculum.maricopa.edu/>) (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums. Any prerequisite/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 AGECA matrix (<https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/agec.woa/3/wa/agecMatrixReport/?inst=001075>) for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken. Some of the courses have been approved for more than one designation. Notes below will show how such courses may be used to meet multiple degree requirements.

Code	Title	Credits	Semester
<b>First-Year Composition (FYC)<sup>1</sup></b>			
ENG101	First-Year Composition <sup>1</sup>	3	_____
or ENG107	First-Year Composition for ESL		_____
ENG102	First-Year Composition <sup>1</sup>	3	_____
or ENG108	First-Year Composition for ESL		_____
<b>Literacy and Critical Inquiry (L)</b>			
Select three credits		3	_____
<b>Mathematical Applications (MA)</b>			
Select one of the following:		3-6	_____
<i>College Mathematics</i>			
MAT140	College Mathematics		_____
MAT141	College Mathematics		_____

MAT142	College Mathematics	_____
MAT145	College Mathematics with Review	_____
MAT146	College Mathematics with Review	_____
<i>College Algebra</i>		
MAT150	College Algebra/ Functions	_____
MAT151	College Algebra/ Functions	_____
MAT152	College Algebra/ Functions	_____
MAT155	College Algebra/ Functions with Review	_____
MAT156	College Algebra/ Functions with Review	_____
<i>Precalculus</i>		
MAT187	Precalculus	_____
<i>Higher (MA)-approved Course</i>		
	Higher (MA)-approved general education course	_____
<b>Computer/Statistics/Quantitative Applications (CS)</b>		
Select three credits		3 _____
<b>Humanities, Arts and Design (HU)</b>		
Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.		6 _____
<b>Social-Behavioral Sciences (SB)</b>		
Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.		6 _____
<b>Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)</b>		
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 (4) credits must be designated as SQ-Science Quantitative. Eight (8) credits of SG-Science General will not satisfy this requirement.		8 _____
<b>Awareness Areas</b>		

The same course(s) may be used to satisfy one or more Awareness Area(s) as well as other AGECE requirements. (See AGECE matrix for current course values). Credits for such shared courses may only be counted once.<sup>2</sup>

Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)	_____
Global Awareness (G) or Historical Awareness (H)	_____

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> See AGECE matrix (<https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/agece.woa/3/wa/ageceMatrixReport/?inst=001075>) for current course values.

V. MCCC Additional Requirements - **Credits: 0-6**  
 As noted below, courses in this area may also be applied toward AGECE-A requirements.

Code	Title	Credits	Semester
<b>Oral Communication</b>			
Select one of the following:		0-3	_____
COM100	Introduction to Human Communication (SB)		_____
COM110	Interpersonal Communication (SB)		_____
COM225	Public Speaking (L)		_____
COM230	Small Group Communication (SB)		_____
<b>or all of the following (SB):</b>			
COM100AA & COM100AB & COM100AC	Introduction to Human Communication Part I and Introduction to Human Communication Part II and Introduction to Human Communication Part III		_____
<b>or all of the following (SB):</b>			

COM110AA & COM110AB & COM110AC	Interpersonal Communication Part I and Interpersonal Communication Part II and Interpersonal Communication Part III	_____
<b>Critical Reading</b>		_____
Select one of the following:		0-3 _____
CRE101	College Critical Reading and Critical Thinking (L)	_____
Equivalent as indicated by assessment		_____

#### VI. General Electives - Credits: 0-28

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. MCCCDC has established recommended courses and sequencing to align with various "Emphasis Areas" in one of nine different "Fields of Interest." See [maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates](https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/) (<https://www.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](http://aztransfer.com/tools/) (<http://aztransfer.com/tools/>), [https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/transfer/pathways-partners](https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/transfer/pathways-partners/) (<https://www.maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/transfer/pathways-partners/>), as well as those of individual universities. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.

#### Associate in Arts Total Credits: 60-64<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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 pathways.