

### Associate of Arts in General Studies

The required general education courses for the Associate of Arts in General Studies are listed as follows:

Basic Skills*	Semester Hours
Communications (COM 115).....	3
English Composition (ENG 110 and ENG 210 or 221).....	6
Mathematics (Only courses numbered 130 or above except MTH 197 and 297).....	3
Student Success (IDS 110).....	1

\*The BASIC SKILLS block constitutes preparatory courses necessary for completing a college education and should therefore be completed as soon as possible.

Distribution Requirements	Semester Hours
American Studies: (PLS 101 and HST 121 or 122).....	6
Humanities: Select courses from at least two of the following areas.....	6-9
— Art: (ART 200)	
— Communication: (COM 110)	
— Drama: (THE 101, 109)	
— Foreign Language: (any course)	
— Literature: (ENG 184, 230, 231, 235, 236, 280, 285, 288 and LLT 121 or above)	
— Music: (MUS 241)	
— Philosophy: (any except PHI 106)	
— Religious Studies: (REL 100, 101, 102, 131)	
— History: (HST 101, 102, 103, 104)	

If a student takes 6 hours of humanities, then he/she must satisfy the social science requirements with 9 hours and vice-versa.

Natural Sciences: Select courses from two of the following areas, with none of the selected courses having less than 3 hours credit. At least one of the selected courses must include the equivalent of at least 1 credit hour of laboratory work.....8

- a. Astronomy: (AST 113, 114, 115); Physics: (PHY 100, 101, 102, 123, 203)
- b. Biology: (BIO 100, 101, 102, 121, 134); Biomedical Sciences: (BMS 110)
- c. Chemistry: (CHM 101 (3 hours), 105, 106, 160)
- d. Geosciences: (GRY 135, 142; GLG 110, 115, 171)

Social Sciences: Select courses from at least two of the following areas.....6-9

- Technology’s Impact on Society: (AGR 100 or ITC 105)
- Anthropology: (ANT 125 or 226)
- Ecology: (GRY 108)
- Economics: (ECO 111 or ECO 155 or AGR 144)
- Geography: (GRY 100)
- Psychology: (PSY 121)
- Sociology: (SOC 150)

If a student takes 6 hours of social sciences, then he/she must satisfy the humanities requirement with 9 hours and vice-versa.

Courses taken under the pass/not pass option cannot be used to satisfy general education, professional education, or specific degree requirements except as noted in the pass/not pass policy.

\*\*Elementary Education and Child and Family Development majors only.

Total General Education block hours.....42  
An additional 20 hours (to total at least 62 hours including CIS 101, IDS 297 (capstone course), and PED 100) are required to complete the Associate of Arts Degree. Students should discuss course options with their academic advisors.

Students are strongly encouraged to confirm the transferability of individual courses to other institutions’ specific requirements for bachelor’s degrees prior to enrollment.

Based on 2009-10 Catalog

#### What is the Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree?

The AA in General Studies degree is a degree specifically designed to transfer to other colleges and universities. It contains a curriculum of basic first- and second-year courses which fulfill the general education requirements of most four-year institutions. The result is a well-rounded education that prepares students for the demands of the upper level courses they will take at their next school.

#### How does it transfer?

The AA in General Studies degree transfers as a block to four-year public colleges and universities in the state of Missouri, thanks to the credit transfer policy of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE). This degree is structured for entry into the baccalaureate degree programs offered at four-year colleges or universities. As a result, students with the AA will go into the four-year public institutions with junior standing and with virtually all of their freshman and sophomore general education requirements completed. Many private colleges and universities in the state also honor the AA degree.

#### Why should I get an AA degree?

As pointed out above, having the degree ensures transferability of college credit hours at the freshman and sophomore level. The AA degree also is “locked in,” which means the credits will transfer as a block into a baccalaureate degree program even several semesters after the AA degree’s completion.

#### What if I eventually want to go to medical school, law school, or pursue other professional degrees?

The AA in General Studies prepares students for bachelor’s degrees which can lead to professional degrees like these. The AA provides the common core of courses required in almost all degrees at four-year colleges. Students who wish to pursue pre-med, pre-law or other degrees should consult with the college or university they plan to attend after Missouri State University-West Plains about courses and transferability into these programs, as should any student planning to transfer after completing the AA degree.

#### For More Information

Missouri State University-West Plains  
128 Garfield, West Plains, MO 65775  
Phone 417.255.7955 • Toll Free 888.466.7897  
Academic Affairs 417.255.7272  
WPAdmissions@MissouriState.edu