

NTID AOS General Education (Liberal Arts and Sciences) Requirements

Rationale for changes to AOS Gen Ed Requirements

NTID is faced with significant fiscal challenges due to a reduction in Federal funding for FY 2013, and likely for a number of years beyond that. In looking for ways to meet its primary mission with fewer resources a budget sub-committee of the NTID Administrative Council (NAC) recommended that NTID consider reducing general education/liberal arts and sciences requirements for Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) degrees. New York State Department of Education (NYSED) does not require *any* liberal arts and sciences (gen ed) coursework for an AOS degree. Rather, AOS degrees are intentionally meant to prepare students to enter the work force upon graduation and can be composed entirely of technical courses.

While not required by NYSED, NTID has traditionally required general education coursework because of the acknowledged need for instruction in English, mathematics and science as well as the valued outcomes of coursework in humanities and social sciences, including ASL, Deaf cultural studies, performing arts, and communication. The planned reduction of credits in gen ed aims to preserve this tradition, but on a lesser scale, and allows some flexibility for academic programs to identify requirements most relevant to their career areas. Chairpersons worked in consultation with faculty and the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs to determine revised AOS gen ed requirements.

Changes to AOS Gen Ed Framework and Requirements

The proposed revision to the AOS Gen Ed framework and requirements includes the following elements:

1. All programs will require 15 semester credit hours (SCH) instead of 24 SCH
2. All programs will continue to require nine credits (9 SCH) of Foundation coursework, composed of the following:
 - a. Career English-two courses
 - b. Mathematics-one course*
3. All programs will require two courses (6 SCH) from the following four perspective categories.
 - a. *ASL/Deaf Cultural Studies*: Courses in ASL address linguistic features, cultural protocols and core vocabulary for students to function in ASL conversations. Courses in Deaf Cultural studies include study of the historical, anthropological, literary, artistic and multicultural aspects of Deaf people's lives.

- b. *Communication, Social, and Global Awareness:* Courses promote an understanding of self and advocacy in relation to one's interactions with others in personal, professional, and civic lives. Courses address social dynamics as they vary across communities, ranging from local to global. Courses introduce students to contrasting cultural approaches to allow communication in situations such as face-to face, electronic format (such as email or text), and group presentation situations.
- c. *Creative and Innovation Exploration:* Courses explore the creative process that leads to technological innovation, artistic expression and their products, in a variety of forms, while examining the influence of society and culture on the process and its end results. These courses provide insight into the creative process through innovative approaches to assignments or projects.
- d. *Scientific Processes:* Courses apply methods of scientific inquiry and problem solving in a laboratory or field experience. Science is more than a collection of facts, so students will be expected to participate in the processes of science as they collect and analyze data, and state conclusions.

* Some programs will allow students who place above the required level in mathematics to take a perspective course instead of a mathematics foundation course.

The revised AOS General Education (Liberal Arts and Sciences) requirements for each AOS program are summarized in the chart below.

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| Program | Foundation Categories SCH Required | | Perspectives Categories SCH Required | | | | Total SCH | Notes |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | Career English | Mathematics | Scientific Processes | ASL-Deaf Cultural Studies | Communication, Social & Global Awareness | Creative, Innovative Exploration | | |
| APLCMP-AOS (ACT) | 6 | 3* | 0 | 6 | | | 15 | *If student places above NMTH-140, can take math or 3 SCH from any non-science perspective category |
| ARTIMG-AOS (Design and Imaging Technology) | 6 | 3* | 0 | 6 | | | 15 | *If student places above NMTH-140, can take math or 3 SCH from any of the four perspective categories |
| BUSTEC-AOS | 6 | 3* | 0 | 6 | | | 15 | *If student places above NMTH-140, can take math or 3 SCH from any non-science perspective category |
| CADTEC-AOS | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | 15 | |
| CIMT-AOS | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | 15 | |
| LABSCI-AOS | 6 | 3* | 3 | 3 | | | 15 | *If student places above NMTH-212, can take math or 3 SCH from any non-science perspective category |

SCH=Semester Credit Hours