

The colleges of the College District shall award associate degrees and certificates to students who have completed all general and specific graduation requirements when the students have earned through instruction (not credit by examination) at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for graduation at the college granting the degree.

**Associate of Arts
and Associate of
Sciences**

The Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees are designed for a student who wishes to pursue a two-year liberal studies degree and/or transfer to a four-year institution for the baccalaureate degree. Either degree may be combined with a Coordinating Board-approved field of study curriculum.

A student must complete 60 credit hours; with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0; earn a grade of "C" or better in English 1301 and a selected college mathematics course; and meet all requirements of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), including the TSI assessment.

These 60 hours may be earned at any college of the College District and must include the 42 hours of the College District Core Curriculum, including 6 hours in Communications; 3 hours in Mathematics; 8 hours in Life and Physical Sciences; 3 hours in Language, Philosophy, and Culture; 3 hours in Creative Arts; 6 hours in American History; 6 hours in Government/Political Science; 3 hours in Social and Behavioral Sciences; 4 hours in the Component Area Option; and 18 hours of specified electives.

Courses numbered below 1000 and other noncollege-level courses may not be counted toward degree requirements.

**Associate of Applied
Sciences**

The Associate of Applied Science degree is designed for a student who wishes to study for a two-year degree in career and technical programs. This degree is designed to enable students to enter the job market in their chosen field.

A student must complete 60 credit hours, with a minimum GPA of 2.0, including 15 hours of general education courses, which include at least one course from each of the following areas: Humanities/Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, and Natural Science/Mathematics.

A student must demonstrate competency of practical skills and theoretical knowledge in his or her chosen field. Each major shall produce a list of courses that a student must complete in order to obtain the degree with 60 credit hours, unless an exception has been approved by the Coordinating Board. Students receiving the Associate of Applied Science degree must meet the college readiness standards of the TSI, including the TSI assessment.

Note: If a Coordinating Board-approved degree does not include a mathematics course(s), students must successfully complete a natural science course to graduate.

Associate of Arts in Teaching

The Associate of Arts in Teaching degree is designed for students who wish to transfer to a Texas public university that offers baccalaureate degree programs leading to teacher certification. Programs offered under this degree title are based upon the Coordinating Board.

A student must complete 60 credit hours for each degree plan, with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and meet all requirements of the TSI, including the TSI assessment.

A student may earn these hours at any college of the College District, and the hours must include 42 hours of the College District Core Curriculum, including 6 hours in Communications; 3 hours in Mathematics; 8 hours in Life and Physical Sciences; 3 hours in Language, Philosophy, and Culture; 3 hours in Creative Arts; 6 hours in American History; 6 hours in Government/Political Science; 3 hours in Social and Behavioral Sciences; 3–4 hours in the Component Area Option; and any additional hours required for the degree.

Courses numbered below 1000 and other noncollege-level courses may not be counted toward degree requirements.

**Transfer —
Servicemen's
Opportunity College**

In the event that a student enrolled at a college of the College District under the Servicemen's Opportunity College program is transferred by the military to a place of assignment outside of the College District's service area, the student may nevertheless be awarded a degree from the college of the College District if:

1. The residency requirement has first been met at a college of the College District;
2. The remaining degree requirements are completed at an accredited college outside the College District's service area; and
3. The registrar of such college of the College District has approved such arrangement.

Guarantee

The College District guarantees to the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science graduates of its colleges, and other students who have completed a formal transfer plan at a college of the College District, the transferability of course credits to cooperating Texas colleges and universities. If such courses are rejected by a college or university, a student may take tuition-free alternate courses at

any college of the College District that is acceptable to the university.

The College District guarantees the job competencies of graduates of its colleges. If an Associate of Applied Science degree or certificate graduate is judged by the graduate's employer to be lacking in technical job skills identified as exit competencies for the graduate's specific degree or certificate program, the graduate will be provided up to nine tuition-free credit hours of additional skill training by a college of the College District.