

# DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Shelton State Community College is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate in Arts Degree, the Associate in Science Degree, and the Associate in Applied Science Degree. The College also offers two types of certificate programs: certificate programs 30-60 semester hours in length and short-term certificate programs 9-29 semester hours in length. The Associate in Arts Degree and the Associate in Science Degree are designed for students who wish to complete the freshman and sophomore years at Shelton State Community College and transfer to a senior college or university and complete the baccalaureate degree. The Associate in Applied Science Degree and the certificate programs are designed for students who plan to seek employment based upon the competencies and skills attained through those programs of study. These degrees and certificates are included on the official Academic Inventory of Shelton State Community College maintained by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

## A. Chancellor's Guidelines

The Alabama State Board of Education has directed that the Chancellor shall establish guidelines for the distribution of courses and areas of study within the degrees and certificates awarded under the authority of the Board. The guidelines from the Chancellor regarding degree requirements for these awards ensure conformity with Act 94-202 of the Alabama Legislature. In March of 1994, the Alabama State Legislature in Act 94-202 created the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC). The Legislature charged the AGSC to develop a statewide freshman and sophomore general studies curriculum to be taken at all public colleges and universities. This curriculum was effective September 1, 1998, and is the basis for the Associate in Arts (AA) and the Associate in Science (AS) degrees offered by Shelton State Community College. It should be noted that the AGSC curriculum and the Chancellor's guidelines regarding this curriculum do not distinguish between the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees.

## Associate in Arts and Associate in Science

**Area I: Written Composition I and II: ...6 semester hours**

**Area II: Humanities Fine Arts, and**

**Speech: .....12 semester hours**

- \*Must complete a minimum of 3 semester hours in Literature.

- ENG 251, 252; ENG 261, 262; or ENG 271, 272
- Must complete 3 semester hours in the Arts.
- ART 100, ART 203, ART 204, IDH 110, HUM 130, MUS 101, THR 120, or THR 126
- Must complete 3 semester hours in Speech unless provisions for addressing Oral Communication Competencies represent an integral module in a required discipline-specific course.

Remaining semester hours to be selected from Speech, Humanities, and/or Fine Arts.

*Disciplines include, but are not limited to: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Humanities, Literature, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Speech, Theater and Dance.*

## Area III: Natural Sciences and

**Mathematics: .....11 semester hours**

- Must complete 3 semester hours in Mathematics at the Precalculus Algebra or Finite Math level.
- Must complete 8 semester hours in the Natural Sciences which must include laboratory experiences.

*In addition to Mathematics, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

## Area IV: History, Social, and

**Behavioral Sciences: .....12 semester hours**

- \*Must complete a minimum of 3 semester hours in History.
- Must complete at least 6 semester hours from among other disciplines in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

*Social and Behavioral Sciences include, but are not limited to: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

## Area I-IV: Minimum General Education

**Requirements: .....41 semester hours**

## Area V: Pre-Professional, Pre-Major, and

**Elective Courses: .....\*\*19-23 semester hours**

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student and electives.

*Students completing courses that have been approved for the General Studies Curriculum and are appropriate to their major and/or degree program may transfer these courses with credit applicable to their degree program among two-year and four-year colleges and universities.*

**Area I-V: General Studies****Curricula:.....\*\*60-64 semester hours****Maximum Program Semester****Credit Hours .....64 semester hours****Semester Credit Hour Range****by Award .....\*\*60-64 semester hours**

*\*Note: Must complete a 6 semester hour sequence either in Literature or in History.*

*The sequence in Area II and IV in Literature or History needs to follow the sequence requirements according to the students major and transfer plans.*

*\*\* Respective programs of study for baccalaureate degrees at Alabama public universities range from 120 to 128 semester hours in length. Dependent upon the total hours allocated for the bachelor's degrees, institutions in The Alabama College System will only be authorized to provide 50 percent of that total (60-64).*

**Associate in Applied Science****Area I: Written Composition I****and II:.....3-6 semester hours**

- Must complete ENG 101.

**Remaining semester hours may be selected from either ENG 102 or COM 100.**

**Area II: Humanities, Fine Arts,****and Speech .....3-6 semester hours**

- Areas I and II must include a minimum of nine (9) hours.
- Must complete three (3) semester hours in Speech unless provisions for addressing Oral Communication Competencies represent an integral module in a required discipline-specific course.
- Must complete one (1) course in humanities and fine arts.

*Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines include: Area/Ethnic Studies, Art and Art History, Foreign Languages, Humanities, Literature, Music and Music History, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious Studies, Theater and Dance.*

Note: Individual colleges may establish specific course requirements within program of study parameters set forth in the general education core for the Associate in Applied Science Degree.

**Area III: Natural Science, Mathematics,****and Computer Science .....9-11 semester hours**

- Must complete a minimum of three (3) semester hours in Mathematics.
- Must complete one (1) course in Computer Science (two (2) preferred) or demonstrate computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s).

Appropriate 100 level (or higher) Mathematics, Natural Science, and/or Computer Science courses as denoted in *The Alabama College System Course Directory* may be selected.

In addition to Mathematics and Computer Science, disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy,

Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.

**Health-related Disciplines**

- Students enrolled as majors in health-related disciplines for which the AAS degree is awarded must take BIO 103 as the prerequisite for BIO 201, BIO 202, and BIO 220 or pass the validated system-wide biology placement examination
- Students with a strong background in biology should talk with a counselor to determine if they may be exempt from this prerequisite.
- For those students whose health-related programs require BIO 211 and BIO 212, BIO 212 would serve as the prerequisite for BIO 220.

**Area IV: History, Social, and****Behavioral Sciences.....3-6 semester hours**

*In addition to History, the Social and Behavioral Sciences include: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

Programs in which the AAS represents the Terminal Award are not required to complete the six (6) semester hour sequence in Area IV.

**Minimum General Education****Requirements.....18-29 semester hours****Area V: Maximum General Education Core,****Technical Concentration, and****Electives .....47-58 semester hours**

Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirement, core courses, and electives.

*Students planning programs of study for which the AAS does not represent the terminal degree, and for which national or regional programmatic licensure and certification are required, should be encouraged to integrate the **General Studies** transfer courses whenever possible.*

**General Studies Curricula .....76 semester hours****Maximum Program Semester****Credit Hours .....76 semester hours****Semester Credit Hour****Range by Award.....60-76 semester hours****Certificate****Area I: Written Composition I****and II:.....2-6 semester hours**

- COM 100 and COM 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

**Area II: Humanities, Fine Arts,****and Speech: .....2-6 semester hours**

- Must complete three (3) semester hours in Speech unless provisions for addressing Oral Communication Competencies represent an integral module in a required discipline-specific course.
- SPC 100 and SPC 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

**Area III: Natural Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science:.....6 semester hours**

- Must complete one (1) course in Computer Science (two (2) preferred) or demonstrate computer literacy skills, or the integration of computer proficiencies within a required discipline-specific course(s).

Remaining semester hours to be selected from Natural Science, Mathematics, or Computer Science.

*In addition to Mathematics and Computer Science, Disciplines in the Natural Sciences include: Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Geography, Earth Science, Physics, and Physical Science.*

MAH 100, MAH 102, and MAH 105 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

DPT 100 and DPT 103 may be substituted only in non-degree eligible programs.

**Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences:.....0 Semester Hours****Minimum General Education**

**Requirements .....10-18 Semester Hours**

**General Studies Curricula.....60 Semester Hours**

**Area V: Maximum General Education Core, Technical Concentration, and Electives .....50-42 Semester Hours**

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives.

**Maximum Program Semester**

**Credit Hours .....60 Semester Hours**

**Semester Credit Hour**

**Range by Award .....30-60 Semester Hours**

**Short-Term Certificate****Area I: Written Composition I and II:.....0-3 Semester Hours****Area II: Humanities, Fine Arts, and Speech: .....0 Semester Hours****Area III: Natural Science, Mathematics, and Computer Sciences:.....0-3 Semester Hours****Area IV: History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences:.....0 Semester Hours****Minimum General Education Requirement .....0-6 Semester Hours****Area V: General Education, Technical Concentration, and Electives: ...29-23 Semester Hours**

- Courses appropriate to the degree requirements, occupational or technical specialty requirements, core courses, and electives.

**Maximum Program Semester**

**Credit Hours .....29 Semester Hours**

**Semester Credit Hour**

**Range by Award .....9-29 Semester Hours**

**B. Requirements of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

Shelton State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges (COC) of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the Associate in Arts Degree, the Associate in Science Degree, and the Associate in Applied Science Degree. In addition to the requirements of the Chancellor's guidelines, the degrees offered by Shelton State Community College must satisfy the requirements of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, require that *the institution identifies competencies within the general education core and provides evidence graduates have attained these college-level competencies*. Shelton State Community College requires that the graduates of its degree programs are competent in basic mathematical skills, basic writing skills, critical thinking skills, basic technology skills, basic reading skills, and basic oral communication skills. The College has defined various methods of assessment to provide evidence that its graduates have attained these college-level competencies.

**C. General Education Competencies**

The College has defined, developed, and ratified the general education core competencies that every degree graduate will attain. The following are learning outcomes statements for the General Education program:

- **Written Communication Skills:** Students will develop and demonstrate written communication skills needed to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for a variety of purposes.
- **Oral Communication Skills:** Students will develop and demonstrate oral communication skills needed to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for a variety of purposes.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will develop and use critical, analytical thinking abilities needed in decision making and creative processes.
- **Computer Skills:** Students will develop and demonstrate the productive management and evaluation of information retrieved by computer and other technologies.
- **Mathematical Skills:** Students will develop and demonstrate the effective use of analytical mathematical skills needed in the context of problem solving.
- **Reading Skills:** Students will develop and demonstrate effective reading skills and reflect comprehension in order to communicate their interpretation of various materials and texts.

**D. Additional Recommendations/Requirements**

To encourage success in college, Shelton State requires all full-time students to complete Orientation to College, ORI 101, during their first semester of enrollment; part-time students are required to complete ORI 101 prior to the completion of their first 12 credit hours. Students enrolled in career technical programs

must complete ORI 101 prior to the completion of their first 19 credit hours. Exceptions to these guidelines include students who hold an associate degree or higher; who have successfully completed an equivalent course at another institution; who transfer with at least twelve credit hours with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher; who are transient; or who have been admitted to Practical Nursing, Associate Degree in Nursing, or Respiratory Therapy Programs.

As a component of a well-balanced educational plan, Shelton State encourages students to include a course in health, Ecological Approach to Health and Fitness, HED 199, or Personal Health, HED 221, which

transfers to most four-year colleges and universities as an elective. The College also encourages students to complete Microcomputer Applications, CIS 146, or another computer science class from the STARS approved course list.

Shelton State Community College students who finish technical programs with degrees or certificates complete a WorkKeys assessment in order to document their skill levels and increase their employment and earning opportunities in West Alabama. The goal of this assessment is to ensure that Shelton State Community College students enter the workforce with the foundation needed to succeed.