

Additional Clarification of the Current Associate of Science-Transfer (AS-T) Degree Guidelines

Developed by the Joint Access Oversight Group (JAOG) Spring/Summer 2005
Approved by JAOG on October 25, 2005 After review and revision by baccalaureate
institutions that subscribe to the ICRC guidelines for the AS-T agreement

The Associate of Science-Transfer (AS-T) degree is designed to position a transfer student to enter the junior year of a science-based major* at a baccalaureate institution having completed a set of courses that are typically completed by students in the same major who started at that baccalaureate institution as a freshman.

The original academic associate degree – the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) degree -- continues to enable graduates to transfer with a set of General Education Requirements (GERs) that is accepted by all of the public baccalaureate institutions and by participating independent baccalaureate institutions¹ in lieu of all or most of their own lower-division GERs. It is the best transfer preparation for most humanities and social science degrees, among others; however, it typically leaves students in most science-based majors a year or more behind their new peers in science and math. DTA degree graduates seldom have the math and science courses required for immediate entry into the junior year of science-based majors.

The AS-T degree is based on the following agreed upon general assumptions, principles, and practices:

- All courses awarded credit by the community college toward the specific AS-T degree will be accepted for credit by the baccalaureate institution within the limits of the institutional lower-division credit transfer policy. (This degree includes a maximum of 5 quarter credits of restricted electives.)
- All courses approved as GERs by the community college will be accepted as GERs by the baccalaureate institution.
 - ◆ Institutions that automatically match transfer courses to comparable in-house courses will initially assign GER designations automatically.
 - ◆ If this designation is different than that assigned by the community college, students who believe that the community college designation would be more

* For example, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy, etc.

¹ Bastyr University Central Washington University City University Cornish College of the Arts Eastern Washington University Gonzaga University Henry Cogswell College Heritage College Northwest College Pacific Lutheran University Saint Martin's College Seattle Pacific University Seattle University The Evergreen State College University of Washington Washington State University Western Washington University Whitworth College

beneficial may petition the baccalaureate institution to have the designation assigned consistent with the community college designation.

- ◆ If there is no baccalaureate match for a community college GER course, the baccalaureate institution will assign it to the same GER area as the sending community college.
- Baccalaureate institutions may, if they do so with their freshman-entry students, disallow a specific GER when a student selects that discipline as the major^δ.
- All courses included in the AS-T degree as academic *electives* will be accepted by the baccalaureate institution as *electives*, but such courses *may* be accepted to meet other requirements, if the baccalaureate institution determines that they are appropriate for that purpose.
- AS-T transfer students will have taken approximately the same number of GERs as their new peers took during their first two years at the baccalaureate institution, and will be expected to complete the institution's GERs on the same basis as students who started there as freshmen, thus providing comparable experience for freshman-entry and transfer students.

^δ GERs are intended to assure a breadth of academic experience, so courses supporting the in-depth learning of the major may not be used for this purpose.