CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO
ACADEMIC POLICY

SUBJECT: Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S) Degree

POLICY:

An Associate in Applied Science Degree is an award for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed curriculum intended to prepare students for employment in a specific field. Traditionally, it is not a transferable degree. However, some four-year colleges and universities may accept course work pursued for an A.A.S. degree towards their degree completion requirement.

Emphasis in the Associate in Applied Science degree program is placed on the specialized skills that prepare the individual for employment at the professional/technical level. The program requires the successful completion with a minimum of an overall “C” (2.00) Graduation Grade Point Average of 60 to 72 semester hours. Additionally, a student must earn a grade of C or better for all courses used to complete the general education core requirements. The total number of required hours varies by program; however, a student must earn at least 60 credit hours and no more than 72 credit hours, except in such fields in which accreditation or licensure by a state or national organization requires additional course work.

All courses submitted for graduation must be numbered 101 or higher and have a PCS code of 1.1 or 1.2. All courses submitted for graduation must be part of the approved program of study. Applicable course work with a minimum grade of “C” may be transferred to any of the City Colleges of Chicago from external regionally accredited institutions, as well as among any of the City Colleges of Chicago.

A minimum of 15 credit hours must be earned at one or more of the CCC in order to fulfill the residency requirements. The CCC college from which the majority of the Graduation Credit Hours were earned will be the college that is authorized to award the A.A.S. degree, provided the college offers this program and degree.

A student may select the City College from which their degree will be awarded, if the student has earned an equal number of Graduation Credit Hours at two or more City Colleges. The college selected by the student must offer the degree.
A minimum of 15 credit hours of the required 60 to 72 semester hours must be distributed among the general education areas. The choice of courses used to meet the general education requirements is established for each program, and some A.A.S. degree programs may have specific general education requirements. The general education component enables students to understand and appreciate their culture and environment, to develop a system of personal values that lead to civic and social responsibility, and to attain skills in communication, computation, and critical thinking necessary for future growth as learners and productive members of society.

Effective Fall 2012, newly enrolled students, or returning students who have not been enrolled for six consecutive semesters, seeking an Associate in Applied Science degree at the City Colleges of Chicago are required to take at least one course to fulfill the State of Illinois’ Human Diversity requirement for an Associate degree. The Human Diversity requirement must be included in the total number of credits required to earn the degree and should not increase the total number of credits needed for degree completion.

Students may select either a Human Diversity (HD) course that is IAI approved or an HD course that is not IAI approved. IAI approved courses have an IAI No. that ends with either the letter ‘N’ or ‘D’. Human Diversity courses are listed on the IAI website and in the CCC Academic Catalog. Students should meet with their Academic Advisor to select general education courses and a general education course that fulfills the Human Diversity requirement.

While completing IAI approved courses assures that lower-division general education requirements will transfer to IAI participating institutions, students can fulfill CCC graduation requirements with general education courses that are not IAI approved. To graduate, all courses do not need to be IAI approved.

The following Associate in Applied Science degree programs are exempt from fulfilling the Human Diversity Requirement:

- Communications Technology
- Electrical Construction Technology
- Mortuary Science
- Nephrology/Renal
- Nursing
- Nursing (RN Completion Program)
- Occupational Therapy
- Paralegal Studies
- Physician Assistant
- Radiography
- Surgical Technology

City Colleges of Chicago policy requires that students earn a minimum grade of “C” in all general education courses. The remaining semester hours must be concentrated in the required course work. The wording on the diploma for the Associate in Applied Science degree shall stipulate the Associate in Applied Science degree in (Specific Program Name).