

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) - 60 CREDITS

About this program

The Associate in Arts is a liberal arts degree that includes the first two years of most bachelor's degrees and is designed for transfer to a four-year university. Students who complete M State's Associate in Arts degree, which includes the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, are assured of a smooth transfer into Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system institutions as well as into specific majors at all the campuses of the University of Minnesota.

Program outcomes

1. To develop writers and speakers who use the English language effectively and who read, write, speak and listen critically. As a base, all students should complete introductory communication requirements early in their collegiate studies. Writing competency is an ongoing process to be reinforced through writing-intensive courses and writing across the curriculum. Speaking and listening skills need reinforcement through multiple opportunities for interpersonal communication, public speaking, and discussion.
2. To develop thinkers who are able to unify factual, creative, rational, and value-sensitive modes of thought. Critical thinking will be taught and used throughout the general education curriculum in order to develop students' awareness of their own thinking and problem-solving procedures. To integrate new skills into their customary ways of thinking, students must be actively engaged in practicing thinking skills and applying them to open-ended problems.
3. To improve students' understanding of natural science principles and of the methods of scientific inquiry, i.e., the ways in which scientists investigate natural science phenomena. As a basis for lifelong learning, students need to know the vocabulary of science and to realize that while a set of principles has been developed through the work of previous scientists, ongoing scientific inquiry and new knowledge will bring changes in some of the ways scientists view the world. By studying the problems that engage today's scientists, students learn to appreciate the importance of science in their lives and to understand the value of a scientific perspective. Students should be encouraged to study both the biological and physical sciences.
4. To increase students' knowledge about mathematical and logical modes of thinking. This will enable students to appreciate the breadth of applications of mathematics, evaluate arguments, and detect fallacious reasoning. Students will learn to apply mathematics, logic, and/or statistics to help them make decisions in their lives and careers. Minnesota's public higher education systems have agreed that developmental mathematics includes the first three years of a high school mathematics sequence through intermediate algebra.
5. To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.
6. To expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, and the fine arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. Students should have experiences in both the arts and humanities.
7. To increase students' understanding of individual and group differences (e.g. race, gender, class) and their knowledge of the traditions and values of various groups in the United States. Students should be able to evaluate the United States' historical and contemporary responses to group differences.
8. To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic and political experiences.
9. To develop students' capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship. While there are diverse views of

social justice or the common good in a pluralistic society, students should learn that responsible citizenship requires them to develop skills to understand their own and others' positions, be part of the free exchange of ideas, and function as public-minded citizens.

10. To improve students' understanding of today's complex environmental challenges. Students will examine the inter-relatedness of human society and the natural environment. Knowledge of both bio-physical principles and socio-cultural systems is the foundation for integrative and critical thinking about environmental issues.

Curriculum overview

Crds	Requirement type
3	Required courses
6	Restricted electives in courses
45	Restricted electives in MnTC Goal Areas
6	Restricted electives in course types
60	Total

Developmental courses note: A student may be required to enroll in developmental courses in reading, writing and math. A student's scores on the Accuplacer assessment will determine enrollment in developmental courses. The purpose of developmental courses is to prepare students for the demands of a college-level curriculum. *Credits may vary.*

Accreditation: Minnesota State Community and Technical College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. More information can be found at www.minnesota.edu/accreditation.

Curriculum requirement details

Required courses

Course	Crds
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3

Other requirements or restricted electives

3 credits from one or more of these Courses:

Course title	Credits
COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking ...	3
COMM1130 - Small Group Communication	3
COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication	3

3 credits from one or more of these Courses:

Course title	Credits
ENGL1205 - Writing About Literature	3
ENGL1210 - Writing About Current Issues	3
ENGL1215 - Professional and Technical Writing	3

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 1. Communication
-

6 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 2. Critical Thinking
-

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 3. Natural Sciences
-

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 3. Natural Sciences
-

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 4. Mathematics/Logical Reasoning
-

9 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
-

9 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 7. Human Diversity

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 8. Global Perspective

3 credits from these Goal Areas:

- 9. Ethical and Civic Responsibility

6 credits from these Course Types:

- General Education w/out MnTC Goals
-

Course summaries

ENGL1101 - College Writing (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This is an introductory writing course designed to prepare students for later college and career writing. The course focuses on developing fluency through a process approach, with particular emphasis on revision. Students will consider purpose and audience, read and discuss writing and further develop their own writing processes through successive revisions to produce polished drafts. Course work will include an introduction to argumentative writing, writing from academic sources and a short research project.

Prerequisites:

- Completion of ELL1080, ENGL0096, or ENGL0097 with a grade of C or higher OR placement into college-level English.

COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course clarifies the process of oral communication, clarifies the basic principles of public speaking and allows the student to increase the application of these principles while both speaking and listening.

COMM1130 - Small Group Communication (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Areas 1 and 2. This course focuses on communication issues in small groups and the importance of small group work in business today. An emphasis will be placed on improving communication skills for successful teamwork, group cohesiveness and the responsibility to group goals and tasks. Students will be provided with opportunities to build their group communication skills through practice.

COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course will focus on improving students' abilities to communicate effectively in one-to-one dyadic encounters by providing experience-based instruction. Extensive in-class and out-of-class analyses allow the student to examine his/her own and others' informal social interactions. The long-term goal is for the student to apply interpersonal communication theories to daily interactions and draw his/her own conclusions about the effectiveness of interpersonal communication.

ENGL1205 - Writing About Literature (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course builds on the foundations of College Writing and provides students with additional opportunities to develop fluency in their writing through a process approach. Students will read critically from a variety of literary genres, explore meaning through academic research and respond through discussion and writing.

ENGL1210 - Writing About Current Issues (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course builds on the foundations of College Writing and provides students with additional opportunities to develop and refine their writing through a process approach. Students will explore current issues by critically reading a variety of texts, conducting academic research and responding through discussion and writing.

ENGL1215 - Professional and Technical Writing (3 credits)

Meets MnTC Goal Area 1. This course provides instruction in writing and designing professional and technical documents, including print and non-print correspondence, descriptions, instructions, reports and proposals, along with promotional material. Analysis, critical thinking and synthesis of sources will be covered, along with the development of presentation skills. Coursework also includes a formally documented, multi-source professional project.

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Program Plan — "Primary"

Locations: Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead, Wadena, Online

1st Fall Term (15 credits)

Courses

Course	Crds
ENGL1101 - College Writing	3

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 3. Natural Sciences

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 4. Mathematics/Logical Reasoning

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

3 credits in one or more of the following:

- COMM1120 - Introduction to Public Speaking 3
- COMM1130 - Small Group Communication 3
- COMM1140 - Interpersonal Communication 3

1st Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

No specific courses set for this term.

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 2. Critical Thinking

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 7. Human Diversity

3 credits in one or more of the following:

- ENGL1205 - Writing About Literature 3
- ENGL1210 - Writing About Current Issues 3
- ENGL1215 - Professional and Technical Writing 3

2nd Fall Term (15 credits)

Courses

No specific courses set for this term.

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 3. Natural Sciences

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 8. Global Perspective

3 credits in one or more of the following:

General Education w/out MnTC Goals

2nd Spring Term (15 credits)

Courses

No specific courses set for this term.

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 1. Communication

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 2. Critical Thinking

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts

3 credits in one or more of the following:

Goal Area 9. Ethical and Civic Responsibility

3 credits in one or more of the following:

General Education w/out MnTC Goals
