



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

April 7, 2022

To: Council on Instruction (COI)

Dear Members of the COI:

Re: Undergraduate Transfer and General Education Clarification

Over the past several months, the *ad-hoc* COI Pathways Committee has discussed many factors which may serve as barriers in students' paths to earn a degree or credential. One factor that has been discussed frequently is the transfer of general education requirements and which, if any, general education courses a student may be required to re-take after completing a similar class at another institution, regardless of whether or not the student earned an Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) degree. This correspondence clarifies State Regents' expectations for transfer and general education within the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) policy framework.

The OSRHE *Undergraduate Transfer and Articulation* policy sets forth parameters regarding transfer of coursework within the State System from degree-granting institutions. The following subsections are particularly relevant to this issue:

Policy Section	Excerpt
3.11.4.A	A student who has completed the prescribed lower-division requirements of a State System institution developed in accordance with the standards set forth in the State Regents' Undergraduate Degree Requirements policy may transfer into a baccalaureate degree program at any senior institution of the State System and be assured of completing his or her program in sequential fashion. Senior institutions may, with the approval of the State Regents, require that transferring students complete additional general education work for the degree. However, such additional work shall be programmed as a part of the upper division requirements of the senior institution in order that any student shall be able to complete a baccalaureate program in a

Policy Section	Excerpt
	<p>number of semester hours equal to the total specified for graduation published in the receiving institution's official catalog. <i>(Emphasis added)</i></p>
3.11.4.D	<p>The baccalaureate degree in all Oklahoma senior-level institutions shall be awarded in recognition of lower-division (freshman and sophomore) combined with upper-division (junior and senior) work. If a student has completed an AA or AS degree, the lower-division general education requirement of the baccalaureate degree shall be the responsibility of the institution awarding the associate degree, providing the general education requirements specified herein are met. If, for any reason, a student has not completed an associate degree program prior to his or her transfer to another institution, the general education requirements shall become the responsibility of the receiving institutions. However, the receiving institution will recognize general education credit for all transfer courses in which a reasonable equivalency of discipline or course content exists with courses specified as part of general education at the receiving institution, provided that there is an appropriate correspondence between the associate degree and the baccalaureate degree being sought. <i>(Emphasis added)</i></p>

The OSRHE *Undergraduate Degree Requirements* policy sets forth the following general education requirements for AA, AS, and baccalaureate programs:

Area	Required Credit Hours
English Composition	6
U.S. History and U.S. Government	6
Science (one course must be a laboratory science)	6
Humanities	6
Mathematics	3
At least once course from the following areas: Psychology, social sciences, foreign languages, fine arts (art, music, drama)	3
Additional liberal arts and sciences courses as needed to meet the minimum total of 37 credit hours required in the <i>Undergraduate Degree Requirements</i> policy.	Varies

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Taken together, the intent of these policies is that students who have taken general education coursework which satisfies an OSRHE-required area at the sending institution should not be required to re-take a course from that area at the receiving institution, regardless of whether that course would satisfy said area if taken originally at the receiving institution. This applies whether or not the student has completed a degree at the sending institution before transferring. Institutions should also refrain from requiring students to take general education-type courses after transferring by categorizing these courses as “college” or “major” requirements if the general education category has been satisfied by the sending institution, especially in cases where these courses are wholly unrelated to the academic program. Note that this does not prevent institutions from requiring students to take prerequisite coursework which may, coincidentally, be general education, as required by the student’s academic program.

Please feel free to share this policy clarification with those whom you deem appropriate within your institution. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kyle Foster, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, at (405) 225-9163 or kfoster@osrhe.edu.

Sincerely,



Debbie Blanke, Ed.D.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

DJB/kf

cc: Oklahoma Academic Advising Association
Oklahoma Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers