

**System-Wide Curriculum Guidelines for AAS/AAA Degrees**  
**Adopted by Instructional Services Administrators May 5, 2005**  
**Adopted by Presidents May 4, 2005**  
**Revised by ISA November 2006**

System-wide curriculum offers faculty throughout the state opportunities to draw from best practices, facilitates student transfer of credits and increases employer confidence that all graduates are meeting comparable competencies. Statistical analysis, efficient use of resources and the ease of orientation for new or adjunct faculty are additional advantages.

**Alignment of system-wide curriculum includes:**

- program outcomes
- course number
- course title
- course description
- competencies
- performance standards
- course prerequisites
- course credits
- program credits

**The following may vary among the districts:**

- **configuration of hours** (A-lecture, B-Lab, C-Clinical, etc.) may vary to meet the needs of the district as long as the competencies are met and the credit value is the same;
- **delivery modes** (i.e. online, face-to-face, different session length) may be different;
- **course order** may be different as long as the district meets the pre-requisites and co-requisites designed by the alignment team;
- **learning activities and learning objects** designed to meet aligned competencies and performance standards may be created by the faculty designing the curriculum but it is **not required** for any statewide curriculum projects;
- **textbooks are not part** of the alignment process;
- **competency order may be different as long as minimum competencies remain the same for each course.** Additional competencies may be added as long as credit values remain the same.

All common courses in a system-wide curriculum will be transferable among all WTCS colleges offering the program and conform to the AAA/AAS program configurations.

Selection of programs for system-wide curriculum will be decided by the Instructional Services Administrators in collaboration with the Wisconsin Technical College System Office.

**Specific Guidelines:**

The goals of system-wide curriculum are:

- 100% commonality of technical studies courses
- the same number of general studies credits
- the same number of program credits
- transferability of credits between all districts offering the program

Flexibility within these guidelines is reflected in each category below.

**General Studies Course Guidelines:**

The total number of general studies credits for system-curriculum will be the same. In some cases faculty designing the curriculum may agree to a required course which should be offered at all districts; however, faculty may also choose to have all the general studies courses offered be a decision of the local district. All general studies courses will be transferable to the other districts. System-wide curriculum will allow "in lieu of" courses for general studies requirements as long as the "in lieu of" general studies courses are on the System List of General Education Courses. This may include course offered at the 200 level at the colleges offering an AA or AS degree.

**Technical Studies Course Guidelines:**

The total number of technical studies credits will be the same. All technical studies courses will be transferable to other districts. To provide flexibility in meeting local employer needs, the faculty designing the curriculum have the option of allowing individual districts the flexibility of up to 9 credits of different technical studies courses.

**Elective Course Guidelines:**

The total number of elective credits in a program will be the same (range of 0 to 6 credits). The choice of elective courses offered is at the discretion of the local district. The total number of elective credits offered at any given district may be modified to allow the inclusion of additional technical credits.