

Appendix D: Rules for Academic Associate Degrees

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 19 EDUCATION

PART 1 TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

CHAPTER 9 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC
COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICTS AND
TECHNICAL COLLEGES

SUBCHAPTER J ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

RULE §9.181 **Purpose**

This subchapter provides rules for the structure of academic associate degree programs in public community/junior and technical colleges eligible for state appropriations.

RULE §9.182 **Authority**

The Texas Education Code, Section 61.003, 61.051(e)(f), 61.0513, 61.053, 61.054, 61.055, 61.061, 61.062(c)-(d), 61.075, 130.001(b)(3)-(4), 130.003(e)(1)(2)(3) and (7) and 135.04, authorize the Coordinating Board to adopt policies, enact regulations, and establish rules for the coordination of postsecondary certificate and associate degree programs eligible for state appropriations.

RULE §9.183 **Degree Titles, Program Length, and Program Content**

(A) An academic associate degree may be called either an associate of arts (AA) or an associate of science (AS) degree.

(1) The associate of arts (AA) is the default title for an academic associate degree program if the college offers only one type of academic degree program.

(2) If a college offers both associate of arts (AA) and associate of science (AS) degrees, the degree programs may be differentiated in one of two ways, including:

(a) The AA program may have additional requirements in the liberal arts and/or the AS program may have additional requirements in disciplines such as science, mathematics, or computer science; or

(b) The AA program may serve as a foundation for the BA degree and the AS program for the BS degree.

(B) Academic associate degree programs must consist of a minimum of 60 SCH and a maximum of 66 SCH.

(C) Except as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, academic associate degree programs must incorporate the institution's approved core curriculum as prescribed by Section 4.28 of this title (relating to core curriculum and Sections 4.29 of this title (relating to core curricula larger than 42 semester credit hours).

(1) A college may offer a specialized academic associate degree that incorporates a Board-approved field of study curriculum as prescribed by Section 4.32 of this title (relating to field of study curricula) and a portion of the college's approved core curriculum if the coursework for both would total more than 66 SCH.

(2) A college that has a signed articulation agreement with a General Academic Teaching Institution to transfer a specified curriculum may offer a specialized associate degree program that incorporates that curriculum.

RULE §9.184**Approval**

Community colleges and state colleges authorized to offer transfer programs may offer academic associate degree programs that conform to these guidelines without requesting approval from the Board.

RULE §9.185**Reporting to the Board**

(a) Contact hours for courses in approved academic certificate and associate degree programs at public postsecondary institutions must be determined and reported in compliance with Board policy as outlined in the *Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual* and state law.

RULE §9.186

Disapproval of Programs; Noncompliance

No funds appropriated to any public postsecondary institution shall be expended for any academic associate degree program that is not in compliance with these rules. Existing academic degree programs must be brought into compliance by August 1, 2004.
