

Academic Standards Committee
March 11, 2026
PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF TECHNICAL STUDIES
(formerly known as the one-year option at ODHE)

Proposal:

Associate of Technical Study (ATS) degrees are awarded for successful completion of a planned program of study designed to respond to the need for specialized technical education.

The program must have an area of concentration that is equivalent to at least 30 semester credit hours (45 quarter credit hours) in technical studies and a clearly identifiable career objective. The area of concentration can either be formed by: Type A—a coherent combination of technical courses selectively drawn from two or more technical programs currently offered by the college to serve a career objective that would not be adequately addressed by one of the existing programs alone; or Type B—courses completed or training received by a student at other institutions of higher education, career centers, or other educational enterprises judged by the institution to be of college level and for which the institution awards degree credit.

Awarding an associate of technical study (ATS) degree should be reserved for those instances where the institution has developed a unique technical program of study to meet an individual student's needs, or the student has transferred in a block of non-course equivalent credit from another institution.

Associate of Technical Studies must include at least 30 semester hours of non-technical coursework, which includes both general education and applied general education courses.

The general education portion of the non-technical coursework must include at least 15 semester credit hours.

A minimum of six semester hours must be found in the following two categories:

- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the English composition from the English composition and oral communication area (e.g., first writing and/or second writing)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the mathematics, statistics and logic area (e.g., algebra, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, formal/symbolic logic)

A minimum of six semester hours must come from the following three categories, and at least two of the three categories must be represented:

- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the arts and humanities area (e.g., art history, ethics, history, literature, philosophy, religion, ethnic or gender Studies)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the social and behavioral sciences area (e.g., communication, history, economics, political science, psychology, sociology)
- At least one course (three semester credit hours) in the natural sciences area (e.g., anatomy, biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics, physiology)

The non-technical coursework should consist of 15 semester credit hours comprised of courses that fulfill the career goal of the student seeking the degree. These courses would be a selection of courses from interrelated disciplines.