



TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty

FROM: Dr. Chris Widdall
Chair, Educational Policy Committee

DATE: February 14, 2019

RE: Expansion of Transfer Credit Policy for Students with Completed
A.A.S. Degrees.

This proposal was received by the Transfer Advisory Committee and reviewed by EPC. Upon review the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) is proposing that the transfer credit policy be expanded to include students that have completed an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) degree.

Rationale

The Transfer Advisory Committee noted these items for the rationale of this requested expansion to the Transfer Credit Policy at SUNY Cortland:

Our current transfer credit policy allows students who have completed associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.) or any bachelor's degree prior to their first matriculation at Cortland to transfer coursework with D grades. This policy varies from our typical standard of a C- or better for transfer credit in order to honor full transfer of a completed degree and allow a student with an associate's degree to start at junior status. Under our current policy, completion of the associate of applied science (A.A.S.) degree does not allow a student to transfer D grades.

Recent student situations prompted a review of this policy. The Transfer Advisory Committee met and reviewed other SUNY campuses' policies as well as guidance from SUNY regarding the transfer of D grades. We also examined the role the Excelsior Scholarship plays in this policy.

In fall 2018, 26 students transferred to Cortland with a completed A.A.S. degree. This was an increase from the 2017-2018 academic year where a total of 19 students transferred with an A.A.S. degree.

Based on this review, the committee has endorsed an expansion of our policy, which would also allow students with a completed A.A.S. degree to transfer courses with grades of D (D-, D, or D+).

Other SUNY Campuses

A review of other SUNY campuses' transfer policies revealed that some campuses will transfer credit with D grades without a degree at all. SUNY Brockport, Oswego, Oneonta, and Cobleskill all have such policies. Other campuses, such as SUNY Old Westbury, allow the transfer of D grades with A.S., A.S. or A.A.S. degrees.

The Changes in the A.A.S. degree and Guidance from SUNY

Transfer Advisory Committee discussed the evolution of the A.A.S. degree over the last several decades. While the A.A.S. degree primarily focuses on applied skills to enter directly into the work force, the range of disciplines offering A.A.S. degrees have expanded. Disciplines such as human services, graphic design, photography, business, radio/TV broadcasting, early childhood education,

and criminal justice offer the associate of applied science degree at community college campuses.

In SUNY's 2013 Memorandum to Presidents (MTP) regarding Seamless Transfer Requirements 1, SUNY recognizes that "while the A.A.S. degree programs are intended to prepare students for immediate employment rather than transfer, in fact, many SUNY A.A.S. graduates in disciplinary areas such as nursing, business and criminal justice do pursue baccalaureate degrees in parallel disciplinary areas." One solution SUNY recommends to campuses is to offer parallel degree options of an A.A. /A.S. program as well as an A.A.S. option. In these cases, students may not fully understand the difference between the degrees, which can result in students enrolled in degree programs that do not support their plan to transfer.

It is important to note that as part of seamless transfer initiatives, SUNY allows campuses to accept a passing grade lower than C for transfer credit.

Excelsior Scholarship Implications

Excelsior criteria requires students to earn and transfer 30 credits per year to remain eligible for the scholarship. The loss of transfer credit for one course due to a D grade in an A.A.S. program upon transfer can cost a student thousands of dollars and deem them ineligible for the scholarship throughout the remainder of their academic career.

Based on the above factors, we are seeking to modify our policy to be more equitable to all transfer students with associate degrees and allow for the transfer of credit of D coursework with the A.A.S. degree. The proposed changes to the College Catalog and Handbook follow with the additional language in red.

Recommended Changes:

2018-2019 College Catalog

Academic Policies > Transfer Credit Policies and Evaluation

Course Work from Other Colleges or Universities

Credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of C- or better has been earned. Students who at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland have an associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.), **associate of applied science (A.A.S.)**, or any bachelor's degree will be granted credit for D grades earned in courses completed prior to matriculation at SUNY Cortland.

2018 College Handbook, Part Four

410.10 ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM OTHER COLLEGES

Usually credit is allowed only for those courses in which a grade of "C-" or better has been earned. However, credit may be granted for "D" grades if the student has received an associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.), **associate of applied science (A.A.S.)**, or any bachelor's degree at the time of first admission to SUNY Cortland.