



Academic Policy	
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Reviewing Committee:	Curriculum
Related Policies:	Graduation Requirements, Program Review, Course Review, New Academic Programs, Associate Degree Outcomes
Related Laws:	

Policy Summary: Academic Program Minimum Standards

In accordance with accrediting requirements, to assure achievement of minimum education outcomes and consistency with best practices, Jackson College ensures that awarded credentials meet minimum standards. This policy clarifies the approval process for setting these standards, and defines the minimum standards for each type of awarded credential.

Scope

This policy applies to all credit-bearing credentials offered by Jackson College.

Policy Statement

Jackson College shall establish and maintain minimum standards for awarded credentials. The minimum standards will be established in accordance with board policy and accreditation guidelines. Minimum standards will reflect industry and professional standards for the credential being awarded.

Minimum standards for programs must meet the described criteria and be presented for approval by the curriculum committee. Minimum standards shall be reviewed in accordance with the program review policies and procedures.

Definitions

Associate Degree: There are two main categories of associate degrees: transfer degrees and career or professional degrees. A transfer degree is intended to prepare the recipient for transfer to a four-year college degree program at another institution. An Associate in Applied Science is intended to prepare the recipient for a particular job after the two years of study. All associate degrees will:

1. Meet the general education outcomes (GEO) requirements (see Jackson College’s General Education Philosophy) as approved by the College board of trustees; and

2. Have a minimum of 60 credits.

Certificate: Jackson College offers certificates that are concentrated on specific skills and may include fewer general education courses than an associate degree. Employability options must be documented. All certificates will:

1. Satisfy all the requirements set forth by the gainful employment regulations for title IV funding.

Concentration: Jackson College offers concentrations, which are coordinated sets of courses whose purpose is to enable students to efficiently achieve a specific occupational goal. These programs provide a set of skills and knowledge to benefit students within specific career areas. Each concentration will:

1. Serve as building blocks toward certificates or associate degrees; and
2. Not be eligible for federal aid (i.e., Federal Pell Grants and Stafford Loans).

Skill Set: Jackson College offers skill sets, which are strategically planned groupings of courses that allow the flexibility of external demands of employers and the existing job market.

1. Provide a set of skills and knowledge to benefit students within specific career areas;
2. Not be eligible for federal aid (i.e., Federal Pell Grants and Stafford Loans).

Date Of Change	Version	Description of Change	Responsible Party
01/09/2013	1.0	Initial Release	R. Klee
03/17/15	2.0	Clerical updates	Z.McNitt
1/2/19	3.0	Bi Annual Review	Z. McNitt