

<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>712.01: Degrees and Awards</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	04-24-08
<b>SUPERSEDES:</b>	712.01 issued 02-26-04; 04-25-02; 03-26-98; 12-08-94; 03-24-05
<b>SOURCE:</b>	State Board of Education Resolution
<b>CROSS REFERENCE:</b>	703.01, 715.01, 715.02

1. Community colleges are authorized to offer programs of study leading to the associate degree in arts; associate degree in science; the associate degree in applied science; the associate degree in occupational technologies; certificate programs; and short-term certificate programs.
2. Technical colleges are authorized to offer programs of study leading to the associate degree in applied technology; the associate degree in occupational technologies; certificate programs; and short-term certificate programs.
3. Institutions are authorized to employ all pedagogically sound instructional delivery options, including various distance learning formats, in offering these degree and certificate programs. The institution offering distance learning courses and/or programs of instruction is responsible for ensuring that such courses and/or programs are of the same academic quality as all other instruction offered by the institution. Additionally, the institution is responsible for ensuring that its distance learning offerings are in accordance with the requirements of the state approving agencies and various regional and national accrediting agencies.
4. The associate in arts and associate in science degree programs are designed for students who plan to transfer to a senior institution in order to pursue a course of study in the liberal arts, sciences, or a specialized professional field.
  - 4.1. The associate in arts and associate in science degree programs shall be comprised of at least 60 semester credit hours but no more than 64 semester credit hours.
  - 4.2. Guidelines for distribution of courses and areas of study within the associate in arts and associate in science degree programs, including general education components, will be established by the Chancellor.
5. The associate in applied science and associate in applied technology degree programs are designed for students who plan to seek employment based upon the competencies and skills attained through those programs of study. While not designed to meet the needs of students who transfer to senior institutions, portions of these programs may do so.
  - 5.1. The associate in applied science degree and the associate in applied technology degree shall be comprised of at least 60 semester credit hours, but no more than 76 semester credit hours.
  - 5.2. Guidelines for distribution requirements for courses and areas of study within the associate in applied science and associate in applied technology degree programs, including general education components and exceptions to maximum credit hour requirements, will be established by the Chancellor.
6. The associate in occupational technologies degree program is designed for students seeking a

combination of technically-oriented courses to meet specific career objectives and the opportunity to become multi-skilled technicians. In addition to completing the general education requirements, students will also complete course work in primary and secondary technical specialties.

- 6.1. The associate in occupational technologies degree shall be comprised of at least 60 semester hours, but no more than 76 semester credit hours.
  - 6.2. Guidelines for distribution requirements for courses and majors of study within the associate in occupational technologies degree clusters, including general education components, exceptions to maximum credit hour requirements, and exceptions for formal award programs in non-degree clusters, will be established by the Chancellor.
7. Certificate programs below the degree level are designed for students who plan to seek employment based upon the competencies and skills attained through these programs of study.
- 8.1. Certificate programs shall be comprised of at least 30 semester credit hours, but no more than 60 semester credit hours.
  - 8.2. Short-term certificate programs equal to or less than 29 semester hours shall be comprised of at least 9 semester credit hours, but no more than 29 semester credit hours.
  - 8.3. Guidelines for distribution requirements for courses and areas of study within certificate programs, including general education components, will be established by the Chancellor.

The chancellor may authorize institutions to create and offer local informal awards.-

9. Guidelines for implementation of this policy shall be established by the Chancellor.