

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Southwest Texas Junior College offers the Associate of Arts in General Studies (A.A.) degree, the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, the Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.) degree, the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, and certificates. The requirements for each degree and certificate are listed with their respective programs. All students are required to take ORIE 0100 - New Student Orientation; however, this course does not count toward degree requirements. Students entering college for the first time and whose scores in two or more TSI areas fall below the “college-ready” threshold must complete COLS 0300, College Success Skills, instead of ORIE 0100 during their first semester of enrollment.. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation requirements.

Students failing to graduate at the expected time and completing the remaining requirements at another institution may transfer this work back to SWTJC providing the student meets the degree requirements.

Formal application for graduation can be made by contacting the SWTJC Registrar’s Office.

Students who are eligible to attend the May commencement ceremony each year are those who have completed their degree requirements in December of the previous year or who will complete their degree requirements in May or August of the current year.

### Core Curriculum Requirements

Students earning an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts in Teaching degree must complete the Core Curriculum below:

<b>Component Area</b>	<b>Course Options</b>	<b>Required SCH</b>
Communication	ENGL 1301 and 1302	6
Mathematics	MATH 1314, 1324, 1332, 1342	3
Life/Physical Science	BIOL 1306/1307, 1308/1309, CHEM 1311,1312;PHYS 1301/1302; PHYS 2325/2326	6
Language, Philosophy, and Culture	ENGL 2322, 2323, 2327, 2328, 2332, 2333 or HUMA 1301, PHIL 1301, 2306	3
Creative Arts	ARTS 1301, or DRAM , 2361, or MUSI 1306	3
American History	HIST 1301 and 1302	6
Government/Political Science	GOVT 2305/2306	6
Social & Behavioral Sciences	ECON 2301 or PSYC 2301 or SOCI 1301	3
Core Component Area Option 1	SPCH 1311 or 1321	3
Component Areas Option 2	BCIS 1305, PHED 1304, PSYC 2314, HECO (BUSI) 1307 (Personal Finance), COSC 1301, HECO 1322 (Nutrition)	3
<b>Total</b>		42

### **Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree**

The Associate of Arts in General Studies (A.A.) degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a senior college or university. This degree includes general education courses such as English, foreign language, history, government, mathematics, and lab science, which are considered to be core requirements for almost all baccalaureate degree programs. (*See a listing of core courses above.*)

Students should keep in mind the advantages of completing the requirements of a degree at Southwest Texas Junior College even if they are planning to transfer to another college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree. An obvious advantage of completing any degree is the fact that this action reflects commitment to a specific educational goal and success in meeting that goal. Earning an associate degree is evidence of taking one definable step beyond a high school diploma or the high school equivalency examination, and it is the minimum educational requirement for employment in certain positions in area businesses and industries.

#### **Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree Requirements:**

1. Satisfy minimum entrance requirements.
2. Complete the Core Curriculum (see Core Curriculum Requirements).
3. Complete additional academic coursework for a total of 60 semester credit hours, not including semester credit hours earned in ORIE 0100 or any developmental course.
3. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
4. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
5. Make formal application for graduation.
6. Must satisfy TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
7. Must follow catalog requirements of the academic year when student first enrolled at SWTJC or current catalog. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation.

### **Associate of Science Degree**

The Associate of Science (A.S.) degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a senior college or university and major in science, mathematics, or engineering. This degree includes general education courses such as English, foreign language, history, government, mathematics, and lab science, which are considered to be core requirements for almost all baccalaureate degree programs. Also, it includes additional lab science and mathematics courses required in most science, mathematics, and engineering Bachelors of Science degree programs. (*See a listing of core courses above.*)

Students should keep in mind the advantages of completing the requirements of a degree at Southwest Texas Junior College even if they are planning to transfer to another college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree. An obvious advantage of completing any degree is the fact that this action reflects commitment to a specific educational goal and success in meeting that goal. Earning an associate degree is evidence of taking one definable step beyond a high school diploma or the high school equivalency examination, and it is the minimum educational requirement for employment in certain positions in area businesses and industries.

#### **Associate of Science Degree Requirements:**

1. Satisfy minimum entrance requirements.
2. Complete the Core Curriculum (see Core Curriculum Requirements).
3. Complete additional academic coursework for a total of 60 semester credit hours including 8 semester credit hours of sophomore level lab science, 3 semester credit hours of sophomore level mathematics, and not including semester credit hours earned in ORIE 0100, COLS 0300 or any developmental course.
4. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
5. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
6. Make formal application for graduation.

7. Must satisfy TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
8. Must follow catalog requirements of the academic year when student first enrolled at SWTJC or current catalog. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog limit used for graduation.

### **Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree**

The Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree is a Board-approved collegiate degree program consisting of lower-division courses intended for transfer to baccalaureate programs that lead to initial Texas teacher certification. There are three AAT options:

1. EC-6
2. 4-8, EC-12 Special Education
3. 8-12, EC-12 Other than Special Education

These three AAT's can only be offered by Texas public community colleges, Lamar State College-Orange, and Lamar State College-Port Arthur, and are fully transferable to any Texas public university offering baccalaureate degree programs leading to initial teacher certification.

Students who complete the AAT will be required to meet any and all entrance requirements of the receiving university and the educator preparation program, including grade point average and/or testing requirements. While the degree is designed for transfer purposes, it also meets the "No Child Left Behind" requirements for paraprofessionals. In addition, completion of the AAT is much like that of an Associate of Arts in General Studies degree in that it may qualify students for work that requires at least an associate's degree. Some AAT courses require field experiences in a pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade (P-12) setting.

Because of the various degree options available within the AAT, students are advised to meet with an advisor to discuss specific details of a degree plan.

### **Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree General Requirements**

1. Satisfaction of minimum entrance requirements.
2. Complete the Core Curriculum (see Core Curriculum Requirements).
3. Complete additional academic coursework for 60 semester credit hours, not including semester credit hours earned in ORIE 0100, or any developmental course.
4. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
5. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
6. Make formal application for graduation.
7. Must satisfy TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
8. Must follow the current catalog requirements for specific AAT options (*See Associate of Associate of Arts in Teaching section*). There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation.

The curricula of the three degree options can be found in the section "Associate of Arts in Teaching Curricula."

## **Associate of Applied Science Degree**

The Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates are Board-approved collegiate programs consisting of technical courses and integrated general education courses. Students choose among a variety of career areas and acquire skills necessary to compete in the job market.

### **Associate of Applied Science Degree Requirements:**

1. Satisfaction of minimum entrance requirements.
2. Completion of specific program and course requirements (see Technical Programs).
3. Computer competencies must be verified by satisfactory completion of ITSC 1301, COSC 1301, or equivalent.
4. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
5. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
6. Make formal application for graduation.
7. Must satisfy TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
8. Must follow the catalog requirements of the academic year when the student first enrolled in the technical program or the current catalog. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation.

## **Technical Certificates**

Technical certificates are included in some Board-approved collegiate programs. Certificates consist of one year of technical instruction and, in some cases, integrated general education courses. Students choose among a variety of career areas and acquire skills necessary to compete in the job market.

### **College Certificate Program Requirements:**

1. Satisfaction of minimum entrance requirements.
2. Completion of specific program and course requirements (see Technical Programs).
3. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all college level courses.
4. Earn at least twenty-five percent of semester credit hours at SWTJC.
5. Make formal application for graduation.
6. Must follow the catalog requirements of the academic year when the student first enrolled in the technical program or the current catalog. There is a 10 year limit to the catalog used for graduation.

## **Other Certificates**

The **Core Curriculum Certificate** is awarded to students who complete the Core Curriculum Requirements as outlined above. The Core Curriculum for Southwest Texas Junior College has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; however, the certificate is an institutional award used to recognize this achievement and encourage continued student success.

The **Field of Study Curriculum Certificate** is awarded to students who complete the required number of semester credit hours satisfying one of the approved fields of study curricula as listed in the catalog (See Field of Study Curricula). Field of study certificates have been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; however, the certificate is an institutional award used to recognize this achievement and encourage continued student success.