Proposal Date: January 21, 2014

University College

Dean’s Office

Proposal to Revise an Academic Policy

(Action Item)

**Contact Person**: Merrall Price, [merrall.price@wku.edu](mailto:merrall.price@wku.edu), x5-4200.

**Identification of proposed policy revision:** General Education Requirements for Associate Degrees

1. **Catalog statement of existing policy:**

**General Education Requirements for Associate Degrees**

Students in Associate Degree programs must take a minimum

of 15 hours of General Education courses as outlined below:

* **Category A1: Organization and**

**Communication of Ideas......................3 hours**

ENG 100/ENGL 100C Freshman English

* **Category B: Humanities.......................3 hours**

Any class from section I or section II (Electives)

* **Category C: Social and Behavioral**

**Sciences................................................6 hours**

Any two classes

* **Category D: Natural Sciences-**

**Mathematics..........................................3 hours**

Any class from section I (Science) or section II (Mathematics)

1. **Catalog statement of proposed policy:**

**General Education Requirements for Associate Degrees**

Students in Associate Degree programs must take a minimum

of 15 hours of General Education courses as outlined below:

* **College Composition (WC)**

**3 hours**

* **Arts and Humanities (AH)**

**3 hours**

* **Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB)**

**3 hours**

* **Quantitative Reasoning (QR) or Natural and Physical Sciences (NS)**

**3 hours**

* **One other class from the Foundations OR Explorations categories:**

**3 hours**

1. **Rationale for proposed policy revision:**

Although the change to the Colonnade Program for students seeking baccalaureate degrees is well underway, corresponding change has not been made to the general education requirements for an associate’s degree. As a result, without this proposed change, the catalog would still have to retain references to outdated general education categories, but more importantly, students who complete an associate’s degree program and continue on to a baccalaureate would not be able to move smoothly from one to the other. For example, several courses that were approved as general education courses under the old system have not been approved as Colonnade classes, and the “Foundations” part of the Colonnade program focuses more heavily on the humanities than on social and behavioral sciences. Even the “Explorations” part of the program asks for only three credit hours in social and behavioral sciences, whereas the associate’s degree currently asks for six. This means that, without this change, students may complete their general education requirements for a WKU associate’s degree to find that one or more of their courses do not count toward a WKU baccalaureate.

This proposal revises the general education requirements for an associate’s degree to more closely mirror those of the Colonnade Program, while still retaining the basic categories required by SACS, namely:

*“In each undergraduate degree program, the institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level that (1) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree, (2) ensures breadth of knowledge, and (3) is based on a coherent rationale. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent. These credit hours are to be drawn from and include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. The courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.”*

Please note that this proposal covers the generic minimums only, replacing the text currently on page 41 of the catalog; individual associate degree programs will revise their own programs as necessary, and, as before, will be allowed to specify that their students take particular courses that fit these categories.

1. **Impact of proposed policy revision on existing academic or non-academic policies:**
   1. Impact on policies:

Will make policies consistent at different degree levels.  
4.2 Impact on populations that may be affected:

Will lessen the risk that students moving from one degree to another will have to take delay graduation and take additional unnecessary classes.

1. **Proposed term for implementation: Fall 2014.**
2. **Dates of prior committee approvals:**

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| Department/ Unit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **N/A** |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_College Curriculum Committee | **N/A** |
| UCC Academic Policy Subcommittee (if applicable) |
| Undergraduate Curriculum Committee |  |
| University Senate |  |