

# West Virginia Northern Community College

## General Education Curriculum

Rule Number: NC-3006 Draft

Effective Date:

Date Approved by WVNCC Board of Governors:

Authority Reference: WV Code §18B-2B-6; West Virginia Council for Community and  
Technical College Education Title 135, Series 11, Section 3

Replaces previous rule dated: March 1, 2011

### **Purpose:**

To establish the minimum general education core curriculum requirements

### **Rule:**

Certificate and associate degree programs are central to the mission of the community and technical college. A prescribed curriculum sets academic standards and goals for achievement for students.

Because of its commitment to the total development of the individual, the College requires all students enrolled in academic programs to complete a general education core curriculum. The vision and philosophy of general education is stated in the College catalog.

Certificate and associate degree programs must include a full complement of general education requirements that define what constitutes an educated person, including essential communication and computation skills. A strong foundation general education curriculum for degrees should include courses in the arts, the humanities, mathematics, the natural sciences, and the social sciences. Specifics for each degree vary as outlined below.

**Associate in Arts Degree** - The purpose of the AA is to prepare students for transfer to a baccalaureate institution. For successful transfer with program emphasis in arts, humanities, social sciences, and similar areas, a substantial component of this degree, a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework shall be in general education.

**Associate in Science Degree** - For successful transfer with program emphasis in agriculture, engineering and technology, and the sciences with a substantial undergraduate requirement in mathematics and the natural sciences, a large component of this degree, a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework shall be in general education.

**Associate in Applied Science Degree** - For successful entry directly into employment in a specific career and to provide basic foundation for life-long learning and future career changes, a minimum of 15 semester hours of coursework shall be in general education unless otherwise related to the accrediting agency.

**Certificate Degree Program** - As the foundation of the Associates in Applied Science degree and for successful entry into employment in a specific career, a minimum of 6 semester hours of coursework shall be in general education, including essential communication and computation skills.

During the five-year program review cycle, the College shall assess and document that the purpose, intent and goals of the program are consistent with the degree designation and the full complement of general education courses support program learning outcomes. The College also assesses general education and academic courses on a set assessment cycle.