

Policy on Certificate, Diploma, and ~~Two-Year~~ Associate Degree Programs

(Applicable to Undergraduate Education Only)

Proposed changes to emphasize credit requirements rather than time to completion and to remove language that goes beyond program requirements as articulated in Standards 7 and 9.

Generally, the purposes of certificate, diploma, and ~~two-year~~ associate degree programs are to provide the benefits of a biblical higher education to those students (1) who do not elect to complete a four-year degree, (2) who are planning to transfer to another college or university, or (3) who are preparing for an occupation or ministry that does not require a four-year degree. The terms “certificate” and “diploma” are considered synonymous for ABHE purposes. Whether the program is terminal (preparation for immediate entry into a career or profession) or designed for transfer (preparation for further education), the following guidelines apply:

1. ~~One and two-year~~ Certificate/diploma programs requiring the equivalent of up to 60 semester hours and associate degrees must include a core of Bible/theology studies the equivalent ~~of to~~ 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) ~~of biblical/theological studies that emphasize an examination of those biblical principles that are essential for the development of a biblical worldview.~~
2. Associate degree programs must include a core of general studies equivalent to a minimum of 15 semester hours (24 quarter hours), ~~of general studies that emphasize examination of the presuppositions underlying the various disciplines in light of biblical principles. Or with one or more courses~~ must be drawn from each of the following four disciplines: Communication, Humanities/humanities/Fine fine Artsarts, Natural natural Sciencescience/Mathematicsmathematics, and Socialsocial/Behavioral behavioral Sciencessciences.
3. ~~Three-year~~ Certificate/diploma programs requiring the equivalent of 61-90 semester hours must include a core of Bible/theology studies the equivalent ~~of to~~ 24 semester hours (36 quarter hours) ~~of biblical/theological studies.~~
4. ~~Four-year~~ Certificate/diploma programs requiring the equivalent of 91 or more semester hours must include a core of Bible/theology studies the equivalent ~~of to~~ 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) ~~of biblical/theological studies.~~
5. ~~Students must be afforded the opportunity to actively~~ All certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs must participate in a program of include academic and/or co-curricular ministry preparation for all students ministry formation.

- ~~6. Students must be challenged to develop a personal philosophy of ministry that emphasizes the application of biblical principles to both the unchanging need of humanity and the changing issues and needs of modern society.~~
- ~~7. Students must be afforded the opportunity to formulate a biblical worldview based upon their biblical and general studies and their involvement in ministry.~~
- ~~8. Students must be challenged to embody the characteristics and spirit of Jesus Christ.~~

Applicable Standards: Standard 7, 9

Adopted October 1979; Revised October 1987, October 1990, June 2018; Proposed February 2026