NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Number: 3.36	Name: Degrees and Certificates
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Effective Date: January 27, 2012	Next Review Date: AY2015-2016
Regulatory Authority: MnSCU Board Policy 3.36	

Part 1. Policy Background

The Degrees and Certificates Policy guides the granting of awards and requirements needed for completion

Part 2. General Education Philosophy

North Hennepin Community College values independent thinking, creativity, and teamwork; students develop lifelong learning skills to prepare them for the interdependent, changing global economy. General education provides a foundation of knowledge in a variety of disciplines; students learn to communicate, think, and apply what they learn in their family, career and social lives.

At North Hennepin Community College, learners expand their intellectual capacity by developing a deeper, broader understanding of the world and building communication and thinking skills. Learners make life decisions by reflecting on their values, connecting them to what they learn, and applying them as engaged citizens. They engage in scholarly activities, develop an understanding and appreciation of culture, and enjoy the pursuit of knowledge.

At North Hennepin Community College the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) provides the general education distribution requirements for the degree programs. The MnTC is designed to give students a college-level general education curriculum that focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in modern society.

Part 3. Degrees and Certificates Offered at North Hennepin Community College

Subpart A. Associate in Arts A.A.

The Associate in Arts (AA) is awarded for successful completion of 60 credits and is designed for transfer to constitute the first two years of a liberal arts bachelor degree program. An AA degree includes the entire Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC)(40 semester credits in all ten goal areas) as the general education requirement. Students may also choose to concentrate in a particular field of study in preparation for a planned major or professional emphasis at a four-year college by following the pre-major requirements of the desired transfer institution in addition to the MnTC and AA requirements.

A student shall:

- 1. Earn a minimum of 20 semester credits of the 60 credits required for the AA degree at North Hennepin Community College.
- 2. Earn a grade point average of 2.0 (C) or higher in courses taken at North Hennepin Community College.
- Complete the general education distribution requirement listed in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. The student shall select general education (MnTC) courses numbered 1000 or above to complete a minimum of 40 credits.
- 4. Have four years to complete the graduation requirements as published in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment. Students taking longer than four years to complete

their graduation requirements may follow any catalog published during the four year period preceding their graduation.

Required AA Degree Course Distribution

- 1. Complete 40 credits in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum satisfying the requirements for each of the 10 goal areas
- 2. Complete at least 3 credits for the Wellness requirement with at least one course from each of the following areas: Health (all courses) and Physical Education (all courses).
- 3. Complete 17 elective credits selected from all courses listed in the College's offerings, which are numbered 1000 or higher. If the student intends to transfer, he/she is encouraged to work with a counselor or adviser to fulfill requirements for transfer to the other institution.

Subpart B. Associate in Science A.S.

The Associate of Science (AS) degree is intended for students whose primary goal is to prepare for transfer to complete a bachelor's degree at a college or university who North Hennepin Community College has an articulation agreement and/or complete the credentials for a specific career. The AS degree provides a balance of general education courses and the required scientific, professional, or technical courses in the degree program.

A student shall:

- Earn a minimum of 60 semester credits as required in the program, with a grade point average of 2.00 (C) or above in courses taken at North Hennepin Community College. Specific programs may have additional requirements or a higher minimum grade point average.
- 2. Earn a minimum of 20 semester credits at North Hennepin Community College. A student must complete at least 50% of career specific courses at North Hennepin Community College.
- 3. Earn 30 credits in at least 6 MnTC goal areas.
- 4. Earn 30 professional/technical credits.
- 5. Have four years to complete the graduation requirements as published in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment. Students taking longer than four years to complete their graduation requirements may follow any catalog published during the four year period preceding their graduation.

Subpart C. Associate in Fine Arts A.F.A.

An Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degree is intended for students whose primary goal is to complete a program in a designated discipline in fine arts. The AFA degree is designed for transfer to a baccalaureate degree.

A student shall:

- Earn a minimum of 60 semester credits as required in the program, with a grade point average of 2.00 (C) or above in courses taken at North Hennepin Community College. Specific programs may have additional requirements or a higher minimum grade point average.
- 2. Earn a minimum of 20 semester credits at North Hennepin Community College. A student must complete at least 50% of fine arts courses at North Hennepin Community College.
- 3. Earn 24 credits in at least 6 MnTC goal areas. AFA in Theatre requires 40 credits in all 10 goal areas.
- 4. Earn 36 professional/technical credits; 20 professional/technical credits for Theatre AFA.
- 5. Have four years to complete the graduation requirements as published in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment. Students taking longer than four years to complete their graduation requirements may follow any catalog published during the four year period preceding their graduation.

Subpart D. Associate in Applied Science A.A.S.

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree is intended for those students who plan to use the competence gained through their degree for immediate employment or enhancing current career skills. The AAS degree includes a minimum of 20 semester credits in general education selected from at least three of the ten goal areas of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC). The MnTC courses within the AAS programs transfer to any Minnesota State College or University. Many of the AAS degree programs have articulation agreements with four-year institutions for transfer of the program.

A student shall:

- Earn a minimum of 60-72 semester credits as required in the program with a grade point average of 2.00 (C) or above in courses taken at North Hennepin Community College. Specific programs may have additional requirements or a higher minimum grade point average.
- 2. Earn a minimum of 20 semester credits at North Hennepin Community College, A student must complete at least 50% of the professional or technical courses at North Hennepin Community College.
- 3. Earn 20 credits in at least 3 MnTC goal areas
- 4. Earn 40-52 professional/technical credits
- 5. Have four years to complete the graduation requirements as published in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment. Students taking longer than four years to complete their graduation requirements may follow any catalog published during the four year period preceding their graduation.

Subpart E. Certificate

Certificates may be earned for successful completion of courses in a specialized program of study with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 (C). A certificate shall include 9 – 30 credits. At least one third of the credits must be completed at North Hennepin Community College.

Part 4. Degree/Program Completion

- 1. Students may complete more than one certificate or degree at NHCC.
- 2. A separate degree application must be submitted for each certificate or degree.
- 3. A student must apply for each degree or certificate in the Registrar's Office. Application for degree must be made in the first five weeks of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.
- 4. A student has four years to complete the graduation requirements as published in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment. Students taking longer than four years to complete their graduation requirements may follow any catalog published during the four year period preceding their graduation.

Policy Review Action	Date(s)
Campus Community Review Period	
Academic Affairs and Standards Council Review (academic policies)	
Shared Governance Council Review	01-27-12
Bargaining Unit Review	
Student Senate Review (student-related policies)	
President Approval	
Campus Community Dissemination	

History

Formerly III-0202 Date of Adoption Revised 11-13-97 10-02-03 11-23-05 01-27-12