

# WASHINGTON'S TRANSFER DEGREES

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- Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) associate degree (1971)
- Associate of Science – Transfer (AS-T) degrees (2000)
- Major-Related Programs (MRPs) (2003)

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

- Institutions
  - Community and Technical Colleges (CTC)
  - Public and private nonprofit four-year universities and colleges
- Multi-Sector Higher Education Councils and Commissions
  - Joint Transfer Council (JTC)
  - Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC)
- Sector Organizations/Agencies
  - Council of Presidents (COP)
  - Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)
  - State Board for Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
- State Agency
  - Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

# KEY TERMS

Terms	
• Baccalaureate Institutions (BI)	• Common Course Numbering (CCN)
• Council of Presidents (COP)	• Credit in the Major
• Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)	• General Education Credit/ University Requirements
• State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)	• General Elective Credit

# GETTING TO KNOW WASHINGTON'S TRANSFER DEGREES

- Two Primary Transfer Degrees
  - DTA: A flexible and general transfer degree pathway
  - AS-T: A transfer degree pathway for students focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Commonalities for students who complete a DTA, AS-T
  - Enter a four-year institution with 90 transferrable quarter credits or 60 semester credits and junior standing
  - Begin at the four-year institution with a significant portion of the four-year degree completed
- MRPs: Course plans that fit within either the DTA or the AS-T degree pathways

# DTA

(A.K.A. ASSOCIATE IN ARTS OR ASSOCIATE IN ARTS AND SCIENCES)

- Designed to complete the lower-division general education requirements toward most baccalaureate degrees at Washington's four-year institutions
- Includes 60 quarter credits of general education courses distributed among traditional liberal arts areas
- Includes 30 elective credits
- Provides students with:
  - Completion of lower division general education requirements
  - Opportunity to explore fields of study
  - Opportunity to complete some pre-requisites for a future major
- Accepted by all Washington public four-year institutions and most Washington private, nonprofit four-year colleges and universities

# AS-T

- Focused on math and science courses for students preparing to transfer in the STEM fields
- Includes fewer general education courses in the first two years
- Offers Two Tracks:
  - Track 1: Biological Sciences, Environmental/Resource Sciences, Chemistry, Geology and Earth Science
  - Track 2: Engineering, Computer Science, Physics and Atmospheric Sciences
- Provides students with:
  - Completion of lower-division general education requirements in a distribution similar to that completed by baccalaureate engineering or science students in their first two years.
  - Opportunity to complete math and science prerequisites in order to transfer and begin upper-division work in the major.
- Accepted by all public four-year institutions and many private, nonprofit four-year colleges and universities

# MRP

- Course plans within the structure of either the DTA or AS-T
- Focused on specific majors offered at multiple four-year institutions that have significant prerequisites in the freshman/sophomore year and are in high student demand
- Ten MRPs
  - Based on the DTA: Biology, Business, Computer Science, Construction Management, Math Education, Music, Nursing, and Pre-Nursing..
  - Based on the AS-T Track 2:Engineering, and Engineering Technology
- Each MRP has its own set of participating four-year institutions



# UNDERSTANDING THE DTA OR AS-T DEGREE AGREEMENTS

- The Intercollege Relations Commission (ICRC) [Handbook](#) provides greater detail about the transfer agreements and the overall transfer framework in Washington.
- The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) [website](#) on transfer houses the current transfer agreements.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE AAS-T DEGREE (ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE-TRANSFER)

- Focused on CTC students completing a professional technical program
- Limited Transferability
  - Some credits may transfer
  - The degree may transfer as a degree to a limited number of four-year institutions or Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs.
- Critical for advisors and students to connect with four-year institutions and programs

# INTRODUCTION TO THE AAS DEGREE (ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE)

- Focused on CTC students who do not want to transfer but want to enter the workforce with a two-year degree
- Areas of focus include accounting, marketing, business technology, nursing, computer science and advanced manufacturing
- In general, this degree does not transfer to Washington's four-year institutions.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

Is there a preference for the DTA or the AS-T?

- They are both strong transfer degrees. Students should identify the degree that best meets their educational goals.

Does either the DTA or AS-T guarantee admission to a four-year institution or admission into a major?

- No. Admission to a four-year institution or major is not guaranteed. Institutions will apply the 90 quarter credits required to complete a DTA or AS-T to the credits required for a baccalaureate degree.

Do students pursuing a DTA still need to focus on a major or area of focus?

- Yes. Students should focus on a major or area of focus as early as the student is prepared in order to align their two-year pathway with their four-year year educational pathway.

May four-year institutions require a higher GPA for admission than the 2.0 GPA required in the DTA or AS-T?

- Yes and they may also require certain GPAs in certain courses

If an associate degree has the word “transfer” in the title is it designed to fulfill the general education requirements at four-year colleges and universities?

- No. Only degrees identified as the DTA are designed to meet all or most general education requirements at four-year colleges and universities.

Do all associate degrees transfer?

- No. The AAS-T and AAS have limited transfer.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

Do some of the MRPs require more than 90 credits?

- Yes. The DTA/MRP in Nursing requires 135 quarter credits and the DTA/MRP in Music requires 101-104 quarter credits.

Do Washington transfer students lose credits or take longer to graduate than a first-time, first year student?

- We do not consider credits earned as “lost” simply because they may not apply toward the degrees offered at all institutions students attend on the way to completing their educational goals. However, Washington transfer students graduate with a bachelor’s degree with a similar number of total credits as those who start at four-year institutions as freshman. In fact, Washington students transfer with an associate’s degree and earn bachelor’s degrees at much higher rates than students nationally.

Do professional technical degrees transfer to four-year institutions?

- The credits earned and/or the AAS-T degree may transfer to specific programs at some of the four-year institutions or applied bachelor degree programs.

Do AS-T degree earners fill all of the lower division general requirements like DTA degree earners?

- No. AS-T degree earners do not because fewer lower division general requirements are taken to allow for more math and science at the two-year institutions.

Can students transfer without a degree?

- Yes, however, these credits are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. Students should determine the best transfer path to meet their educational goals by talking with both CTC and four-year advisors.

# RESOURCES

- Joint Transfer Council  
<http://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/transfer/joint-transfer-council.aspx>
- ICRC  
<http://www.washingtoncouncil.org/icrc>
- Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges  
<http://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/transfer/>
- Public and Private, Nonprofit four-year universities and colleges
  - <http://www.icwashington.org>
  - <http://www.councilofpresidents.org>
- Washington Student Achievement Council  
<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/transfers>

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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