

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Associate's Degree Programs

The University of South Carolina offers the Associate in Arts degree and the Associate in Science degree at the Union campus to those students who have earned 60 hours of credit and completed the following requirements:

- Learning Outcomes
- Carolina Core - All Associates
- Associate of Arts Degree Curriculum
- Associate of Science Degree Curriculum
- Other Requirements
- Second Associate's Degree

Learning Outcomes for Associate's Degree Programs

Graduates will be able to:

- Identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through writing.
- Apply the methods of mathematical, statistical, or analytical reasoning to critically evaluate data, solve problems, and effectively communicate findings verbally and graphically.
- Apply the principles and language of the natural sciences and associated technologies to historical and contemporary issues.
- Communicate in more than one language.
- Use the principles of historical thinking to understand past human societies.
- Use the principles of the social sciences to explore diverse cultural identities and to analyze political and environmental issues.
- Create or interpret literary, visual or performing arts.

and be able to demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through speaking.
- Collect, manage and evaluate information using technology, and communicate findings.
- Examine different kinds of social and personal values, analyzing the ways in which these are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.

Carolina Core - 15 Hours

The Carolina Core curriculum provides the common core of knowledge, skill, and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduates. It has 10 Core components, each with learning outcomes and credit hour requirements. The Core begins with foundational courses early in the undergraduate experience, followed by one or more integrative courses near the end in which selected Core learning outcomes are integrated into the chosen major.

Each of the ten Core components must be met with a Core-approved course. While most Core-approved courses fulfill a single Core component, a few courses, called overlay-eligible courses, have been approved to fulfill two Core components. Every associate degree-

seeking student is required to complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of Core-approved courses.

Transfer students who enter USC Columbia, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, or Union are subject to the Carolina Core requirements. Any transfer courses that equate to Carolina Core courses will equate to both content and all outcomes associated with the USC Course.

Visit the Carolina Core website (<http://www.sc.edu/generaleducation/>) for more information.

Carolina Core Courses

- Foundational Courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/>)
- Integrative Courses (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/carolina-core-courses/#integrativecoursestext>)

Associate of Arts Degree Curriculum - 60 Hours

1. Carolina Core General Education Requirements (37-38 Hours)

All course selections are from the approved Carolina Core Learning Outcomes list unless otherwise specified.

- **CMW: Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written** (6 hours)

Note: ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

- **ARP: Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving** (3 hours)

Note: Select from MATH, CSCE, PHIL, STAT, including MATH 111 (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/search/?P=MATH%20111>) Basic College Mathematics or MATH 115 (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/search/?P=MATH%20115>) Precalculus Mathematics

- **SCI: Scientific Literacy** (7-8 hours)

Note: Must include at least 1 laboratory science course

- **GFL: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language** (0-3 hours)

Note: One 3-hour language course at any level or a score of "2" on the placement exam

- **GHS: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking** (3 hours)
- **GSS: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences** (6 hours)
- **AIU: Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding** (6 hours)
- **Select one of the following three options** (3 hours minimum)
 - **CMS: Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Speech** (3 hours)
 - **INF: Information Literacy** (3 hours)
 - **VSR: Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility** (3 hours)

2. Electives for A.A. Degrees (22-23 hours)

Electives may be any additional courses not used to fulfill the previously stated requirements. Students who intend to apply these credits toward a baccalaureate degree awarded by another campus or institution are advised to work closely with an academic advisor to choose electives

that will meet preliminary requirements of the four-year major they wish to pursue. Of particular importance is completion of general education requirements. USC Columbia requires a minimum of 31 general education credit hours and a student planning to pursue a USC Columbia baccalaureate degree must complete these hours. These hours can be incorporated within the 60 hours required for an AA or AS degree when electives are carefully selected. Applying for an associate's degree does not in any manner affect eligibility to apply for a baccalaureate degree, and vice versa.

Associate of Science Degree Curriculum - 60 Hours

1. Carolina Core General Education Requirements (38-42 Hours)

All course selections are from the approved Carolina Core Learning Outcomes list unless otherwise specified.

- **CMW: Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written** (6 hours)

Note: ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

- **ARP: Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving** (6 hours)

Note: Select from MATH, CSCE, PHIL, STAT, including MATH 111 (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/search/?P=MATH%20111>) Basic College Mathematics or MATH 115 (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/search/?P=MATH%20115>) Precalculus Mathematics

- **SCI: Scientific Literacy** (8-12 hours)

Note: Must include at least 2 laboratory science courses

- **GFL: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language** (0-3 hours)

Note: One 3-hour language course at any level or a score of "2" on the placement exam

- **GHS: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking** (3 hours)
- **GSS: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences** (6 hours)
- **AIU: Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding** (3 hours)
- **Select one of the following three options** (3 hours minimum)
 - **CMS: Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Speech** (3 hours)
 - **INF: Information Literacy** (3 hours)
 - **VSR: Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility** (3 hours)

2. Electives for A.S. Degrees (18-22 Hours) Electives may be any additional courses not used to fulfill the previously stated requirements. Students who intend to apply these credits toward a baccalaureate degree awarded by another campus or institution are advised to work closely with an academic advisor to choose electives that will meet preliminary requirements of the four-year major they wish to pursue. Of particular importance is completion of general education requirements. USC Columbia requires a minimum of 31 general education credit hours and a student planning to pursue a USC Columbia baccalaureate degree must complete these hours. These hours can be incorporated within the 60 hours required for an AA or AS degree when electives are carefully selected. Applying for an associate's degree does not in any manner affect eligibility to apply for a baccalaureate degree, and vice versa.

Other Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the A.A. and A.S. degrees stated above, the following stipulations also apply:

- Students must have an institutional GPA of 2.00 or better (does not include course grades earned by challenge examinations).
- A minimum of 15 semester hours must be earned at USC Union.
- No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees.
- Pass-Fail option on elective courses is allowed.
- No more than 15 hours of nontraditional credits, which include DANTES, CLEP, and military experience.
- No more than 3 1-hour PEDU activity courses may count toward meeting Associate's degree requirements (any track).

Second Associate's Degree

At times the University of South Carolina Union confers a second associate's degree upon candidates who have completed all requirements for the second degree, provided that the additional requirements for the second degree include a minimum of 12 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree earned at USC Union and a minimum of 72 semester hours total. Under this policy a student may apply for two degrees at one time or separately. In either case the student would receive two diplomas.

Baccalaureate Degree Programs

Many students who enter the Associate in Arts or the Associate in Science degree programs intend to apply these credits toward a baccalaureate degree awarded by another institution. These students are advised to work closely with their advisor to outline a program of study for the first two years that will meet preliminary requirements of the four-year major they wish to pursue. These students are strongly advised to obtain and use the bulletin for the Columbia campus when determining specific degree requirements.

All undergraduate students must take a 3-credit course or its equivalent with a passing grade in the subject areas of History, Political Science, or African American Studies that covers the founding documents including the United State Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and one or more documents that are foundational to the African American Freedom struggle, and a minimum of five essays from the Federalist papers. This course may count as a requirement in any part of the program of study, including the Carolina Core, the major, minor or cognate, or as a general elective. Courses that meet this requirement are listed here (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/founding-document-courses/>).

Transfer Pathways

USC Union has established transfer pathways within the USC System in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education – USC Upstate
- Elementary Education – USC Columbia
- Elementary Education – USC Upstate
- Hospitality Management – USC Columbia
- Middle-Level Education (Math, ELA, Social Studies) – USC Upstate
- Middle-Level Education (Science) – USC Upstate
- Nursing – USC Aiken

