>>> Siv Serene Barnum 10/6/2014 9:49 AM >>>

**AGS:**

The Associate of General Studies page 47 of the 2014-15 catalog, is our least restricted degree in regards to what grades and courses are applied towards meeting degrees requirements. Over the last couple of years I have seen many AAS/Certificates programs encourage their students to apply for the AGS along with the AAS/CERT program they are completing. It appears the AGS is considered a ‘Transfer’ degree, though in the loosest sense of the word. This has caused some issues for our students in really being ready to transfer mainly for two reasons.

1)     Grades

2)     What is a transferable course

1)The Foundational Skills, Writing, Math, Health/PE have to be completed with a C- or higher for all – AGS, AAS, and CERTS. The rest of the courses for the AGS can be taken for a **D** grade. While the grade for the Foundation Skills is in accordance with the rest of our AAS/CERT degrees, most programs post C- or higher for the Discipline Studies area as well.

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Take a look at the Juvenile Corrections 1 year certificate page 134 of the 2014-15 catalog, where it states if a student completes their 1 yr cert they can also meet the AGS requirements. However, all the HS, PSY and SOC courses must be passed with a grade of **C** or better. These are courses that are used towards the AGS’s Discipline Studies area. In fact, we could graduate a student with an AGS and not the Juvenile Corrections certificate if they receive a grade of D for any HS, PSY or SOC courses. Interestingly enough the student is going to have to retake the course for a higher grade so they can achieve their real goal, the real reason they are at Lane which is the Juvenile Corrections certificate not the AGS.

Possibly it is time to look at the AGS allowing D grades to meet over 80% of the degree.

2)If you look at the list of courses allowed in the Discipline Studies area you will find a wide assortment of courses. Most of these will not be considered transferable to another institution other than electives. For instance we are allowing for the Arts and Letters and Social Science areas all Effective Learning (EL), Career Guidance (CG), Humane Development (HD) and Human Services (HS) to meet the DS requirement.

Are students leaving Lane with an AGS prepared? Is it time the AGS was brought into the 21st century, reflecting the needs of our community?

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