

**Lane Community College Board of Education  
Associate of Science Degree Changes  
January 2014**

Executive Summary

On December 4, the Curriculum Committee approved two new options to the Associate of Science Degree: A direct transfer option to the University of Oregon and a direct transfer option to Oregon State University. The current AS degree is to be retained as a third option.

The two new plans are based on the lower division general education requirements at the UO (Option 1) and OSU (Option 2). Each plan utilizes our already existing articulation agreements with these two universities to provide a clear pathway for students who know where they plan to enroll after leaving Lane. Students completing either of these options would earn the Associate of Science (AS) degree.

These two new options for earning the AS degree would be in addition to the current AS degree plan, rather than a replacement for it.

Rationale for new degree options:

1. Provide more options for students to earn an associate's degree, by adding two clear, efficient, and appealing pathways for students who transfer to the UO and OSU.
2. Improve efficiency of student financial aid, by allowing students to declare a more accurate degree goal.
3. Provide an opportunity for improving the number of students receiving a degree from Lane prior to transfer, which will benefit students and the college.
4. Provide an opportunity for improving seamless transfer for Lane students transferring to the UO and OSU, by integrating each university's general education requirements into one of Lane's associate's degrees.

We are requesting that the Board approve these two new options.

Attachments:

FAQ's

Direct Transfer to the University of Oregon plan

Direct Transfer to Oregon State University plan

## Associate of Science Proposal FAQ's

1. How will this proposal benefit students?
  2. Why now?
  3. Are there any community college precedents?
  4. Why focus on the Associate of Science degree?
  5. Shouldn't the Associate of Science degree have a large number of "science" requirements?
  6. What data support the idea that Lane students would want these options?
  7. How do the new options' requirements compare to Lane's current AS degree?
  8. Won't these decreases in Science/Math/CS requirements hurt enrollment in Science division classes?
  9. What about the possible effect on enrollment in PE classes?
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### **1. How will this proposal benefit students?**

- a. It offers two clear and efficient plans that are precisely aligned to bachelor's degree requirements at the two schools where the majority of our students transfer.
- b. It resolves a dilemma faced by students who want the most efficient path toward a bachelor's degree (i.e. "direct transfer") but also would like to earn an associate's degree from Lane.
- c. Earning an associate's degree is a kind of "insurance policy" in case students need to stop out of the university-- 23% to 39% of students who transfer to OUS institutions without an associate's degree don't earn bachelors degrees.
- d. Students with associate's degrees earn more than those with no degree; and are more employable if they have to work while in school.
- e. Students who transfer to OUS universities with an associate's degree graduate at a higher rate than students who transfer without a degree.

### **2. Why now?**

- a. Consistent with statewide directive on facilitating seamless transfer, and the Oregon "40-40-20 plan."
- b. Recent Financial Aid eligibility changes make "Direct transfer" students [non-degree seeking] no longer eligible for financial aid.

### **3. Are there any community college precedents?**

- a. Yes—Linn-Benton revised their AS degree to match OSU's Baccalaureate Core general education requirements in 2001.

- i. OSU treats the AS degree from LBCC the same way as AAOT degree—OSU guarantees that all lower division general education requirements are met if a student holds an AS degree from LBCC.
  - ii. LBCC awards more AS degrees than Lane, and almost as many AS degrees as AAOT's. Lane awarded 61 AS degrees and 550 AAOT degrees last year. Average number of AS degrees in 2006-2012 was 44.2.
- b. Yes—Rogue Community College has created several specific associate degree plans based on Southern Oregon University's General Education requirements
- c. Washington State and California have created statewide associate degrees with university general education requirements embedded in community college associate degrees.

**4. Why focus on the Associate of Science degree?**

- a. The AS is the only degree we have control over—we can't create a new transfer degree.
- b. The AS is underutilized now—Lane awards only 50-60 AS degrees per year (compared to 550 AAOT's).

**5. Shouldn't the Associate of Science degree have a large number of "science" requirements?**

- a. No—our requirement of 9 courses [typically 36 credits] in Science is left over from the 1990's when the universities required 36 credits of science or social science for Bachelor of Science. This requirement was dropped in late 1990's at the universities.
- b. No—all other Oregon community colleges long ago lowered the number of required science credits for the AS degree. The average number of science credits for all Oregon AS degrees is now is 11 credits, with several colleges requiring only 7 credits (PCC), or 12 credits (LBCC, Chemeketa) of science for their AS degrees. Only one college is above 15 credits (Klamath requires 24).

**6. What data support the idea that Lane students would want these options?**

- a. In 2005-2011, 75.1% of all Lane transfer students left without earning a Lane degree—i.e., they did a "direct transfer" to a 4-year university. 20.4% of these students earned 90 or more credits at Lane.
- b. Approximately 75% of Lane transfers go to the University of Oregon. During 2010-11, only 18.6% of Lane transfers to the UO earned a Lane degree:
  - i. 16.2% earned the AAOT, and 2.4% earned either the AS, ASOT-Business, or AGS degrees
  - ii. Of the 1,108 students who transferred to the UO without a Lane degree, 133 (or 12%) had earned 90 or more credits at Lane
  - iii. The majority of Lane students who transfer to the UO follow the "UO Direct Transfer Plan."
  - iv. The proposed new "AS Degree: Option 1" is based on this UO Direct Transfer plan. It seems reasonable to think that many students who

complete 90 credits and are already following this Direct Transfer plan will choose Option 1 and earn their AS degree.

- c. A similar case can be made for Option 2, which will serve students who plan to transfer to OSU.

**7. How do the new options' requirements compare to Lane's current AS degree?**

- a. For Option 1:
  - i. The number of credits in the Arts and Letters is higher (15 credits compared to 8-9 in current AS)
  - ii. The number of credits in the Social Science area is higher (15 credits compared to 8-9 in current AS)
  - iii. The number of credits in the Science/Math/CS area is lower (15 credits compared to 27-36 in current AS)
  - iv. The number of credits in Health/PE is lower (0 compared to 3 in current AS)
- b. For Option 2:
  - i. The number of credits in the Arts & Letters (including Speech) and Social Science areas is higher (19 credits compared to 17-18 in current AS).
  - ii. The number of credits in the Science/Math/CS area is lower (12 credits of Science with Labs compared to 27-36 credits in current AS.
  - iii. The requirement of 3 credits of Health or PE is changed to 3 credits of Health

**8. Won't these decreases in Science/Math/CS requirements hurt enrollment in Science division classes?**

- a. Probably not very much. It is true that the current AS degree requires 27-36 credits in Science/Math/CS, and both of the proposed options require fewer science credits. But most of the students pursuing the current AS degree are science majors. Their science major still requires as much science as it always did, so they will still take the same amount of science because their academic major requires it.
- b. For example, Biology majors must take 12 credits of Biology, 10 credits of Calculus, 15 credits of Chemistry, and 15 credits of Physics. They will still take these 52 credits in Science & Math because their Biology major requires it (even if the AS degree Option 1 only requires 15 credits of Science).

**9. What about the possible effect on enrollment in PE classes?**

- a. There may be a slight drop in enrollment in PE classes, but evidence from prior years shows that many students enroll in PE and Health classes even when they are not required.

- b. For the cumulative years from 2004-2011, only 409 AS-degree seeking students (20% of AS degree seekers) completed the PE requirement for the AS degree; and in the same 2004-2011 period, 349 Direct Transfer students (16% of Direct Transfers) completed the PE requirement for the AS degree (even though it was not required).
- c. For 2004-2011, 10% of all Health and PE credits were attempted by AS degree seeking students; and 9% were attempted by Direct Transfer (non-degree students)
- d. Comparison of PE enrollments 2010-11 between students who were seeking the AS degree, versus students pursuing a Direct Transfer path are instructive:
  - i. AS degree students: 261 students took 1 credit of PE, and 113 students took 2 credits of PE.
  - ii. Direct transfer students: 245 students took 1 credit of PE, and 101 took 2 credits of PE.
  - iii. Conclusion: many students will take PE even if it is not required for their degrees.

## Associate of Science (AS) Degree

### Option 1: Direct Transfer to the University of Oregon

#### Guidelines:

- A student must complete a total of 90 quarter credits to be awarded the AS degree.
- All Foundational Requirements and Discipline Studies courses must be a minimum of three credits. All Elective courses may be any number of credits.
- All courses must be passed with a grade of "C-" or better, or "P" (Pass).
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the time the AS degree is awarded.

#### Requirements:

##### I. Foundational Requirements:

- A. **Writing.** Two courses: Wr 121; and either Wr 122 or Wr 123
- B. **Mathematics.** One course in college-level mathematics: Mth 105, Mth 111 or higher.

##### II. Discipline Studies: Fifteen (15) credits in each of the following three areas, selected from approved course list for the AS Degree Option 1: Direct Transfer to UO.

- A. **Arts and Letters:** 15 credits, chosen from approved Arts & Letters list.
- B. **Social Science:** 15 credits, chosen from approved Social Science list.
- C. **Science/Math/Computer Science:** 15 credits, chosen from approved Science/Math/Computer Science list.

#### Guidelines for Discipline Studies courses:

1. In each Discipline Studies area, include:
  - a. At least two courses from one subject area; and
  - b. At least one course from a second subject area.
2. No more than three courses from any single subject area may be used to satisfy the Discipline Studies requirements. (Students planning to transfer to the UO see Note E below about use of courses in academic major to meet Discipline Studies area requirements.)

##### III. Electives: Any college-level course that would bring total credits to 90 quarter hours, with the following limitations:

- A. A maximum of 24 credits may be earned in the following areas, with not more than 12 credits in any of the following areas:
  - 1) Career and technical numbered courses (see catalog for career and technical subject prefixes)
  - 2) PE and dance activity courses (Dance majors transferring to the UO see Note F below).
  - 3) Studio instruction in music (Music majors transferring to the UO see Note F below)

- 4) Cooperative Education and supervised field experience (Lane courses usually numbered "280")
- B. Developmental courses (e.g., Mth 095, Wr 80) may not be used as electives. Course numbers from "001" to "099" identify developmental courses. Additionally, the following courses are considered developmental and may not be used to meet degree requirements: ENG 110, 115, 116, 117; RD 115, WR 110, 115 (taken before summer 1999) and WR 120.

#### IV. Additional Notes for students planning to attend the University of Oregon (UO):

##### A. Maximum number of transfer credits for the UO

Students may apply a maximum of 124 Lane transfer credits toward their bachelor's degree. These credits may include up to 12 credits of Career/Technical (C/T) course work, and an additional 12 credits of Supervised Field Experience (Co-operative Education at Lane). Both C/T and Co-op Ed. credits will be accepted as elective courses unless specifically noted in the list of approved courses that meet Group requirements at the UO.

##### B. UO Admission Grade Point Average requirement:

Although a 2.00 GPA is sufficient for earning the Associate of Science (AS) degree at Lane, the UO requires a minimum transfer GPA of 2.25 for Oregon residents (2.50 for nonresidents) for admission.

##### C. UO Foreign Language admission requirements:

1. Although foreign language is not required for an AS degree at Lane, admission to the UO requires two years of the same high school foreign language, or two terms of the same college-level foreign language.
2. Courses used to fulfill the foreign language graduation requirement for the Bachelor of Arts degree may not also be used to fulfill the Arts and Letters group requirement at the UO.

##### D. UO Multicultural Requirement:

The UO requires all Bachelor's degree candidates to complete two courses that satisfy its **Multicultural Requirement**. Lane offers many courses that can satisfy both the UO Multicultural Requirement and also meet the Discipline Studies area requirements for the AS Degree. To find Lane courses that satisfy both the UO's Multicultural Requirement and Lane's AS Discipline Studies requirements, go to: <http://registrar.uoregon.edu/tce/>

##### E. Use of Academic major courses for general education discipline areas:

At the UO, students may not count more than one (1) course that has the subject code of their academic major to meet general education discipline area requirements. EXAMPLES: Biology majors can only count one Biology course in the Science/Math/CS group; History majors can only count one History course in the Social Science group.

##### F. UO Music and Dance majors:

- (i) For music majors, a maximum of 24 credits in studio instruction, of which not more than 12 may be taken in the student's freshman and sophomore years, may count toward requirements for the B.A. or B.S. degree

- (ii) For dance majors, a maximum of 36 credits of DANC may count toward requirements for the B.A. or B.S. degree

**Associate of Science (AS) Degree**

**Option 2: Direct Transfer to Oregon State University**

**Guidelines:**

- A student must complete a total of 90 quarter credits to be awarded the AS degree.
- All General Education courses must be a minimum of three credits. All Elective courses may be any number of credits.
- All courses must be passed with a grade of "C-" or better, or "P" (Pass).
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the time the AS degree is awarded.
- No single course can be used to satisfy more than one area of General Education requirements, even though some courses are approved for more than one area.

**I. General Education Requirements**

**A. Skills** -- Five courses. One course in each of the following areas, selected from approved course list for the AS Degree Option 2: Direct Transfer to OSU.

1. Writing I
2. Writing II
3. Writing III/Speech
4. Mathematics
5. Health/Fitness

**B. Perspectives** – Eight courses. One course in each of the following areas, selected from approved course list for the AS Degree Option 2: Direct Transfer to OSU.

1. Physical Science with lab
2. Biological Science with lab
3. Choice of an additional Physical or Biological Science with lab
4. Western Culture
5. Cultural Diversity
6. Literature and the Arts
7. Social Processes and Institutions
8. Difference Power and Discrimination

(Note: No more than two courses from any one department may be used to satisfy the Perspectives area.)

**II. Electives**

Any college-level courses that would bring total credits to 90 quarter hours, with the following restrictions:

- A. A maximum of 12 credits of career/technical courses (see catalog for designated career/technical subject prefixes).
- B. A maximum of 12 credits of music performance. (Music majors transferring to OSU see additional note #4 below).
- C. A maximum of 11 credits of physical activity (PE) courses.

- D. Developmental courses (e.g., Mth 095, Wr 80) may not be used as electives. Course numbers from "001" to "099" identify developmental courses. Additionally, the following courses are considered developmental: ENG 110, 115, 116, 117; RD 115; WR 115 (if taken before summer 1999) and WR 120.

**Additional Notes for students planning to attend Oregon State University:**

**1. OSU Grade Point Average admission requirements:**

- a. Although a 2.00 GPA is sufficient for earning the AS degree at Lane, Oregon State University requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 on transferable credits for admission.
- b. Only the highest grade for a repeated course will be calculated in the GPA for the purposes of admission to OSU.
- c. Only transferable college-level credits are accepted and counted in the GPA computation for admission (professional-technical course grades are not included).

**2. OSU Foreign Language admission requirement:**

Students who graduated from high school in 1997 or later must meet a foreign language admission requirement with either two years of high school level study in the same language or two quarters/semesters of college level study with a minimum grade of C-.

**3. Additional Upper Division requirements for OSU Baccalaureate Core**

OSU requires an additional nine credits of junior or senior year courses for all bachelor's degrees. These courses include Contemporary Global Issues (3 cr.), Science, Technology, and Society (3 cr.), and a writing course in the student's major. These courses are not part of the AS degree at Lane, and must be taken at OSU.

**4. OSU Music majors:**

Music majors at OSU may use more than 12 credits of studio instruction in music to satisfy bachelor's degree requirements. Consult with the music program counselor or advisor for the latest information.