

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Okaloosa-Walton College offers four types of degree programs and several certificate options, as well as adult education, high school equivalency instruction, and non-credit continuing education. A program of study may also be custom developed to meet the needs of an individual student. Many of the program options are designed to provide educational ladders for students who wish to alternate their college studies with employment or to work while attending college.

Bachelor of Applied Science

Okaloosa-Walton College is approved by the State of Florida Board of Education and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Project and Acquisitions Management (BAS).

The BAS degree in Project and Acquisitions Management offers students a unique opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge necessary for career advancement in a variety of areas. Program content has been developed with input from local employers and is reflective of traditional business management degrees, as well as of the technical skills identified by various professional organizations.

There are four pre-planned areas of emphasis in the BAS program and an option for developing a “customized” program plan that allows a student, in consultation with an advisor, to select the set of upper division courses most complementary to his or her education and career goals. Areas of specialization include:

- Acquisitions
- Project Management
- Quality Improvement
- Training & Development/Human Resources
- Customized Track

The BAS program provides a career-ladder for students who have already completed an associate’s degree and who wish to continue their education at the bachelor’s level or, beginning students may design a program of study for the degree as early as the freshman year if they have not yet obtained an associate’s degree.

In addition to the 36-credit general education requirement (1000 and 2000 level courses) for a baccalaureate degree, students build upon their associate’s degree coursework to complete a comprehensive 120-credit curriculum. The junior- and senior-level curriculum (3000 and 4000 level courses) consists of a 24-credit core and 18-credits of emphasis and elective courses.

Coursework for the degree is designed with the working student in mind and is offered in a flexible, non-traditional format. Approximately 50 percent of the instruction is offered as distance learning, with another 25 percent structured as “blended” classes (part traditional classroom and part nontraditional format). Classes are available evenings, week-ends, and in concentrated “fast-track terms”.

Coursework incorporates internships, seminars, and other work-based learning activities designed to ensure students acquire the latest skills and content. Students receive the full range of articulation and transfer rights guaranteed by Florida law through common course numbering and the statewide articulation agreement.

Bachelor of Science

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is a joint program of OWC and the University of West Florida. It is designed as an AS to BS degree career ladder and is open to applicants who currently hold a valid Florida Registered Nursing license and have completed an accredited ADN program. Admission to the program is limited.

The OWC-UWF Cooperative BSN offers nurses in Okaloosa and Walton Counties the opportunity to pursue a special “Okaloosa Track” within the UWF AS to BSN degree program. The entire program is available locally through courses offered at the Niceville and Fort Walton Beach Campuses of OWC, and clinical instruction conducted in local hospitals and health care facilities.

Students pursuing the Cooperative BSN are admitted to both institutions and enroll in selected upper division courses through both OWC and UWF. The BSN degree is awarded by UWF.

The BSN program capitalizes on the support from the local health care community and the existing expertise, facilities and academic resources of OWC and UWF to help meet the critical state and regional workforce need for nursing graduates.

Bachelor of Arts

Through a joint program with the University of West Florida, a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Humanities is offered at the OWC Arts Center in Niceville. See page 83 for details.

Associate of Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)

The A.A. Degree represents the first two years of the four-year bachelor’s degree and is generally referred to as the two-year transfer degree. Completion of the A.A. Degree, which consists of

36 general education credits and 24 college credit electives, prepares the student to continue studies at the university level. Although the number of credits and specific courses required for a bachelor's degree may vary across upper-division schools, the Florida community colleges and universities enjoy an articulation agreement which guarantees certain transfer rights for students who complete the A.A. Degree. See the "Student Bill of Rights" and the A.A. Degree requirements later in the next section.

Associate of Science Degree (A.S. Degree)

The A.S. Degree provides students with college credit curricula designed to prepare them for employment in various semi-professional, technical, and supervisory fields. The A.S. degree programs include a minimum of 60 college credit hours, of which at least 18 are general education courses. Students may earn multiple A.S. degrees. The A.S. degree is not generally intended for transfer, however, many students eventually pursue upper division study after completing the A.S. degree. In recognition of this practice, the general education courses required for the A.S. Degree meet all applicable Gordon Rule standards and minimum grade requirements; all are transferable as general education credits to upper division institutions in the Florida State University System. Many of the technical courses in the A.S. degree are also transferable, but students should work closely with an advisor in selecting technical courses if transfer is an eventual goal. Students may earn multiple A.S. degrees provided the program requirements are satisfied for each separate degree.

Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S. Degree)

The A.A.S. Degree is a two-year, non-transfer college credit curricula designed to prepare students for employment in various technical and semi-professional fields. The A.A.S. degree consists of a minimum of 60 college credits, of which at least 18 are general education courses. Because the A.A.S. Degree is not intended for transfer, the selection of general education and technical courses is broader and more flexible than that of the A.S. Degree. Students may earn multiple A.A.S. Degrees provided the program requirements are satisfied for each separate degree.

Certificate Technical Education Programs

OWC offers a variety of short-term programs referred to as certificates or diplomas. All are designed to provide students with the skills necessary for entry into employment. A **College Credit (Technical) Certificate** is awarded for the completion of a program of instruction of fewer than 60 credits of college-level courses, which are a part of any A.S. Degree program offered in the State of Florida. Many technical certificates represent all or part of the non-general education requirements for a specific A.S. or A.A.S. Degree and can serve as the first step toward completion of that degree. An **Applied Technology Diploma (ATD)** is awarded for the completion of a specific short term program of study approximately 30 college credits in length. All ATD courses are applicable to the A.A.S. Degree or A.S. Degree in the same subject/career area. A **Vocational Certificate** is awarded for the completion of the vocational credits prescribed in a planned program of study in a specific professional, technical, or career area. Normally, a vocational certificate is a short-term program designed to be completed in less than a year.

Achievement Award

A student who has successfully completed a given set of skill courses within a particular degree or certificate program may be recognized for his/her mastery of these competencies with an OWC Achievement Award. Although the award does not indicate completion of an official, approved program of study, it does verify the student's proficiency with a specified group of skills. Achievement awards are not noted on the student's transcript or permanent record; however, the student will receive an OWC achievement certificate that may be presented to an employer or agency as a record of this educational milestone.

Adult General Education

OWC offers a comprehensive program of non-credit instruction designed to improve the employability and life skills of adult students. Courses are offered in literacy, adult basic education, English-as-a-Second-Language, GED preparation, basic skills review, and vocational preparatory skills. Call 729-5387.

Continuing Education and Professional Development

Non-credit continuing education courses provide an opportunity to increase occupational efficiency, enhance leisure time, or pursue personal development goals. Typical subjects range from computer skills, insurance, and supervision, to painting, gardening, cooking, and exercise. Instruction is offered through a variety of programs, including PRIME TIME (Positive Retirement through Imaginative Education) and the Institute for Professional Development. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) may be earned upon completion of certain continuing education courses. CEU's allow individuals to accumulate, update, and transfer their records of professional development. Call 729-6085.

Recreation and Leisure (Personal Enrichment)

A variety of non-credit personal enrichment courses are offered throughout the year. Topics range from computer skills, fitness, gardening, nutrition, and travel tips to painting, cooking, foreign languages, safety and first aid, and consumer education. Fees vary with the length and type of course offered; most classes are held on the Niceville campus.

A variety of non-credit instructional programs are available at OWC for all ages through the college's extensive Continuing Education program.

Distance Learning

OWC offers students the convenience and flexibility of earning course credits through various forms of distance learning. Through a creative mix of textbooks, video, television, Internet, study guides, written assignments, exams, e-mail, and ongoing communications with faculty, students may take control of their own education by working and learning at times and places convenient to them. Distance classes carry the same course numbers and credits as their traditional counterparts and appear on the student's transcript just like any other course; there is no designator identifying a course as distance. Credits earned through distance learning are transferable and are applicable to graduation requirements in the same manner as traditional classes as well.

For more information, contact the Distance Learning Office at (850) 729-6464 or email distancelearning@owc.edu.



GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

All Okaloosa-Walton College degree programs contain both specialized courses and general education courses. Bachelor of Applied Science and Associate of Arts students complete at least thirty-six (36) general education credits from five subject area categories. Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science students complete at least eighteen (18) general education credits from five (5) subject areas. The general education component of each program is designed to further the mission and goals of the college by providing students with the opportunity to develop:

- skills for effective oral and written communication, computation, and computer technology;
- analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking skills;
- the foundation knowledge and skills on which the student may build professional or occupational competence;
- an understanding of and respect for society, the physical environment, and the scientific, cultural, and aesthetic aspects of the world; and
- the desire and foundation for lifelong learning.

The OWC General Education Program is designed to conform to all applicable regional accreditation criteria, Florida State Board of Education Rules, and the Florida Statewide Articulation Agreement. To that end, the program incorporates a computer technology component, an oral communication requirement, and minimum grade and writing requirements as stipulated in Florida's "Gordon Rule."

Technology-Across-the-Curriculum

Competence in basic computer technology skills is an essential component of twenty-first century life. Accordingly, OWC has incorporated computer technology throughout its programs and courses. Each two-year degree program contains at least one course which requires the student to demonstrate fundamental computer skills. All ENC 1101 (English Composition) classes are taught in a computer classroom and students are required to complete assignments and other activities via the personal computer. CGS 1100 (Microcomputer Applications) is a requirement or prerequisite course in many A.S. and A.A.S. degrees. Other courses such as BSC 1085C (Anatomy and Physiology I), ACG 2001 (Accounting I), EME 2040 (Introduction to Educational Technology), and MUT 1121 (Music Theory) are either taught in a computer lab or specify computerized learning activities. In support of the computer technology requirement, OWC offers student access to open computer labs at all college sites.

B.A.S., A.A. and A.S. degree-seeking students will meet the computer technology skill requirement through completion of ENC 1101 and/or CGS 1100 and may encounter more advanced computer skills in other elective, technical or general education courses. A.A.S. degree-seeking students will meet the computer technology skill requirement through completion of ENC 1101, CGS 1100, or another designated course among the technical credits for the specific degree program. See the course descriptions section of this catalog for the courses designated as part of the Technology-Across-the-Curriculum program.

Writing-Across-the-Curriculum

All associate degree students must complete at least one three-credit writing class as part of their general education program. Additional writing activities are required in all general education humanities courses. Bachelor of Applied Science and Associate of Arts students must complete at least 24,000 words in graded writing activities through successful completion of twelve (12) to fifteen (15) college credits from the general education communication, humanities and selected social science subject areas.

Oral Communication – Speaking Across-the-Curriculum

Oral communication is an integral part of the OWC general education program, thus several general education courses include graded activities designed to build speaking and communication skills. All B.A.S., A.A., A.S., and A.A.S. degree-seekers must satisfy an oral communication requirement and may do so by completing at least one of the general education courses designated as part of the Speaking-Across the-Curriculum component of the General Education Program. Students who successfully complete other speech, forensics, or oral interpretation courses may request that such courses be used to satisfy this requirement. See page 74 and 75 for specific courses.

Minimum Grades in General Education Courses

Florida's "Gordon Rule" includes a legislative mandate that all baccalaureate and associate of arts graduates successfully complete specific math and writing requirements. B.A.S. and A.A. graduates must have successfully completed at least 24,000 words of graded writing assignments and at least six credits of mathematics at the college algebra or higher level. Accordingly, all B.A.S., A.A. and A.S. degree-seekers must earn a grade of "C" or higher in each Gordon Rule communications, humanities or social science course used to satisfy general education requirements, whether the credits are earned at OWC or elsewhere; and all B.A.S., A.A. and A.S. degree-seekers must earn a grade of "C" or higher in each mathematics course used to satisfy general education requirements, whether the credits are earned at OWC or elsewhere.



Instructional labs and classrooms at OWC utilize the latest in computer technology to aid student learning.