GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

All Okaloosa-Walton Community College degree programs contain both specialized courses and general education courses. 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 OWCC 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, OWCC 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, OWCC offers student access to open computer labs at all college sites.

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. Associate of Arts students must complete at least 24,000 words in graded writing activities through successful completion of twelve (12) to fourteen (14) 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 OWCC general education program, thus several general education courses include graded activities designed to build speaking and communication skills. All 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 64 and 65 for specific courses.
Florida’s “Gordon Rule” includes a legislative mandate that all associate of arts graduates successfully complete specific math and writing requirements. 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 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 OWCC or elsewhere; and all 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 OWCC or elsewhere.

OWCC plans to construct a new 8,000 square foot visual arts instructional facility in The Arts Center complex on the Niceville campus. The new Visual Arts Building is designed in a circular style to compliment The Arts Center’s Seven Dancers sculpture circus and will duplicate the existing brick, stucco, and glass architecture of The Arts Center. The gracious physical environment of the new instructional facility will house four studios with a central gallery connector. The studios will include a drawing/painting lab, a ceramics/pottery lab, a sculpture lab and a design/lecture room.