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 non-traditional format). Classes are available evenings, weekends, 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.

**Educator Preparation Institute**

The OWC Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) provides a variety of professional development opportunities for current elementary, middle and high school teachers, as well as for individuals wishing to enter the teaching field. The institute offers four specific opportunities for non-credit, competency-based instruction:

1. professional development activities to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting re-certification requirements;
2. instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties;
3. instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training requirements;
4. instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers through competency-based alternative certification programs.

The EPI programs vary from short workshops to independent distance learning and online formats; most are self-paced to accommodate working
Educator Preparation Institute (continued)
students and professionals. For
additional information, contact the
Director, Communications and Social
Science, at 729-5390.

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, pre-
pares 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 col-
leges and universities enjoy an articu-
lation 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; how-
ever, 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 stan-
dards and minimum grade require-
ments; all are transferable as general
education credits to upper division
institutions in the Florida State Univer-
sity 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 event-
tual 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 pro-
vided 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 will the skills necessary for
entry into employment. A College
Credit (Technical) Certificate is
awarded for the completion of a pro-
gram 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 comple-
tion 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 comple-
tion of the vocational credits pre-
scribed 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 certif-
icate program may be recognized for
his/her mastery of these competen-
ties 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; how-
ever, 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 prepara-
tory skills. Call 729-5387.

Continuing Education and
Professional Development
Non-credit continuing education courses
provide an opportunity to increase
occupational efficiency, enhance lei-
ture time, or pursue personal develop-
ment goals. Typical subjects range from
computer skills, insurance, and super-
vision, to painting, gardening, cooking,
and exercise. Instruction is offered
through a variety of programs, includ-
ing 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, garden-
ing, nutrition, and travel tips to paint-
ing, 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.

Distance Learning
OWC offers students the convenience
and flexibility of earning course cred-
its through various forms of distance
learning. Through a creative mix of
textbooks, the 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 conveni-
ent to them. Distance classes carry
the same course numbers and credits
as their traditional counterparts and
appear on the student’s transcript just
as any other course does; there is no
designator identifying a course as dis-
tance. Credits earned through dis-
tance 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.