

## Curriculum Change Form

**(Present only one proposed curriculum change per form)**  
**(Complete only the section(s) applicable.)**

**Part I**

(Check one) New Course (Parts II, IV)	Department Name College	University Programs (shared responsibility with the five academic colleges)
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision (Parts II, IV)	*Course Prefix & Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid Course ("S," "W")	*Course Title (30 characters)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Dropped (Part II)	*Program Title	Associate of General Studies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Program (Part III)		(Major <u>  x  </u> , Option <u>    </u> ; Minor <u>    </u> ; or Certificate <u>    </u> )
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision (Part III)	*Provide only the information relevant to the proposal.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspended (Part III)	*Provide only the information relevant to the proposal.	

Proposal Approved by:	<u>Date</u>	
Departmental Committee	NA	Graduate Council*
<i>Is this a SACS Substantive Change?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes****</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	Council on Academic Affairs
College Curriculum Committee	NA	Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
General Education Committee*	NA	Faculty Senate**
Teacher Education Committee*	NA	Board of Regents**
		Council on Postsecondary Edu.***

\*If Applicable (Type NA if not applicable.)  
 \*\*Approval needed for new, revised, or suspended programs  
 \*\*\*Approval/Posting needed for new degree program or certificate program  
 \*\*\*\*If "yes", SACS must be notified before implementation. Please contact EKU's Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

**Completion of A, B, and C is required: (Please be specific, but concise.)**

<b>A. 1. Specific action requested:</b> (Example: To increase the number of credit hours for ABC 100 from 1 to 2.)	Create a new Associate Degree of General Studies
<b>A. 2. Effective date:</b> (Example: Fall 2001)	FALL 2009
<b>A. 3. Effective date of suspended programs for currently enrolled students:</b> (if applicable)	
<b>B. The justification for this action:</b>	<p>The Associate of General Studies degree is being proposed by a broad-based University Work Group, including a Faculty Senate subcommittee. The Associate in General Studies degree provides students, especially adult learners, the opportunity to pursue a flexible degree program to meet their unique interests, career goals, and academic needs. Reflecting EKU's commitment to a liberal arts education, the degree allows students to concentrate in an area of interest while selecting from a wide variety of courses to meet personal, educational, or career goals. This degree is designed for students who want to advance in their careers, change careers, pursue a lifelong interest beyond their careers, or use the degree as a pathway to a baccalaureate degree. The regional campus directors report 311 EKU students at their centers would be eligible immediately for this degree. Increasing the number of degree holders in our Service Region is an important goal for EKU.</p> <p>Serving students from a varied background of college readiness, this degree provides students a defined path to success in earning one or more degrees. Upon successful completion of EKU's Associate of General Studies degree, the student will have met all General Education requirements, which will apply toward a four-year program at EKU or any other regional Kentucky institution.</p>
<b>C. The projected cost (or savings) of this proposal is as follows:</b>	<p><b>Personnel Impact: no direct impact</b></p> <p><b>Operating Expenses Impact: no direct impact</b></p>

**Equipment/Physical Facility Needs: no direct impact**

**Library Resources: No direct impact**

**Part II. Recording Data for New, Revised, or Dropped Course**

(For a **new required course**, complete a separate request for the appropriate program revisions.)

1. For a new course, provide the catalog text.
2. For a revised course, provide the current catalog text with the proposed text using ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlines for additions.
3. For a dropped course, provide the current catalog text.

New or Revised\* Catalog Text

(\*Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlines for additions. Also include Crs. Prefix, No., and description, limited to 35 words.)

**Part III. Recording Data for New, Revised, or Suspended Program**

1. For a new program, provide the catalog description as being proposed.
2. For a revised program, provide the current program requirements using ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlines for additions.
3. For a suspended program, provide the current program requirements as shown in catalog. List any options and/or minors affected by the program's suspension.

New or Revised\* Program Text

(\*Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlines for additions.)

Proposed *Catalog* text would be added to the University Programs section (page 59-60 of the 2008-09 *Undergraduate Catalog*).

**Associate Degrees**

**GENERAL STUDIES (A.G.S.)**

CIP Code 24.0102

The Associate of General Studies degree provides students, especially adult learners, the opportunity to pursue a flexible degree program to meet their unique interests, career goals, and academic needs. Reflecting ECU's commitment to a liberal arts education, the degree allows students to concentrate in an area of interest while selecting from a wide variety of courses to meet personal, educational, or career goals. This degree is designed for students who want to advance in their careers, change careers, pursue a lifelong interest beyond their careers, or use the degree as a pathway to a baccalaureate degree.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

The Associate of General Studies degree has become more attractive with the growth of business and industry in the area and with the increase of minimum educational requirements for employment or promotion. In addition to those students wishing to enhance their employability, other students will find the program offers numerous opportunities to seek a degree for their own personal satisfaction. The degree allows students to gain confidence in their abilities by earning a degree at the associate level prior to enrolling in a baccalaureate program. The associate degree provides opportunities for students who wish to consolidate previously earned credits to complete their first degree.

Serving students from a varied background of college readiness, this degree provides students a defined path to success in earning one or more degrees. Upon successful completion of EKV's Associate of General Studies degree, the student will have met all General Education requirements, which will apply toward a four-year program at EKV or any other regional Kentucky institution.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The program requirements for the Associate of General Studies are:

1. Complete a minimum of 60 semester credit hours of prescribed and elective college credit.
2. Earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on all college-level work taken at EKV. In addition, transfer students must earn a minimum GPA of 2.0 on the combined transfer work and EKV work.
3. Complete at least 24 semester hours at EKV.
4. Complete an orientation course if the student begins as a freshman or transfers to EKV with fewer than 24 credit hours
5. Complete 48 semester hours of general education requirements as shown below:

Block 1. Communication (9 hours)

Block 2. Mathematics (3 hours)

Block 3. Arts and Humanities (6 hours)

Block 4. Natural Sciences (6 hours)

Block 5. Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 hours)

Block 6. Wellness (3 hours)

Block 7. Breadth of Knowledge (6 hours)

Block 8. Depth of Knowledge (6 hours)

6. Complete an approved 12-hour emphasis with an overall 2.0 GPA within an individual college outside of the General Education Requirement. (Students will be considered a member of the college in which they have completed their emphasis.

The Associate of General Studies is intended to be a first degree and is not appropriate for a concurrent or secondary degree.



## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

*Serving Kentuckians Since 1906*

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TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Janna Vice

DATE: May 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Proposal for an Associate of General Studies Degree

### Background

The attached proposal for an Associate of General Studies is the result of collaboration among a Faculty Senate subcommittee (chaired by Dr. John Taylor) and an Associate Degree Work Group. A discussion regarding the need for this degree emerged from the Retention and Graduation Task Force as it reviewed six years of EKU's retention and graduation data in 2006. The Faculty Senate's subcommittee also recommended pursuing a general studies associate degree, which the Senate endorsed.

During the process, the Work Group also sought input from the associate/assistant deans, the Council of Deans, and the Provost Council.

### Student Population

The Associate in General Studies degree will provide students, especially adult learners, the opportunity to pursue a flexible degree program to meet their unique interests, career goals, and academic needs. Reflecting EKU's commitment to a liberal arts education, the degree requires the complete General Education component. Although Morehead State, Western Kentucky, Louisville, and Kentucky State offer a similar associate's degree, EKU would offer the only general studies associate degree requiring the complete General Education program.

The Work Group recommends requiring students who have more than one college-readiness (developmental) deficiency to enter the AGS program until they have demonstrated they are ready for the baccalaureate program (successfully completed developmental courses). The AGS is intended to be a first step toward success—a pathway to a baccalaureate degree. These students will be encouraged to select a major as soon as all the college-readiness requirements are met and to persist and graduate with a four-year degree.

## Regional Stewardship

The need for increased opportunities for postsecondary education is great in our Service Region. Dr. Mike Seelig (Interim CPE Vice President for Academic Affairs) reported March 6, 2009, that 205,716 adults who live in EKU's "Area of Geographic Responsibility" have a high school diploma, equivalent, or less.

He also reported that 44,872 adults in EKU's Service Region have some college credit with no degree. Students who accumulate numerous college credits without earning a degree are at a disadvantage in the job market. Employers expect a "credential" verifying completion of a program.

The directors at EKU's regional campuses report the following compelling reasons to make this degree available to the students in Corbin, Danville, Manchester, and Lancaster:

1. Most students at the regional campuses begin their college work by focusing primarily on their general education courses; most of the campuses offer a representative sampling from EKU's General Education program. In most cases additional faculty would not be required in order to offer the entire AGS degree program.
2. Many adult students need only an associate degree to advance with a current employer.
3. Many recently unemployed workers can receive up to two years of tuition assistance through the Workforce Investment Act. Many of these students are excellent older workers. The AGS would provide a great tool to attract and retain these students.
4. Students in EKU's Service Region generally have tremendous loyalty to EKU. They would generally prefer to pursue an associate degree at EKU, perceiving an EKU degree to carry more academic clout than two-year schools.
5. For part-time students, we often underestimate how long a "four-year" degree takes to complete. The initial goal of a two-year degree could be motivating and encourage students to continue to pursue their four-year degree. With an associate's degree in hand, they also have a greater opportunity for employment and advancement.
6. An estimated 311 students are reported to have earned between 40 and 70 credit hours and would be eligible for an associate's degree and for promotions or advancement at work.
7. Regarding Regional Stewardship, having students working toward ANY degree is advantageous. The students, their spouses/children, and families, can begin to see more clearly the academic path that can lead them from no education to an associate's degree, to the bachelor's degree, and hopefully beyond. For at-risk students with developmental needs, this path is much easier to achieve if pursued in two-year increments.

## College/Program Affiliation

The degree will be called an Associate of General Studies (AGS). Although the diploma will not list the affiliation with a college, students will be required to identify a college from which the 12-hour emphasis will be earned. This approved 12-hour concentration can be a formal concentration offered by an academic program. The diploma would then list the concentration. The college/program offering the concentration will receive credit.

For new students this “approval” will help guide them into a meaningful concentration. For students who have stopped out and are returning or are transferring, this “approval” may mean that an advisor has reviewed the courses students have already taken and now verifies the student is meeting the requirements of the degree. Unlike the BA in General Studies, the 12-hour emphasis can include courses they selected from General Education.

When the degree is approved, it will reside in University Programs. Students in the program will be jointly advised by the University’s Advising Office and the academic college in which the student is earning the emphasis, which is similar to the General Studies (B.A.).

University Programs and the five academic colleges will have shared responsibility for the degree. The definition of “shared” will continue to be defined as the degree is implemented. The Work Group recognized that coordination and oversight would be needed to implement the degree and programmatic issues that result. The discussion as to how we better to serve these students must be continued regardless the decision about this degree.

While the degree is designed to ladder to a four-year program, students will have to meet all admissions criteria for any given program they choose.

### Members of the Work Group

Onda Bennett, University Programs and General Education

Rich Boyle, Continuing Education

Steve Byrn, Admissions

Alex Combs, SGA

Lindsey Cross, SGA

Tina Davis, Registrar

Claire Good, Student Affairs

Charles Hickox, Continuing Education

E.J. Keeley, Institutional Effectiveness

Gary Kuhnhenh, Provost’s Office

Cindy Peck, Danville Center

Benton Shirey, Academic Advising

Anne Shordike, Faculty Senate

Bill St Pierre, Continuing Education

John Taylor, Faculty Senate

Liz Throop, Chairs Association

Janna Vice, Provost’s Office

Cari Wallace, Student Affairs

Kate Williams, QEP, First-Year Course

### Recommendation

CAA approved the proposed degree on April 16, 2009, and recommends the proposal for the Faculty Senate’s review and approval.