Submitted: March 27, 2015

For Senate Meeting: April 7, 2015

**Committee Name:** **Admissions and Academic Policies**

**Chair:** Mike Martin

**Subject:** Associates degree requirement changes related to Gen Ed requirements

**The AAPC committee recommends the Senate take action to:**

**1. Approve the proposal from the** Registrar to update the associate degree requirements to reflect changes from the liberal studies requirements to the general education requirements.

**Proposal:** Update the associate degree requirements as outlined below.

**Associate Degree Requirements**

To qualify for an associate degree, students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Successfully complete the minimum credits required for their chosen curriculum in courses numbered 100 and above, with a minimum NMU cumulative GPA of 2.00. The minimum credits required for an associate degree is 62.
2. Complete a minimum of 16 semester hours of credit in residence at Northern Michigan University, excluding advance placement credit.
3. Apply no more than 16 semester hours of advance placement credit.
4. Meet one of the residency requirements as listed in number 8 above, under the requirements for a bachelor’s degree.
5. Receive only one degree per commencement.
6. Complete ~~liberal studies~~ general education requirements associated with their degree. Program requirements may be more extensive and/or specific than the minimum required.

**Associate of Arts and Associate of Science**

In addition, the associate of arts and associate of science degrees require a minimum of 32 semester hours ~~in the following disciplines;~~ selected from the following general education categories:

Effective Communication – 1-2 courses
Quantitative Reasoning – 1 course
Social Responsibility in a Diverse World – 1 course
Integrative Thinking – 1 course
Human Expression – 1 course
Perspectives on Society – 1-2 courses
Scientific Inquiry – 1-2 courses

\*~~Transfer students may meet this requirement with 6 semester hours as long as the total number of liberal studies credits is 32~~.

**Associate of Applied Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Business, and Associate of Technology**

In addition, the associate of applied arts and associate of applied science degrees require a minimum of 15 semester hours in the following disciplines:

1. ~~Foundations of communication: 3-4 semester hours.~~ Effective Communication: 1 course
2. Other ~~liberal studies~~ General Education courses chosen from the following categories:

Effective Communication – 1-2 courses
Quantitative Reasoning – 1 course
Social Responsibility in a Diverse World – 1 course
Integrative Thinking – 1 course
Human Expression – 1 course
Perspectives on Society – 1-2 courses
Scientific Inquiry – 1-2 courses

Departments that offer Associate degrees which they believe have courses embedded within the degree requirements that are equivalent to the ~~liberal studies~~ General Education criteria may petition to the Registrar’s office to count this coursework toward the 15 minimum semester hours required. Any variation must be explained, justified, and approved.

**Rationale:** The changes are required to reflect the new general education requirements.

**Effective**: Fall 2016