

Design Criteria for Undergraduate Individualized Programs Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Academic Programs Policy 3.36 and Procedure 3.36.1 define an academic program as follows:

"Academic program. Academic program means a cohesive arrangement of college level credit courses and experiences designed to accomplish predetermined objectives leading to the awarding of a degree, diploma, or certificate. Most academic programs include a general education component. The purpose of an academic program is to:

1. increase students' knowledge and understanding in a field of study or discipline,
2. qualify students for employment in an occupation or range of occupations, and/or
3. prepare students for advanced study."

Consistent with this definition, criteria for individualized programs have been developed around three curriculum designs: multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary.

The following program approval criteria are applicable to all individualized programs:

1. General structure of individualized programs shall be consistent with [Academic Programs Policy 3.36 and Procedure 3.36.1](#), including general education requirements.
2. Individualized programs may be designed for the following awards: Diploma, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Science, and Baccalaureate.
3. Individualized programs will have the same title, Individualized Studies, and the same CIP code, 30.9999. Designation of an emphasis on the transcript is not permitted in individualized programs.
4. Curriculum designs may be one of three types: Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary and Intradisciplinary.
 - Multidisciplinary means coursework is in more than one discipline in unrelated areas, for example, biology and psychology.
 - Interdisciplinary means coursework is in more than one discipline, but the coursework is tied together thematically, for example, gerontological studies.
 - Intradisciplinary means coursework is all within the same discipline for example, computer science.

5. Individualized programs require a written program plan initiated by the student with guidance from a faculty member and approval consistent with college or university academic approval processes. Individualized program plans shall be kept on file.
6. Colleges and universities that want to offer individualized programs shall develop policies and procedures for awarding individualized programs. The policies and procedures shall be attached to applications for individualized programs.

Individualized Program Design Criteria for Specific Awards

		Diploma	Associate in Applied Science	Associate in Science	Baccalaureate
Credit Length		31-45	60	60	120
Curriculum Designs	Multidisciplinary	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 unrelated areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 unrelated areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 unrelated areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 3 unrelated areas of study
	Interdisciplinary	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 thematically related areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 thematically related areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 2 thematically related areas of study	Minimum of 9 credits required in at least 3 thematically related areas of study
	Intradisciplinary	Minimum of 32 credits from one area of study	Minimum of 32 credits from one area of study	Not Applicable. Requirements defined by the articulation agreement	Minimum of 32 credits from one area of study
Transfer		An articulation agreement may be arranged	An articulation agreement may be arranged	An articulation agreement is required. Articulation with a system university is not required	A transfer agreement is not required