

Wichita State University

Associate of Science

Program Approval

I. General Information

A. **Institution** - Wichita State University

B. Program Identification

Degree Level: Associate

Program Title: Associate of Science

Degree to be offered: Associate of Science

Responsible Department or Unit: Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

CIP Code: 30.1801 Natural Sciences

Modality: Traditional Classroom Instruction

Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2024

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 60

II. **Clinical Sites:** Does this program require the use of Clinical Sites? No.

III. Justification

Wichita State University and the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences request the approval to create the Associate of Science. If approved the degree will promote improvements in recruitment and retention at the university.

The Associate of Science (AS) degrees are two-year programs designed to provide skills beyond those typically acquired through secondary education. The AS emphasizes introductory and second-tier courses in Biology and Chemistry. The plan of study is rich in courses in English, Math, and Communication as these skills are essential for entry level work laboratory and scientific settings. Successful students will gain skills valuable in positions that require technical knowledge in the natural sciences, basic skills universally acknowledged as being desirable to employers, and the personal growth needed to be trainable and acquire new knowledge.

Students increasingly need ways to enhance their career prospects, but often feel unprepared for a four-year commitment to college. AS degrees at WSU is another opportunity for students to complete a degree with employment possibilities. This will provide pathways as they earn a four-year degree. Students who earn an associate degree as part of pursuing a four-year degree will have a sense of accomplishment and this positive experience with university level course work may support retention efforts of the university. Courses taken toward an associate degree will be suitable for a wide variety of majors. The associate of sciences curriculum plan with minimal substitutions will be appropriate for several other four-year degrees including Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Forensic Sciences, Pre-Med, and Physics. The proposed associate of science would allow a student to complete the first two years of their degree and have several options that work toward 21r00.00000912 0 612 790()JTJET00.00000912 0 612 792 reW* nBT/F3 12

Highland Community College	AA, AS, AGS Degrees (Transfer Degrees)	60
Hutchinson Community College	Liberal Arts & Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities, Other	60
Independence Community College	AS Transfer Program-Computer Science	64
Independence Community College	Liberal Studies	64
Johnson County Community College	General Sciences, Associate of Science	60
Johnson County Community College	Early Childhood Education	63
Kansas City Kansas Community College		

associated industries. High-demand jobs in Kansas and Nationally will be those supporting healthcare systems, including technical sales, laboratory technicians, and health care assistants. There are growing fields, such as laboratory technicians, environmental sciences technician, food sciences, veterinary assistants, physical therapist assistants, as well as other opportunities. Each of these potential employment options for those with the AS requires employees with rudimentary laboratory skills.

Laboratory Technician - Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May work under the supervision of a medical technologist. \$23.08 hourly, \$48,000 yearly up to \$27.79 hourly, \$57,800 annually 9% growth in Kansas in the next 10 years and 7% up nationally, <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2012.00>

Environmental Science and Protection Technicians check the environmen0r8(a)4(nd)10()9 792 re1alt

Nuclear Medicine Technologists - Prepare, administer, and measure radioactive isotopes in therapeutic, diagnostic, and tracer studies using a variety of radioisotope equipment. Prepare stock solutions of radioactive materials and calculate doses to be administered by radiologists. Subject patients to radiation. Execute blood volume, red cell survival, and fat absorption studies following standard laboratory techniques. \$29.71 hourly, \$61,790 annual to \$37.86 hourly, \$78,760 annual 5% Kansas 2% Nationally growth projected in the next 10 years. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2033.00>

Forensic Lab Technician - Collect, identify, classify, and analyze physical evidence related to criminal investigations. Perform tests on weapons or substances, such as fiber, hair, and tissue to decide the importance to an investigation. May testify as expert witnesses on evidence or crime laboratory techniques. May serve as specialists in area of expertise, such as ballistics, fingerprinting, handwriting, or biochemistry. No Data Available for Kansas however with the ATF coming to campus this may be a good starter degree for students in the FS program needing a job for college \$ and experience. Up to \$29.78 hourly, \$61,930 annual and with 11% national growth in 10 years. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/19-4092.00>

Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers - Feed, water, and examine pets and other nonfarm animals for signs of illness, disease, or injury in laboratories and animal hospitals and clinics. Clean and disinfect cages, work areas, and sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment. May provide routine postoperative care, administer medication orally or topically, or prepare samples for laboratory examination under the supervision of veterinary or laboratory animal technologists or technicians, veterinarians, or scientists. \$11.60 hourly, \$24,120 annual to \$14.32 hourly, \$29,780 annual and projected growth of 16% in Kansas to 19% Nationally in expected growth in the next 10 years. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-9096.00>

Physical Therapist Assistants - Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, conduct routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and change specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally, requires formal training. \$28.76 hourly, \$59,820 annual to \$29.42 hourly, \$61,180 annual There is a 27% Kansas growth expected and 24% growth nationally in next 10 years. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-2021.00>

For agencies looking to fill vacant positions, might prefer a candidate with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree would consider strong AS degree recipients as well. It would be imprudent to oversell the value of an AS degree, but certainly AS degree holders have greater opportunities for employment in higher wage positions than those without a college degree. AS degrees tend to lead to BS degrees and the current proposal includes a two plus two possibilities suitable for disciplines in biology or chemistry. The

V. Projected Enrollment

The Initial Three Years of the Program of Wichita State University Students

Year	Headcount Per Year		Sem Credit Hours Per Year	
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Full- Time	Part- Time
Implementation	15	0	450	0
Year 2	30	0	900	0
Year 3	30	0	900	0

Note: The Associate of Science degree is both for prospective and current students, it may be that , all students earning a Bachelors will be eligible for the AA (already exists at Wichita State University) or Associate of Science degree.

VI. Employment

Employment opportunities for graduates of the AS degree are detailed

Fine Arts or Humanities General Education Course first subject	3
Fine Arts or Humanities General Education Course second subject	3
Social and Behavioral Science General Education Course first subject	3
Social and Behavioral Science General Education Course second subject	3
General Education Diversity Course	3
Elective Courses 11-12 Hours after consultation with an academic advisor	8-9
Total	60

Year 1: Fall

ENGL 101

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B. VIII. Core Faculty

The proposed AS will use existing faculty

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned, Existing, & New Positions

The program will be administered in the same manner as the current associate in arts (AA). The AA is currently administered and advised in the Fairmount College of Liberals Arts and Sciences advising center.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

Tuition and fees will be the primary source of funding for the program. No new expenditures or funding sources are expected or needed.

C. Projected Surplus/Deficit

The proposed new AS degree program is not projected to have a budget deficit.

XI. References

Kansas Board of Regents. [Program Search \(kansasregents.org\)](http://kansasregents.org)

One Net Data Base - O*NET - <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-2021.00>

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:(2022, May); Occupational Outlook Handbook. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm>

Wichita State University Web Page Transfer Student Information Page, <https://www.wichita.edu/admissions/undergraduate/transfertowsu/>