

- I. It is the intent of Pellissippi State Community College that career programs designed primarily for immediate employment will fully comply with the Principles of Accreditation of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The meeting of minimum degree requirements does not remove Pellissippi State's obligation to meet any appropriate specific program accreditation requirement. Any course for which a student receives degree credit will presume and not replicate the competencies established by the ACT college readiness benchmarks and standards as what a student needs to know and be able to do upon college entry.
- II. Credentials awarded by Pellissippi State Community College designed primarily for immediate employment include the following:
 - A. Continuing Education Unit (CEU) - A C.E.U. denotes ten (10) contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction. C.E.U.s must adhere to relevant SACS criteria as outlined in the Commission on Colleges' document, "Guidelines for Awarding the CEU."
 - B. Certificate of Credit – A certificate is awarded for the completion of a designated body of study ranging from 1-32 semester hours and responding to training needs of business and industry or providing a significant and unified portion of the requirements for an associate's degree. Students pursuing a certificate may be either non-degree seeking or degree seeking.
 1. Non-degree seeking students are not regularly admitted but are seeking personal enrichment or proficiency in a particular area of employment skills. These students are not required to complete general college placement assessment, but the College may stipulate assessment procedures appropriate to accurate placement in the technical area. If the student later decides to become degree-seeking, he or she will be assessed and appropriately placed.
 2. Degree-seeking students who complete the designated courses for a certificate while pursuing an associate's degree will be awarded the certificate when the slate of courses is completed and will continue with the remaining courses required for the degree.
 - C. Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) - Associate degrees designed primarily for immediate employment are limited to the A.A.S. and conform to those principles indicated in the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) policy statement on that degree. The following principles apply:
 1. The A.A.S. should be identified with a specialty designation
 2. A.A.S. degree programs must be responsive to the employment needs of business, industry, public agencies, the military, and entrepreneurship
 3. All components of the A.A.S. degree requirements should directly relate to intended student attainment: knowledge, skills, or aptitudes.
 4. A.A.S. degree requirements should consist of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours (excluding learning support credits).
 5. The general education* component of an A.A.S. degree program must be consistent with SACS accreditation criteria: a minimum of 15 semester hours,, including one course in each of these areas:

English Composition I	3 hrs
Mathematics or Natural Sciences	3-5 hrs
Humanities/Fine Arts	3 hrs
Social/Behavioral Sciences	3-4 hrs
General Education Elective	3-5 hrs

*Courses designated to fulfill general education at Pellissippi State Community College are published in the General Education section of the Catalog & Handbook.

6. A.A.S. degree curricula may be articulated with receptive and appropriate four-year institutions through transfer agreements.

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