



Date: February 20, 2017

To: Provost Samuel Gingerich

Through: Vice-Provost Susan Kalina
Dr. Carrie King, Chair, Undergraduate Academic Board

From: Patricia Linton, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Re: Proposed Revision of University Requirement for the Associate of Arts Degree

The College of Arts & Sciences, on behalf of the faculty Program Committee for the Associate of Arts degree, proposes that the current UAA requirement of at least 20 credits at the 200-level be eliminated from Associate of Arts degree requirements.

A survey of state universities in the WICHE consortium and selected peer institutions across the U.S. indicates that Associate of Arts degrees typically require 60-64 credits at the 100-level or higher. Among the universities surveyed were Boise State University, Georgia State university, Idaho State University, Montana State University, South Dakota State University, and Utah State University. A quota of 200-level courses is not a standard requirement.

Currently, the three universities within the University of Alaska system all require 20 credits at the 200-level for the Associate of Arts degree. Review of historic UAA catalogs indicates that the requirement has been in place since the establishment of the current university structure in 1989. However, the requirement is not mandated by current Board of Regents policy or regulation.

Elimination of the requirement would provide greater flexibility for students in the AA program to prepare for seamless transition to a baccalaureate program. AA students would have greater latitude to include within their AA program plan courses that are prerequisites for upper-division curriculum in their selected baccalaureate discipline, regardless whether the prerequisite courses are at the 100 or 200-level.