

Degrees

Valencia Community College offers the choice of three degrees:

- **Associate in Arts Degree (A.A.)**
- **Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.)**
- **Associate in Science (A.S.)**

Briefly, the degrees can be distinguished as follows:

1. The A.A. Degree is designed for the student who plans to transfer to a Florida public university as a junior to complete a bachelor's degree. Through the A.A. Degree, Valencia offers lower division preparation for almost all of the approximately 200 majors in the State University System of Florida.

The Associate in Arts Degree Pre-Majors are designed for students who know their intended major at the university, plan to earn the A.A. Degree from Valencia, and want to transfer to one of the eleven state universities in Florida as a junior to complete a bachelor's degree in one of the specific majors for which Valencia has a Pre-Major. Valencia does offer a few Pre-Majors for transfer to private institutions in Florida.

The Associate in Arts Degree: General Studies is available for students who want a college degree and have not selected a Pre-Major for transfer to a state university in Florida and for students who plan to transfer to a private and/or out-of-state institution. Although the Pre-Majors provide the best preparation for transfer to specific majors in Florida's State University System, a student still may choose the Associate in Arts: General Studies for a variety of reasons.

The Associate in Arts Degree and the Pre-Majors are described in full in the University Parallel Program section of this catalog.

2. The A.A.S. and A.S. Degrees are designed to prepare students to enter careers upon completing a degree, with no further study required.

Valencia offers approximately 35 A.A.S. and A.S. Degrees ranging from Accounting to Entertainment Design and Technology.

Certain A.S. Degrees articulate with bachelor's degree programs in Florida's public university system. These degrees, called Articulated A.S. to B.A./B.S. Career Path Degrees, are designed for students who seek immediate employment in the specified field and who decide to continue to a Florida public university as a junior to complete a bachelor's degree in the specified field.

In addition, many articulation agreements between Valencia and specific programs at various public and private four-year institutions provide opportunities for A.S. Degree graduates to continue their educational pursuits to bachelor degree programs. For further information, visit <http://valenciacc.edu/asdegrees/tec.asp>.

Some state universities have recently begun to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree (B.A.S.) for personal or career advancement. The B.A.S. is designed to build on the Associate in Science Degree.

The A.A.S. and A.S. Degrees are described in full in the Career Programs Section of this catalog.

If you are interested in an Associate in Arts, an Associate in Applied Science or an Associate in Science Degree, you should read the catalog carefully to learn the requirements and characteristics of each degree, and you should review the career areas of the Student Handbook.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Your governing catalog is the Valencia Community College Catalog in effect at the time of your initial enrollment in credit courses at Valencia. A Valencia Catalog is valid for five academic years. You may follow the policies and graduation requirements in your

governing catalog for the five academic years except as may be otherwise provided by law or policies of the District Board of Trustees. You may officially declare any subsequent catalog as your governing catalog and follow its requirements for your initial degree or certificate program until that catalog expires; however, if you change your degree or certificate program, you are required to choose from the current degree and certificate program offerings and follow the graduation requirements of the current catalog. If your governing catalog has expired, your new governing catalog will be the catalog in effect in your next term of enrollment.

Valencia changes program requirements within an academic year only by exception due to changes in the law, changes in policies of the District Board of Trustees, rapid changes in technology and/or changes in external certification requirements. If this occurs, revised program requirements will be available in the official online catalog, Answer Centers, Student Services, and appropriate academic departments, and substitutions in graduation requirements will be approved by the respective program director or academic dean.

2. You may earn any number of Associate in Applied Science and/or Associate in Science Degrees as well as an Associate in Arts Degree; however, you may not earn an Associate in Arts at Valencia if you have earned a Bachelor's or Associate in Arts Degree from a regionally-accredited institution.

If you want to earn more than one degree at Valencia, you may complete the first degree and then pursue another degree or you may pursue two degrees at the same time. Whenever possible, a course will be applied to more than one degree.

3. For all degree programs, specific courses have been designated to demonstrate that graduates of these

programs are competent in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills and the basic use of computers. In some programs, skill sets and formally evaluated learning activities for the areas of oral communication and the basic use of computers have been incorporated in traditional general education or other course work related to the degree. In cases in which such

designated courses are transferred from other institutions, students must demonstrate proficiency in oral communication and/or the basic use of computers by completing or having completed a specific course in the area of speech (for oral communication) and/or a specific course in the area of computer technology (for the basic use of computers).

