

Aims Community College Procedure

Academic Affairs

Academic Degrees and Certificates

Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to codify and bring awareness to the types of degrees and certificates Aims Community College has the authorization to offer as well as to distinguish the level of rigor among courses offered at the Certificate, Associate, and Bachelor levels.

I. Degrees and Certificates

Aims Community College is authorized by the State of Colorado and/or the Higher Learning Commission to offer the following degrees and certificates. Authorization does not mean the College offers all of the degrees listed below. The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of all degrees and certificates.

- Associate of Arts Degree
- Associate of Science Degree
- Associate of Engineering Science Degree
- Associate of General Studies Degree
- Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Bachelor of Applied Science
- Occupational and Career & Technical Certificates

II. Statement of Course Level Rigor

The following statements outline course level rigor. Courses offered at the 1000 level and 2000 level are associated with Certificate and Associate degree programs, while Bachelor degrees consist of 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 level courses.

A. 1000-Level Courses

Courses are typically introductory in nature, presenting basic concepts and terminology. Courses are designed to develop skills (e.g., reading, writing, reasoning) necessary to foster student success in subsequent course levels. Students in 1000-level courses are expected to operate largely at the knowledge and comprehension levels, and these classes will likely provide opportunities to develop at the application and analysis levels. Students begin to understand the importance of self-direction in learning.

B. 2000-Level Courses

Courses are at an intermediate level of difficulty focusing on a specialty or sub-field and involving additional practice within the discipline. These courses are sometimes preceded by a prerequisite at the 1000-level. Courses are designed to further develop foundational concepts. Students taking 2000-level courses solidify their abilities at the knowledge and comprehension levels with ample opportunity to develop their application and analysis skills. Students increasingly demonstrate personal responsibility for their learning.

Completion of certificates or degrees may allow for entry into the discipline/practice.

C. 3000-Level Courses

Courses are at an advanced-undergraduate level of difficulty and are generally taken by students majoring in the field who have completed 1000/2000-level prerequisites. 3000-level courses reinforce lower cognitive levels and provide students with the opportunity to operate at the synthesis and evaluation levels. Courses are designed for students holding a well-defined interest and demonstrated ability in a particular subject area. Upon completion, students are expected to develop competencies and understanding by evaluating existing research and standards of practice. Students at this level engage in the field of study and apply learned skills through practice. Students gain autonomy and self-direction in learning.

D. 4000-Level Courses

Courses at the 4000-level are taken by students who are completing a field of study. Courses at this level require students to operate predominantly at the synthesis and evaluation levels. They are often designed as a capstone experience, with students taking significant responsibility for demonstrating knowledge and skill application. In particular, 4000-level courses provide opportunities for students to perform research and/or engage in direct practice. Upon completion, students are expected to integrate research, exhibit subject matter competence, and collaborate with faculty, peers, and industry professionals. Students demonstrate initiative and self-direction in learning.

Culminates in entry or advancement in the discipline/practice.

III. Related Policies and Procedures

See the Graduation Policy and Procedure and the Transfer Credit Policy and Procedure for additional information about the requirements for awarding degrees and certificates.

[Graduation Requirements Policy](#)

[Graduation Requirements Procedure](#)

[Transfer Credit Policy](#)

[Transfer Credit Procedure](#)

See the *Review of Existing Programs Procedure* for additional information about the process for adding new programs.

Adopted: College Council, January 23, 2023

Responsible Administrator: Vice President of Academic Affairs