

Associate in Arts Degree

AA Degree Programs

Miami-Dade Community College offers Preparatory Courses for a wide range of majors for the Associate in Arts degree. These prepare students to enter the junior year at four-year upper-division colleges and universities.

Four-year colleges and universities vary in the required number and nature of courses, which should be taken during the freshman and sophomore years. The State University System (SUS) of Florida has identified common prerequisites for most majors. See an advisor for additional information.

Students who have determined which profession or major they plan to pursue should become familiar with the requirements of the upper division universities. Thus, with the help of advisors and using the degree audit, students may take the choice of electives which will be most advantageous in the pursuit of a Baccalaureate degree.

Students must be high school graduates or have a high school equivalency diploma (GED) to enroll in Associate in Arts degree courses.

Each area of concentration is comprised of courses specified by one or more of the universities in the State University System (SUS) or local private university. The first two years of these transfer programs contain specialized courses as prescribed by the respective university. All general education requirements are included. Students should be aware that credits earned in excess of the 60 credits required for graduation might not be accepted for transfer by the upper division university.

AA Degree University Parallel Programs

Accounting

This program offers fundamental instruction in accounting and related subjects such as economics and business. Students who wish to become an accountant may transfer to senior colleges or universities that offer Baccalaureate degrees in accounting.

Accountants work in a variety of settings such as corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, and government agencies.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the art, science, and industry of managing the growth of plants and animals for human use. Study at M-DCC emphasizes a strong foundation in science topics such as biology, chemistry, physics and botany. The range of careers in agriculture extends from rural farming to urban landscaping, with numerous specializations in areas such as hydroponics, agricultural engineering, animal husbandry, food packing and processing, and soil chemistry.

Anthropology

Anthropology studies all aspects of human life by evaluating society, evolution and culture. Course offerings prepare the student in the four fields of the discipline: cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, anthropological linguistics and archaeology. Most anthropologists are researchers who work in museums or educational institutions. Students majoring in anthropology should plan to obtain the Ph.D. degree to fully succeed in the field.

Architecture

This program provides a foundation in areas such as architectural drawing, design, and structure, as well as necessary courses in mathematics. Students may transfer to one of three universities in Florida that have accredited programs in architecture. An architect designs and oversees construction or remodeling of buildings or parts of buildings, working with engineers and contractors.

Area and Ethnic Studies

The undergraduate major in area and ethnic studies is a flexible, interdiscipli-

nary program that emphasizes the history, politics and literature of various groups. Students can concentrate in a specific area such as African-American (Black) studies, American studies, Asian Studies, Jewish studies, Latin American studies, or women's studies. These studies could lead to careers in sociology, political science, or academic work in areas such as comparative literature or history.

Art or Art Education

This program offers hands-on instruction in media such as ceramics, jewelry making and metalsmithing, painting, photography, print making and sculpture. Additionally, design, art history and education coursework is included, so that students may work as artists or art teachers.

Atmospheric Science and Meteorology

To transfer to a four-year program in atmospheric science and meteorology, students must take science and math courses as well as introductory courses in meteorology. Job opportunities may include weather forecasting in aviation, marine or shipping companies, government agencies, broadcasting, or transportation industries. Additionally, meteorologists may work with other scientists researching phenomena such as volcanoes, hurricanes and global warming.

Pre-Bachelor of Arts

The Pre-Bachelor of Arts program at M-DCC is designed for students who seek a general degree program and greater freedom to explore intellectual

fields of their particular interest. This program challenges students to assume major responsibility for the direction of their own education. The program also provides a broader range of educational opportunities than currently exists in specialized programs. At the upper division, a major theme or area of concentration is usually required.

Biology

Biology, or life science, is the study of all aspects of living organisms, emphasizing the relationship of animals and plants to their environment. This program provides the first two years of a four-year program for students planning to major in biology, botany, zoology, marine biology, ecological studies or microbiology. Biology majors may also enter professional schools in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry or podiatry.

Building Construction

This program is for students primarily interested in the construction of buildings rather than their architectural design. Coursework includes math and science subjects as well as courses in business and construction. A four-year degree in this program will prepare students to enter the building construction industry at the management level.

Business Administration

Business administration includes courses in accounting, business law, finance, as well as more generalized mathematics courses. Students may transfer to senior colleges or universities that offer Baccalaureate degrees in business administration, and ultimately work in fields such as banking, finance, marketing, information systems, or real estate.



Chemistry

Chemistry is the science that investigates the composition, properties, and change of properties of elementary forms of matter. In addition to coursework in chemistry, the AA is a science and math intensive program that includes courses in botany, biology, physics, geometry and calculus. Chemists may work as researchers, analysts, or quality control specialists in companies that manufacture anything from pharmaceuticals to food products. Additionally, they may pursue careers in medicine, environmental science, chemical engineering or many other fields.

Computer Arts Animation

This program enables students to develop creative and artistic skills in conjunction with advanced computer skills. Studies include basic and figure drawing, use of computer animation software, general education as well as exposure to trends and standards in the animation industry for television and film.

Computer Information Systems (CIS)

CIS focuses on the structure, management, and control of information resources on computers. Coursework

includes business and math courses, as well as courses in information systems, programming languages, and assembler language. Students transfer to four-year institutions and major in computer information systems, computer and information sciences, information sciences, or management information systems. Degrees lead to careers in systems analysis, computer programming, database management, network services and support.

Computer Science

As the name suggests, computer science is a more science-intensive program than CIS. In addition to courses in programming and applications, the program provides a thorough grounding in biology, chemistry, and physics. Computer scientists are software designers who work in science and engineering fields.

Criminal Justice Administration

In addition to coursework focusing on criminal justice and law, this program includes courses in history, sociology, and political science. Thus pre-law students will find this suitable, as well as those seeking Bachelors' degrees in criminal justice. Careers to which this program may lead are in law enforcement, corrections (including probation and parole), and security in private businesses as well as the government.

Dance

Studio classes feature modern dance and ballet, and the program also includes theoretical courses. This curriculum meets the pre-professional and general education course requirements for transfer, but students should meet with an advisor to discuss the specific requirements of the four-year institution they plan to attend. Often, departments in four-year institutions will require an audition. This program is designed to prepare students who are pursuing a career in teaching, choreography or the performance of ballet, jazz or contemporary forms of dance.

Dietetics

This program provides the science education needed to transfer to a four-year program in dietetics. Chemistry, biology, anatomy and physiology are emphasized in this program. Dieticians and nutrition specialists may work as meal planners in institutions such as schools and hospitals, in the food products or health and fitness industry, or in a range of health and medical professions.

Drama or Drama Education

This a comprehensive program in all aspects of theatrical production, including lighting, costuming, make-up, and other aspects of stagecraft. Students participate in stage productions which are presented to the public throughout the academic year. While this program does provide the necessary coursework to transfer to a four-year institution, some departments in four-year colleges and universities will require an audition or portfolio, depending upon the student's intended area of study. Careers in drama include drama education, theatrical production, casting, acting, and a wide variety of stagecrafts.

Economics

Economics is the study of how people produce, trade, and consume goods and services. The AA program emphasizes fundamental coursework in busi-

ness and mathematics. While many students choose to obtain graduate degrees, economists with Bachelors' degrees can work in fields such as business economics and forecasting, urban real estate and regional planning, analysis of markets and industrial regulation, management consulting, and in banking and financial services.

Engineering

Miami-Dade Community College offers ten Engineering AA programs: architectural, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, industrial, mechanical, ocean, science, and surveying and mapping. Each has its own curriculum to best prepare students for transfer to a four-year institution.

English Literature & English Education

English/Literature is the study of great written works and how they were shaped by historical and cultural events. This program also includes education courses to prepare students for careers as teachers. However, students who graduate with a Bachelor's degree in English are also equipped to work in publishing, and may be qualified to work as a writer in virtually any field.

Environmental Studies

Environmental studies examines environmental issues from both ecological and sociological standpoints. Thus, it is an interdisciplinary major which combines life sciences, social sciences and the humanities. Students at M-DCC take mostly science and mathematics courses, to prepare them for transfer into a Baccalaureate program. This field is projected to grow in the 21st century, as the need for environmental researchers, analysts, engineers and journalists will grow.

Exercise Science

Exercise science studies the relationship of physical exercise to human health and disease prevention. This

interdisciplinary field can include the study of biomechanics, kinesiology, nutrition, and related areas.

The program at M-DCC prepares students for transfer with coursework in human anatomy and physiology, nutrition, health and exercise. Exercise science is a growing field; professionals work in venues as diverse as hospitals, health clubs, research facilities, sports teams, and as specialists in corporate, industrial, and educational settings.

Foreign Languages

Foreign language programs train students to achieve reading, writing, and speaking fluency in one or more foreign languages. The demand for interpreters, translators, and language instructors is projected to grow in the 21st century, and graduates with Bachelors' degrees can work almost anywhere in the world for corporations, businesses, governments, non-profit agencies or schools.

Forestry

Forestry studies the ecology and economy of forest management. Students should be aware that the University of Florida is the only in-state university offering this program, with majors in forest resources, and conservation and urban forestry. Foresters manage, develop, and protect woodlands and their resources - timber, water, wildlife, forage, and recreational areas.

Geology

Geologists study the structure, composition, and history of the Earth. This program provides basic coursework in geology, calculus, biology and chemistry. Some examples of employers of geologists include agencies targeting pollution or urban waste, corporations searching for new sources of petroleum or natural gas, and research organizations studying volcanoes or earthquakes.

Graphic or Commercial Arts

Graphic arts emphasizes studio courses in design, drawing and digital techniques. Graduates may work in advertising agencies, design studios, exhibit and display businesses, department stores and industrial organizations.

Health Services Administration

This program provides the fundamental science coursework for transfer to a Baccalaureate program in health services administration, which prepares students for entry-level management positions in health services delivery organizations. Persons licensed in clinical health often pursue this degree, as do medical care professionals who do not have an undergraduate degree. The Baccalaureate also prepares individuals for graduate study in this field.

History

History is the study of the events, patterns and cycles that have shaped our present world. Depending upon the area of specialization, history may examine political events, social evolution, cultural developments, or a combination of these. The two-year program at M-DCC prepares students for transfer with courses in American, Afro-American, and Latin American history, and surveys of American, English, and world literature. While professional historians tend to be people with Doctorates who work in museums or educational institutions, a Bachelors' degree in history can prepare one for graduate work in law or political science, and have application to careers requiring good writing or analytical skills.

Hospitality Administration/Travel & Tourism Management

This field combines traditional business and management education with training specific to the tourism, travel and hospitality industries. Careers in the hospitality, travel and tourism industry include hotel and restaurant management, and managerial positions with cruise ships, airline companies, land-based tourism companies, as well as travel agencies.

Interior Design

Interior design studies combines architecture, art and design courses, training the student to understand the relation of interior spaces to the total design of structures, including architecture, landscaping and lighting. The professional interior designer generally encounters a great variety of challenging work, available in professional, institutional, and private settings.

International Relations

Students can obtain the coursework necessary to transfer to four-year programs in international relations, a major which usually includes political science and economics courses. Employment opportunities are available at the Baccalaureate level in business, govern-

ment, journalism, and political organizations. Many students, however, go on to pursue graduate work or law school.

Landscape Architecture

The A.A. in landscape architecture prepares students for transfer by offering courses in architecture, horticulture and botany. Landscape architects plan the arrangement of outdoor areas for people's use and enjoyment, making recommendations for the types and location of plantings, circulation, drainage, and other harmonizing improvements with existing land features and architectural structures. The University of Florida offers the only in-state program in landscape architecture.

Pre-Law

Although no specific area of study is mandatory for a pre-law major, the M-DCC program offers courses in criminal justice, government, history and business to best prepare a student for future coursework. Students should work with an advisor to determine the best four-year degree to pursue.

Mass Communication/Journalism

Mass communication examines the role of media in society. Coursework includes media criticism and analysis,



U.S. history and government, sociology, and a study of the broadcast, cable and Internet industries. Depending upon the student's area of interest, study can also include journalism, and television and radio production. A bachelors' in mass communication equips one to work in journalism, corporate communication, or in certain business or managerial positions in television or radio.

Mathematics

The mathematics AA emphasizes math and science training, and includes coursework in computer programming. Mathematics is both a science and a tool essential for many kinds of work in industry and business. As a result, employment opportunities for graduates trained in mathematics have expanded rapidly in industries such as aviation and communications, sciences such as oceanography and meteorology, and government agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau.

Pre-Medical Science/ Pre-Dentistry/ Pre-Physician's Assistant

This program is designed to meet the first two years of required courses for students planning careers in medicine and dentistry. Pre-medical education should include a good foundation in chemistry, biology, mathematics, and physics, as well as a broad education in the humanities and social sciences. This program enables the student to transfer to colleges or universities that offer a Baccalaureate degree in physician assistant (PA), or other pre-medical degrees such as biology. Admission to a professional school is dependent upon academic course work and scores on a national test. Applicants should have a "B" average.

Medical Technology

This program provides the science coursework necessary to transfer to a four-year Baccalaureate program. Students must transfer to an upper division institution for the third year. Generally,

the fourth year is spent in a clinical setting, usually in a hospital where students learn laboratory techniques.

Members of this profession work in a clinical laboratory performing a wide variety of tests, which aid the physician in the diagnosis, and treatment of patients. Most medical technologists work in hospitals, physician's public health laboratories, universities, or in industry.

Music or Music Education

Music or music education students must be proficient in music theory and music history as well as be a skilled performer. Careers in music include individual and group performance, conducting, composing, and teaching. Music graduates may also have jobs working in ancillary professions such as retail, publishing and recording.

Pre-Nursing

This program includes the pre-professional courses necessary for admission to a Bachelor of Science degree program in nursing (BSN). The first two years at the community college level consist of general education and science courses. The professional nursing courses are taken in the last two years at the upper division.

Upper division programs are limited access, require an above average academic record, and have widely differing pre-professional course requirements. Therefore, students are advised to check with the Nursing Department of the senior institution they wish to attend. Most upper division programs also offer a track for registered nurses (RNs) completing an Associate in Science degree to earn a BSN degree.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is a profession that uses creative/recreational activities and manual skills to evaluate and treat physical and mental illnesses. The AA prepares students for transfer by offering courses in human anatomy and physiology, human behavior, growth and development, along with more tradi-

tional science courses. Employment possibilities include civilian, military, and government hospitals, rehabilitation centers, long-term and extended care facilities, community mental health centers, and clinics for the physically limited.

Pre-Optometry

This program provides the fundamental science coursework necessary to transfer to a four-year institution, where students can obtain a degree in an appropriate field, such as biology. To be an optometrist, one must earn the Doctor of Optometry professional degree. A Bachelor's degree with a strong science background is required for admission. Graduates must pass a state licensure exam in order to practice. Optometrists prescribe glasses, contact lenses and visual therapy and offer non-surgical treatment of eye diseases and the rehabilitation of patients with visual disabilities.

Pre-Pharmacy

The pre-pharmacy program provides the math and science education needed to transfer to a Baccalaureate program. Career opportunities in pharmacy include positions in a hospital or institutional pharmacy, in industry or manufacturing, in a retail pharmacy or a clinical pharmacy, in government service, in pharmacy administration, in laboratories and pharmaceutical journals. The University of Florida, Florida A&M University and Nova Southeastern are the only in-state institutions that offer a Baccalaureate and/or Doctorate in this field.

Philosophy

Philosophy investigates the fundamental principles of being, knowledge, or conduct. There are many different systems of philosophical discourse, and the two-year program introduces students to many of them. Unless a student wishes to earn a Doctorate and teach at the college level, a Bachelors' degree in philosophy is generally useful only in indirect ways. It can prepare students for graduate work in other fields such as

law or theology, and the study of philosophy usually sharpens a student's analytic skills.

Physical Education Teaching and Coaching

This program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in physical education at the pre-school, elementary, secondary, college or community program level. This curriculum meets the pre-professional and "General Education" course requirements for transfer, but due to variations in course requirements, students should confer with a departmental advisor. Employment opportunities include teaching, coaching, sports communications, sports psychology, sports history, sports sociology, and sports medicine. Target populations include the able-bodied, physically limited, and aged in educational, governmental, public, and/or private settings.

Physical Therapy

This program prepares students for transfer by providing intensive coursework in mathematics and science subjects. Most upper division programs have selective admissions, and transfer requirements vary, so students should work with an advisor to plan their program of study. Physical therapists help rehabilitate individuals who have been disabled by injury or disease. They usually work in health care settings such as hospitals or nursing homes.

Physics

Physics is the study of the motion and force of energy and matter. This science is applied to different kinds of energy and matter, as in thermodynamics, astrophysics, nuclear physics and wave motion analysis. The AA coursework provides a fundamental education in mathematics and science topics so that students may transfer to pursue

their area of interest. Careers in research are available both in government agencies and private industries, as well as in educational institutions, though in most cases graduate degrees are required.

Political Science

Political science examines the role and effects of government actions on society. The AA program prepares students for transfer with coursework in history, literature, economics, and government. Political scientists may work in various government jobs, or may work as lobbyists, researchers, political analysts, or journalists. In addition to graduate work in the field, a Bachelor's degree in political science also prepares students for law school.

Psychology

Psychology is the science of human behavior and mental processes that affect mental and physical health. AA coursework covers the science and mathematics subjects needed to transfer to a four-year institution. While a Bachelor's degree in psychology could be useful in a number of careers, professional psychologists must continue training beyond the Bachelors' degree. Employment opportunities with a Doctorate or a Masters' degree include teaching or counseling in a wide variety of settings.

Public Administration

This is an interdisciplinary program which combines business, government, and economics courses geared towards work in the public sector. Although some students do pursue graduate degrees, those with Bachelor degrees can obtain work managing budgets, programs and policies in government, education, and non-profit settings.

Recreation

To prepare for upper division work in recreation, students take courses in accounting, economics, human anatomy and physiology, and health sciences.

This curriculum meets the pre-professional and general education course requirements for transfer, but due to variations in upper division requirements, students should confer with an advisor. Recreation professionals often work in youth agencies, but may also develop careers in other industries such as health care, fitness, and travel and tourism.

Religion

Religion majors may compare religions of the world, study the inherent values of various religions, examine the impact of religion on culture and society, and explore one religious system in depth. The two-year curriculum offers basic coursework in world and western religions, as well as an array of history courses. Students who obtain Bachelor's degrees may pursue graduate theological studies or a ministerial career, or they may seek work immediately in a religious organization.

Social Work

This program prepares students for upper division education in social work by offering courses in science and sociology. Social workers provide the link between organized social services and individuals and families who are not able to provide for themselves or who need assistance in solving their problems. Potential employers include hospitals, mental health centers, rehabilitation centers, government agencies, schools and correctional institutions.

Sociology

Sociology is the systematic study of human interaction, that is, society, social relationships, social structures and social change. Coursework emphasizes liberal arts topics such as literature, cultural anthropology, theatre appreciation and history, as well as introductory courses in sociology. Graduates with Bachelor's degrees can work in settings such as community organizations, government agencies, and the criminal justice field. Many go on to pursue graduate degrees and work in social policy, public administration, law, government or social services.



Speech Pathology and Audiology

This program provides fundamental coursework in biology and communications so that students may transfer to a four-year institution. The curriculum leading to the Baccalaureate degree is usually designed as pre-professional education for a graduate program. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists provide clinical services to individuals with speech, language, and hearing impairments. Eligibility for the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and state licensure are not possible until requirements for the graduate degree are met.

Teaching

This program prepares students to major in elementary education by providing a curriculum that provides the science, liberal arts and education courses necessary for transfer to Florida colleges and universities. Available areas of specialization include elementary, pre-elementary/early childhood, exceptional student and secondary education. Available areas of specialization in secondary education are biology, chemistry, earth/space, English and foreign languages, mathematics, physics, and social science. Additionally a specialization in vocational secondary education is available, which includes agriculture, business, home economics and technical. Coursework appropriate to each area of specialization is featured in the specific AA program. Students should work with an advisor to determine the appropriate coursework for transfer into their intended area of study.

Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary medicine is the study of the diagnosis, treatment, and control of disease and injuries among animals. Veterinarians may specialize in the health and breeding of certain animals, performing surgery, prescribing and administering drugs and vaccines, research and inspecting meat, poultry, and other foods as part of federal and state public health programs.

The University of Florida is the only state school that offers this program.