

Technical Studies –Journeyworker Associate of Applied Science Degree WTCS #10-499-5, 60 credit degree approved for all WTCS colleges-September 2008

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Technical Studies – Journeyworker AAS degree (JW –AAS) and what value would it have for me?

The Technical Studies – Journeyworker Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree is a 60 credit degree designed for individuals seeking academic recognition for the completion of a registered apprenticeship. It is intended to support life-long learning and accelerate the achievement of individual career goals.

How does the JW-AAS work?

All WTCS Associate of Applied Science degrees must consist of at least 21 credits in General Studies and 39 credits in Technical Studies. Colleges shall recognize successful completion of a WTCS program of apprentice-related technical instruction and possession of a Certificate of Apprenticeship (completion) issued by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (DWD-BAS) as fulfilling the 39 credit minimum Technical Studies requirement of the Technical Studies – Journeyworker Associate of Applied Science degree. The WTCS apprentice program must include at least 400 hours of prescribed apprentice-related technical instruction to fulfill the 39-credit minimum. Successful completion for credit transfer means a grade of C or better (grade point 2.0 on a 4.0 scale).

Who has been most interested in getting this Associate Degree?

Over the past ten years, more than 275 graduate apprentices from over 50 trade programs have signed up for this degree. Most have been from the Industrial Trades where an associate degree is seen as a key to advancement. Graduates report a median wage of over \$50,000 per year.

Would it be possible to complete both my apprenticeship and the JW-AAS at the same time?

YES, if you are able to work full-time, successfully complete your related instruction, and take one general education course each semester.

Does the Technical Studies – Journeyworker degree require specific General Studies (Education) courses to meet the 21 credit requirement?

NO, but JW-AAS students are expected to meet the WTCS General Studies breadth requirements:

<i>Communications</i>	<i>6 credits</i>
<i>Social Science</i>	<i>3 credits</i>
<i>Behavioral Science</i>	<i>3 credits</i>
<i>Math and/or Science</i>	<i>3 credits</i>
<i>Additional General Education</i>	<i>6-15 credits</i>

Where can I take these courses?

General education courses are recognized throughout the WTCS and UW systems and are available in multiple formats including on-line through www.etechnologycollege.org.

Which WTCS college should I attend?

Because you must earn at least 25% of your credits through the college granting your JW-AAS degree (a minimum of 15 credits for this 60 credit degree) and since 400 hours of apprentice paid related technical instruction (PRI) equates to 11-12 credits, you will have a significant head start at the college you attended for your apprentice PRI.

Years ago I completed most of an Associate Degree that was unrelated to my apprenticeship. Will anything still count?

Probably. General Education courses that you successfully completed at a nationally or regionally accredited institution of higher learning should still count provided you earned a grade of C or better (2.0 on a 4.0 scale).

What about transferring to a 4-year college?

General Studies courses on the WTCS Approved list are considered fully transferable; 21 credits (approximately 7 courses) are required. Transferability of the Technical Studies portion of this 60 credit AAS degree to 4-year institutions will be based on the accepting institution's policies and the comparability of programs.

Is this program eligible for financial aid?

The AAS program is eligible but individual student eligibility is not guaranteed. Keep in mind that apprentices are full-time workers and that part-time students generally need to take at least six credits per semester to qualify for financial aid for part-time students. Please check with your college's Financial Aid Administrator.

Will a formal agreement signed by one WTCS college be honored by others?

YES. All 16 colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System abide by the same principles, general policies and tuition structure. Individual college policies (including charges for credit evaluation) must be clearly stated in college catalogs and posted on the college website.

Will apprentice courses taken outside of the WTCS “count” toward this degree?

Each individual case will be evaluated using the college’s established policies and procedures for Credit for Prior Learning. Only postsecondary credits awarded a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale qualify for transfer as credits for prior learning to a WTCS college from a nationally or regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Can I just sign up for this AAS degree instead of an apprenticeship?

NO

Can someone with trade experience who has never served a registered apprenticeship receive the JW-AAS degree?

NO. But, other Credit for Prior Learning procedures may apply.

How do I get started?

Begin by talking to your WTCS Apprenticeship Coordinator or a designated college counselor. You will need to formally enroll in the Technical Studies – Journeyworker program at a WTCS college and meet established college graduation requirements before you will be granted the degree (For example: a college may require an entrance test, or require graduate to demonstrate Computer Literacy, take an Ethics courses, or pay a graduation fee.)

Please contact Marge Wood at marge.wood@wtcsystem.edu or 608.267.9062 with any further questions.