

Table 5-1A
VCCS Degree Requirements

Area	Distribution
<p>GENERAL EDUCATION General education is that portion of the collegiate experience that addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values characteristic of educated persons. It is unbounded by disciplines and honors the connections among bodies of knowledge. The associate degree programs within the VCCS support a collegiate experience that focuses on seven goal areas: <i>communication; critical thinking; cultural and social understanding; information literacy; personal development; quantitative reasoning; scientific reasoning.</i>) The general education goal areas outlined below are to be introduced in the foundational courses and enhanced in program and elective courses. (NOTE: Some of the categories include two goal areas when a single course may provide foundations in both goal areas.)</p> <p>I. Foundations In Communication: Courses designed to enable students to interact with others using all forms of communication, resulting in understanding and being understood.</p> <p>III. Foundations In Cultural And Social Understanding: Courses designed to enable students to have an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the interconnectedness of the social and cultural dimensions within and across local, regional, state, national, and global communities.</p> <p>V. Foundations In Quantitative And Scientific Reasoning: Courses designed to enable students to possess the skills and knowledge necessary to apply the use of logic, numbers, and mathematics to deal effectively with common problems and issues, and to adhere to a self-correcting system of inquiry (the scientific method) and rely on empirical evidence to describe, understand, predict, and control natural phenomena.</p> <p>II. Foundations In Critical Thinking And Information Literacy: Courses designed to enable students to evaluate evidence carefully and apply reasoning to decide what to believe and how to act, and to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively.</p> <p>IV. Foundations In Personal Development: Courses designed to enable students to strive for physical well-being and emotional maturity.</p>	<p>Minimum 15 credits</p> <p>(Students must take at least one course in each of the five areas listed, to total at least 15 credits.)</p>
<p>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS Major Field Core Related/Specialization Courses Electives</p>	<p>Minimum 15 credits* Maximum 15 credits 0-15 credits</p>
<p>TOTALS</p>	<p>AA/AS/AA&S: 60-63 credits**</p>
	<p>AAA/AAS: 65-69 credits***</p>

*Language in Section 5.1.0.0.1 of the VCCS Policy Manual states 25% of the courses in the degree program (15-18 credits) must be common across majors within a degree. The shared courses must be major or related/specialization courses.

**Credit range for engineering programs is 60-72 semester hour credits.

***Credit range for AAA/AAS programs is 65-69, including nursing. For other programs in the Health Technologies, the range is 65-72 semester hour credits.