

**Table 5-1B**  
**Minimum Requirements for**  
**Associate Degrees in the VCCS**

	Minimum Number of Semester Hour Credits			
	(1) <u>AA</u>	(2) <u>AS</u>	(3) <u>AA&amp;S</u>	(4) <u>AAA / AAS</u>
<b>General Education:</b>				
Communication <sup>(a)</sup>	6	6	6	3
Humanities / Fine Arts	6	6	6	3
Foreign Language (Intermediate Level)	6	0	0	0
Social / Behavioral Sciences	9	9 <sup>(b)</sup>	9	3 <sup>(c)</sup>
Natural Sciences /	7	7	7	0
Mathematics	6	6 <sup>(d)</sup>	6 <sup>(d)</sup>	0 } 3 <sup>(c)</sup>
Personal Development <sup>(e)</sup>	2	2	2	2
<b>Other Requirements for Associate Degrees:</b>				
Major field courses and electives (columns 1-3)	18-21	24-27	24-27	49-53 <sup>(f)</sup>
Career/technical courses (column 4)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total for Degree<sup>(g)</sup> =</b>	<b>60-63</b>	<b>60-63<sup>(h)</sup></b>	<b>60-63<sup>(h)</sup></b>	<b>65-69<sup>(h)</sup></b>

Notes: The VCCS Policy Manual, Section 2-IV-C, defines general education within the VCCS. Sections 2.7.3, 3.4.10, and 3.5.1 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Principles of Accreditation specify general education requirements. Colleges must address all SACS requirements, the SCHEV Core Competencies, and the general education goal areas listed in this VCCS Policy Manual.

- (a) Must include at least one course in English composition.
- (b) Only 6 semester hours of social/behavioral sciences are required for engineering majors who plan to transfer to a baccalaureate degree engineering program that requires 6 or fewer hours in this category, provided that the college/university publishes such requirements in its transfer guide.
- (c) While general education courses other than those designed for transfer may be used to meet portions of these requirements, SACS principles require that general education courses be general in nature and must not "...narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures peculiar to a particular occupation or profession."
- (d) Only 3 semester hours of mathematics are required for the General Studies major.
- (e) Personal development includes health, physical education, or recreation courses that promote physical and emotional well being and student development courses. Must include at least one student development course.
- (f) AAA/AAS degrees must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours of general education. Students should plan to take at least 30 hours in the major; the remaining hours will be appropriate to the major.
- (g) All college-level course prerequisites must be included in the total credits required for each program.
- (h) 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.