

**Degree Program Assessment Plan Cover Sheet:
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK**

Plan No. 3_____

Degree Program: Associate of Arts In General Studies

Department and College: Academic Advising, University College

Circle one: AA AS BA BS BBA BSE BSW Master's EdS JD EdD PhD Certificate

Prepared by: Thea Zidonowitz Hoefft, Margaret McClain, Kim Tran

Submitted to College Assessment Committee on _____

Approved on _____

Submitted to Provost Assessment Advisory Group on _____

Approved on _____

1. What are your program goals?

The Associate of Arts in General Studies overall goals are:

- a. To provide students with the UALR Core Curriculum as a base for continuing in school for a bachelor's degree.
- b. To encourage students to consider this degree as progress toward a higher degree.
- c. To enable students to feel a sense of personal accomplishment upon receipt of the AAGS degree.
- d. To provide students with a means of professional advancement.

2. What are your learning objectives or outcomes associated with each goal?

- a. To complete the UALR Core Curriculum
- b. To be prepared to continue studies for a bachelor's degree.

3. Where will the objectives be addressed in your program? In which courses and through which activities will they be assessed?

The first, assessment of UALR Core Curriculum courses, occurs in the respective departments.

The second, that the student will be prepared to continue studies for a bachelor's degree, is assessed at the time of the annual review of the student survey data in preparation for the assessment report.

4. How will you assess each objective?

Assessment of the UALR Core Curriculum occurs in the respective departments.

Each student's record is checked in University College and then checked again in Records and Registration before the Associate of Arts is awarded. This ensures that certain standards have been met: a) a minimum GPA of 2.0; b) completion of the UALR Core Curriculum; and c) completion of a minimum of 64 credit hours.

5. What is your timeline for implementation?

The AAGS program is assessed yearly.

**University College
Associate of Arts in General Studies
Office of Academic Advising
3/30/06**

**Degree Program Assessment Progress Report
2005**

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5. What are the assessment findings? How did you analyze them?

Student characteristics are reported yearly. Sixty-nine (69) students filed degree

plans in 2005-2006. Thirty-two (32) were native UALR students (46%), and thirty-seven (37) were transfer students (54%). Nine (9) native UALR students also presented transfer credits for the degree. Native UALR students are defined as those who began in college at UALR, even if they transferred credits, such as for summer school, back to UALR. Students submitted 73 transcripts from 39 different colleges, and the top two transfer institutions continue to be Pulaski Technical College and the University of Central Arkansas. The number of hours transferred ranged from 9 to 146, and the average number of hours transferred was 33. Following this report are two graphs which present information about the number of core courses and the number of elective courses transferred.

Year	UALR #	UALR %	Transfer #	Transfer %
2005-2006	32	46%	37	54%
2004-2005	37	49%	38	51%
2003-2004	44	54%	37	46%
2002-2003	36	48%	39	52%
2001-2002	30	43%	40	57%
2000-2001	23	33%	36	67%
1999-2000	30	50%	30	50%

The following table presents the number of students who have applied for the AAGS each year since 2001-2002.

Year	Total # Students	% Change
2005-2006	69	-9%
2004-2005	76	-6%
2003-2004	81	8%
2002-2003	75	7%
2001-2002	70	1%
2002-2001	69	15%

The characteristics of students who apply for the AAGS remain similar to recent years. The average age, however, increased from 31 to 33, and that is still somewhat higher than the average age of all UALR students. Consistently, eighty percent (80%) are female, and twenty percent (20%) are male.

The AAGS survey asks if the student plans to continue for a bachelor's degree. Sixty-three (92%) of the 69 students this year indicate they plan to continue for a

bachelor's degree. Five (7%) say they are unsure, and 1 (2%) does not plan to continue for a bachelor's degree.

The records of the 76 students seeking the AAGS in the 2005 report were reviewed one year later (March 2006), to determine: 1) if the student is still enrolled at UALR in spring 2006; and 2) if the student has completed a bachelor's degree at UALR. The status of each student was checked in BANNER. Of the 76 students, 23 are still enrolled in spring 2006, and 12 have completed a bachelor's degree. Of the 23 still enrolled, 4 are in the status of "pending" the completion of a bachelor's degree in May, 2006. This total of 35 students represents 46% of the 76 students who are either still enrolled in school at UALR or have already completed a bachelor's degree.

One survey question asks, "Which of the following most closely describes your reason for applying for the AAGS?" "Personal satisfaction" is the most frequently checked response, and they may check as many responses as they choose.

Personal satisfaction – 46
Half way to a bachelor's – 41
Job opportunity and advancement – 31
Intend to transfer – 5
Other – 1 (might have to move)

There are no significant changes from last year of the data collected about the students.

6. What conclusions were drawn and what decisions made as a result?

The conclusion is that the characteristics of students interested in the Associate of Arts degree remain consistent with prior years. Eighty percent of the people seeking the degree are women who are older than the average age UALR student, and many of them indicate that "personal satisfaction" is an important reason for applying for the degree.

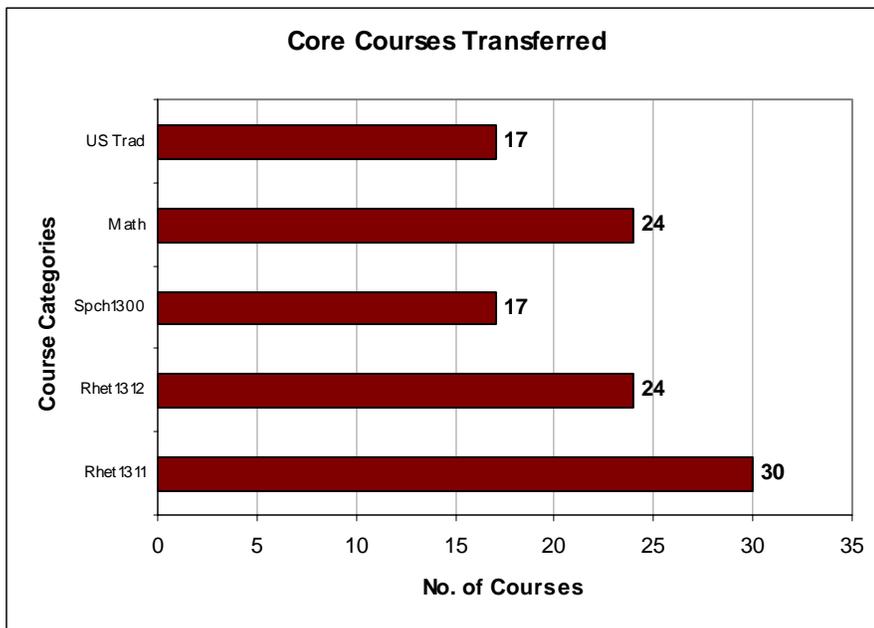
The data seems to indicate that the AAGS does reinforce the achievement of an educational goal. As reflected in the survey results, the most frequently checked response for obtaining the AA is "personal satisfaction." For those students whose education has been interrupted one or more times for various reasons, the achievement of the Associate of Arts marks a significant personal accomplishment. Still others indicate on the survey that they believe the AA will help them with employment, such as getting a job, keeping a job, or getting a higher paying job (promotion) where they are currently employed.

In the 2005-2006 year, the UALR Benton Center began actively working with students who wish to apply for the degree. The Benton Center advisor trained

with an AA staff member regarding AAGS degree plans and procedures. Due to this initiative, more students are anticipated to receive and benefit from the Associate of Arts in General Studies.

The assessment results are presented at the annual Assessment Expo Fair and are posted on appropriate websites (Academic Advising, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Assessment Central). The presentation for the Associate of Arts in General Studies was presented the “best of the best” award by the Provost’s Assessment Advisory Group at the October, 2005 Fair.

No program or assessment changes are planned at this time.



Elective Courses Transferred

