

Policy on Degrees and Awards

Gadsden State Community College awards associate degrees, certificates, and short-term certificates.

An instructional program is defined as a combination of courses and experiences that is designed to accomplish a predetermined objective or set of allied objectives such as preparation for advanced study, qualification for an occupation or range of occupations, or simply the increase of knowledge and understanding. Accordingly, Gadsden State is authorized to certify the successful completion of prescribed courses of study in each instructional program through the awarding of the following degrees and certificates:

The **Associate in Science Degree (AS)** is an undergraduate award designed for a student who plans to transfer to a senior institution for the successful completion of a prescribed program of study in a general field or in a specialized pre-professional field. The maximum number of semester credit hours required for the AS degree is 64.

The **Associate in Arts Degree (AA)** is an undergraduate award designed for a student who plans to transfer to a senior institution for the successful completion of a prescribed program of study in a liberal arts area. The maximum number of semester credit hours required for the AA degree is 64.

The **Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS)** is an undergraduate award designed for students planning to specialize in technical, business, semi-professional, and supervisory fields. Students specializing in certain career-oriented fields may be eligible to transfer to a senior institution. The AAS degree may require a maximum of 76 semester hours.

The **Certificate Award (CERT)** is a formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a prescribed program of study. The certificate is less than a degree, and its curriculum is related to the student's employment or professional advancement. A certificate requires a minimum of 30 semester hours and a maximum of 60 semester hours.

The **Short-Term Certificate Award (STC)** is a formal award that prepares technicians and assistants for entry-level positions in business and industry. Short-term certificate programs must be a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours in length and a maximum of 29 semester credit hours.