

**University of Wisconsin System  
Board of Regents Criteria for Approval of  
Wisconsin Technical College System Collegiate Transfer Programs**

Wisconsin Statutes (Wis. Stat. §36.31)<sup>1</sup> require that the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board, and the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) Board of Regents (BOR) approve the broadening of collegiate transfer programs in WTCS districts.

WTCS is pursuing additional collegiate transfer offerings through the development of pre-professional associate degree programs and through increasing the number of liberal arts (formerly called College Parallel) associate degree programs. Liberal arts programs leading to the Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree are currently offered at three WTCS colleges: Madison Area Technical College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Nicolet Area Technical College. WTCS has established criteria for approval of additional collegiate transfer programs by the appropriate District and the WTCS State Board. The following describes the principles, guidelines and criteria for consideration by the UW System Board of Regents of new collegiate transfer programs.

**I. Principles**

- A. *Enhance Credit Transfer.*** The goal of expanding opportunities for liberal arts programs and creating pre-professional programs in the technical college system is to enhance credit transfer so as to expand the opportunities for Wisconsin citizens to earn baccalaureate degrees.
- B. *Avoid Unnecessary Duplication.*** State higher education resources are best utilized by ensuring that additional liberal arts and pre-professional programs do not unnecessarily duplicate existing programs and offerings.
1. In considering additional sites for liberal arts programs and new pre-professional programs, consideration must be given to all options currently available through UWS institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> **36.31 Coordination with other educational agencies.**

36.31(1)

(1) The board shall not, without the approval of the technical college system board, broaden the system's post-high school training mission to include the preparation of persons for semiprofessional or skilled-trade occupations beyond those offered during the 1972-73 academic year. The technical college system board shall not, without the approval of the board of regents, broaden its system's collegiate transfer program offerings beyond those in existence during the 1972-73 academic year. In this section, "collegiate transfer program" has the meaning given in s. 38.01 (3).

36.31(2)

(2) The technical college system board, in agreement with the board may designate courses other than those covered under sub. (1) as transferable for collegiate credit between the 2 systems.

2. Approved programs should:
  - a. Meet a projected long-term need by students.
  - b. Draw upon the existing strengths and resources of the WTCS and UWS institutions.
  - c. Identify and justify sources and uses of new or reallocated resources necessary to support the program.

## **II. Liberal Arts Programs**

The WTCS Liberal Arts Program offers two 64-credit degrees, an Associate in Arts (A.A.) and an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. The degrees are designed for students planning to transfer to a baccalaureate institution. By completing one of these degrees, the student will generally satisfy the first two years of general education requirements for various majors in baccalaureate institutions and obtain an educational foundation in languages, humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, and the social sciences.

### ***A. Guidelines for Liberal Arts Programs.***

1. Additional liberal arts programs will be considered for WTCS districts in which there is a demonstrated need on the part of existing and potential students and where it has been clearly demonstrated that UWS institutions cannot accommodate the need.
2. Collaboration opportunities, including distance education, offered by UWS institutions should be considered and utilized when feasible.

### ***B. Review and Approval Process for Liberal Arts Programs.***

1. Throughout the WTCS review process, WTCS staff and UWS Administration (UWSA) staff will be in communication about the proposed new program so that UWS institutions can be informed and consulted as the Liberal Arts program is being developed.
2. Upon WTCS District and the WTCS State Board approval, the programs will be submitted to the BOR through its Education Committee. UWSA staff, in collaboration with WTCS staff, will make a formal presentation on the new liberal arts program to the Education Committee. The final authority for granting the program rests with the Board of Regents.

### ***C. Criteria for Liberal Arts Program Approval.***

1. Formal review and, if possible, approval of the curriculum for course transfer is obtained from at least one UWS institution to which students are likely to transfer following completion of the Liberal Arts degree.
2. Approval is granted by the appropriate WTCS District Board and the WTCS State Board.

3. The program meets a demonstrated long-term need that is not currently served by a WTCS or UWS institution and where it has been clearly demonstrated that UWS institutions cannot accommodate the need.
4. The program meets appropriate accreditation standards.
5. Concerns raised by WTCS and/or UWS institutions have been considered and addressed.
6. Collaboration with existing UWS or WTCS programs has been investigated and, when appropriate, initiated.
7. The program is an efficient and effective use of state higher educational resources.

### **III. Pre-Professional Programs**

Pre-professional programs would offer a degree that is new to the WTCS. The degree would be an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science in a specified disciplinary area, e.g., engineering, business, and include 40-45 collegiate transfer liberal arts credits, and 18-21 collegiate transfer credits in the pre-professional core area.

Seamless transfer from a WTCS institution to a partner UWS institution's professional program is the primary goal of pre-professional programs. Pre-professional programs would be designed to facilitate transfer between one or more WTCS and UWS institutions where possible. They will be considered from WTCS districts in which there is a demonstrated need on the part of existing and potential students.

#### **A. Guidelines for Pre-Professional Programs.**

1. The Board may consider pre-professional programs from:
  - a. A WTCS district that has liberal arts degree authority (currently MATC Madison and Milwaukee and Nicolet Technical College).
  - b. A WTCS district that does not have liberal arts degree authority if offered in collaboration with a UWS institution(s).
    - i. This collaboration should draw on the respective strengths of the institutions where feasible (liberal arts in the case of the UWS institution, and the pre-professional in the case of the WTCS institution).
    - ii. This collaboration could involve the development of a consortial degree, offered jointly by a WTCS and a UWS institution.
  - c. A WTCS district that does not have liberal arts degree authority, and is not proposing to offer a degree in collaboration with a UWS institution as described in section III.A.1.b., if the Board concludes that such a collaboration is not effective and efficient. The Board will make every

effort, working with the President and the Chancellors of the UWS, to see that effective and efficient collaboration between the two systems occurs in the best interest of students and taxpayers before reaching such a conclusion.

***B. Review and Approval Process for Pre-Professional Programs.***

1. Throughout the WTCS review process, WTCS staff and UWSA staff will be in communication about the proposed new program so that UWS institutions can be informed and consulted as the pre-professional program is being developed.
2. Upon WTCS District and WTCS State Board approval, the program will be submitted to the BOR through its Education Committee for approval. UWSA staff, in collaboration with WTCS staff, will make a formal presentation on the new pre-professional program to the Education Committee. The final authority for granting the program rests with the Board of Regents.

***C. Criteria for Pre-Professional Program Approval.***

1. Approval of the program is obtained from the WTCS and UWS partner institution(s), including the transfer and application of courses toward a degree at the institution.
2. Approval of the program is granted by the appropriate WTCS District Board and the WTCS State Board.
3. The program meets a demonstrated long-term need that is not currently served by a WTCS or UWS institution and where it has been clearly demonstrated that UWS institutions cannot accommodate the need.
4. The program meets the appropriate accreditation standards.
5. The UWS partner institution offers a major or program in a related disciplinary area.
6. Concerns raised by WTCS and/or UWS institutions have been considered and addressed.
7. Collaboration with existing UWS or WTCS programs has been investigated and, when appropriate, initiated.
8. The program is an efficient and effective use of state higher educational resources.