

## CURRICULUM ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**Academic Freedom and Integrity:** The faculty and staff at Sandhills Community College recognize that student learning lies at the heart of all we do. In pursuit of this, we abide by the principles of academic freedom and academic integrity. Faculty and students must be free to examine all pertinent data, question assumptions, be guided by the evidence of scholarly research, and teach and study the substance of their discipline. Instructors are afforded the freedom to manage the learning environment of their courses. At the same time, students will be afforded a quality educational experience where learning is encouraged, evaluations are substantive and meaningful, and grades are awarded fairly.

### College General Education Requirements

Graduates of all associate degree programs should be competent in five fundamental areas: reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and the basic use of computers. Students must demonstrate this competence as follows:

**Reading:** All associate degree students are required to show reading competence through appropriate scores on reading competence tests. Those who cannot demonstrate this competence are required to take one or more integrated developmental reading/writing courses and must demonstrate competence prior to entering English 111, which is required of all students graduating with an associate's degree.

**Writing:** All associate degree students are required to take English 111, Expository Writing. The final writing assignment for students in this class is evaluated for writing competence based on a recognized grading rubric. Students must demonstrate writing competence in order to pass the course.

**Oral Communication:** All associate degree students are required to take English 112, Argument-Based Research, or English 114, Professional Research and Reporting. Each of these classes contains an oral communication component. Each student's competence is evaluated based on a recognized grading rubric. Students must demonstrate competence in oral communication in order to pass the course. Successful completion of an oral communication (COM) course also will satisfy this requirement.

**Mathematical Skills:** (1) All associate degree students are required to show mathematical competence through appropriate scores on competency tests. Those who do not demonstrate this competency are required to take one or more developmental mathematics classes prior to entering their degree programs. **All associate degree students must either place out of MAT 060 or successfully complete MAT 060 to meet the SACS requirement for demonstration of competence in fundamental mathematical skills:**

(2) All graduates of associate degree programs are required to complete successfully at least one mathematics or laboratory-based quantitative science course. (BOTH of these conditions must be met prior to graduation.)

**Basic Use of Computers:** All students who graduate with associate degrees are required to successfully complete English 111, Expository Writing. In order to complete this class, all students are required to show competency in the following basic computer skills: creating and storing files, using a recognized computer software program for word processing to create a properly formatted document, transporting files by way of networks, using computer-based communications, and performing Internet-based searches and retrieval of information. These skills are reinforced in both ENG 112 and ENG 114, either of which is required for all associate degree programs. Successful completion of a computer (CIS) course also will satisfy this requirement.

Any candidate for graduation that has not completed the competencies described above will be separately evaluated and the competencies documented prior to receiving his/her degree. For example, a student who has been awarded transfer credit for English 111 will be separately evaluated by the English and Humanities Department for basic computer skills since the institution from which the credit was transferred may not have evaluated that competency. Successful completion of courses specifically designed to develop required competencies may be acceptable and must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Dean of Instruction or Dean of Humanities.