



General Studies

This area of Stark State College is interdisciplinary and its departments serve the basic educational needs of all technical degree and certificate programs throughout the College. The “core” curriculum courses of the College are administered through the general studies area of the College. Virtually all students take general studies courses. Most technical degree programs require 21 credit hours in general studies courses.

The mission statement of Stark State College indicates that we are concerned with, among other things, preparing students for education beyond the associate degree; helping students acquire positive attitudes toward society, self and work; and fostering participative intelligent and informed citizenship.

The general studies faculty support this mission by providing students with expanded learning and enhanced analytical skills. The transferable skills, which are a fundamental basis to successful work performance, future growth and education, have a high priority. Our goal is to provide a foundation for lifelong growth and development leading to higher levels of knowledge, skill and competency. Students are presented opportunities to develop skills for problem-solving and conflict resolution using language logically, critically and creatively.

Through the general studies curriculum, Stark State College addresses the whole person in terms of values, self-awareness and understanding. Self-awareness includes helping students to understand, use and present technical information. It focuses upon techniques of self-analysis and the skills needed to find work that they can do well and enjoy. A high premium is placed upon developing effective interpersonal skills and the attitudes and abilities required to work purposefully and effectively with others.

Associate of Science Degree (A.S.)

Stark State College offers an Associate of Science degree for the student who is an undeclared major or undecided about the course of study to pursue. It is also a perfect course of study for the health general student who may be awaiting admission to a specific health technology.

The Associate of Science degree is jointly awarded by Stark State College and Kent State University. The program gives students the option of pursuing a four-year Bachelor of Science degree at a four-year college or university.

Due to the proximity of the two campuses, Stark State College and Kent State University - Stark Campus have established a specific program. The following principles apply in a reciprocal program:

- Stark State students will take a minimum of 45 credits at Stark State College and a minimum of 15 credits at the Kent State University - Stark campus.

- Kent State – Stark students will take a minimum of 45 credits at Kent State - Stark and a minimum of 15 credits at Stark State College.
- A specific number of courses in English, mathematics, arts and humanities, social science and natural and physical sciences will generally be required.

Students in the Associate of Science degree program must meet with advisors on both campuses involved for appropriate advising and to be certain that selected courses for completion of the Associate of Science degree will transfer to the four-year college or university selected.

For additional information about the Associate of Science Degree, please contact the Office of Admissions/Student Services or the Dean of General Studies/Public Service Technologies.

Associate of Technical Studies Degree (A.T.S.)

The Associate of Technical Studies (A.T.S.) Degree is awarded for the successful completion of a program in technical education that is individually planned by the student and advisors to meet a specific need that is not available in any of the current degree programs. This interdisciplinary program is intended for the individual who has been gainfully employed in an occupation for several years and is interested in obtaining credit for previous training and experience as well as additional coursework to enhance career opportunities. A minimum of 18 semester hours must be earned in the major area of concentration. A committee composed of the major and minor department heads and the major division chairperson will work out the program of study with the student. Final approval will be granted by the vice president for instructional and corporate services.

All associate degree programs must contain a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of technical courses, 15 semester credit hours each of basic related and general studies courses. The program must identify the course in each of these areas that will meet the educational needs of the individual.

The area of specialization can be formed either by:

1. a combination of technical courses selected from technical programs offered by the College to serve the educational needs of the individual that are not addressed by a program currently being offered, or by
2. courses or training received from another post-secondary institution, vocational center or institution that is judged to be of college level and for which the College awards degree credit to a maximum of 30 semester credit hours, and
3. students are encouraged to take 3 - 5 credit hours from the interdisciplinary studies (IDS) sequence.

The educational program must be approved prior to the student's having earned 30 semester hours of credit at the College.

Applications for this degree are available in the Office of Admissions/Student Services.

The College also has a non-traditional program called "experiential learning" to help individuals get college credit for their professional experience in business, industry and the community and enable them to begin working toward an associate degree. For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions/Student Services.

In an effort to meet the needs of students, courses required in each of the programs are scheduled in sequence to accommodate those attending on a full-time or part-time basis. All students should consult their academic advisors to plan their schedules and course sequence appropriately.

In order to keep pace with progress, the College reserves the right to change fees, academic programs, course descriptions, or any other statements contained in this catalog at the discretion of the College or its Board of Trustees.