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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Visit the Hill College website at
www.hillcollege.edu
and/or contact individual departments
for changes and updates.

(Revised 08/23/2017)

GRADUATION INFORMATION

A formal graduation exercise is held annually at the end of the spring semester. This exercise is for those students who are completing requirements during that spring semester or who have completed requirements during the preceding summer or fall semesters.

To be considered as a candidate for a degree or certificate, the student should submit an online graduation application by the designated deadline:

Completing in fall semester – October 1
Completing in spring semester – March 1
Completing in a summer term – July 1

Hill College does review student coursework for automatic degree or certificate awards, but students are encouraged to apply for graduation during the semester they will meet the requirements of the degree or certificate. Applications submitted after the deadline may be considered the following semester.

TYPES OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Hill College grants the:

1. Associate of Arts Degree
2. Associate of Science Degree
3. Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree
4. Associate of Applied Science Degree
5. Certificate of Technology
6. Certificate of Completion
7. Occupational Skills Award

Hill College can grant up to one Associate degree for each degree level in the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts in Teaching if all requirements are met. Students can earn multiple Associate of Applied Science degrees, Certificate of Technology and Certificate of Completion certificates if requirements are met for each award.

The curriculum for the Associate of Arts Degree and the Associate of Science Degree are designed for the student planning to transfer to a senior college or university.

The Associate of Applied Science Degree is awarded for successful completion of a two-year prescribed occupational competencies and curriculum.

The Certificate of Technology is awarded to those who complete the technical competencies of a two-year occupational curriculum.

The Certificate of Completion is awarded for successful completion of competencies and curriculum in an occupational program of less than two years in length.

An Occupational Skills Award is a sequence of technical-based credit courses totaling 9-14 semester credit hours (SCH) within an approved program of study.

CORE CURRICULUM

Included in the degree requirements for the Associate of Arts is a basic core of general education courses or a core curriculum. The purpose of the Hill College core curriculum is to provide the skills, knowledge, and perspectives that help define the educated person. The core emphasizes the basic intellectual competencies--reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking--as well as broad intellectual perspectives including historical consciousness; multi cultural awareness; numerical comprehension and analysis; and, concern about ethics, aesthetics, and values. These competencies are designed not only to help students understand and appreciate their heritage, but also to enable them to prepare for responsible citizenship and successful living in a rapidly changing and highly technological world. Competency in each of the core components is established by successful completion of the core courses that is required for the Associate of Arts Degree.

In accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the guidelines and procedures established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), all Texas public colleges and universities are required to establish a core curriculum. The law and the established guidelines indicate that if a student completes the core curriculum at one public college or university within the State of Texas, that block of courses may be transferred to any other public college or university within the State of Texas and must be substituted for the receiving institution's core curriculum. Further, in accordance with the law and the guidelines, a student shall receive academic credit for each of the courses transferred and may not be required to take additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution, unless the THECB has approved a larger core curriculum for that institution.

These requirements must be met by every student pursuing an Associate of Arts degree at Hill College. (Exception: Students majoring in music should take the courses outlined in the Degree Plans and Programs of Study section, Music--Associate of Arts, instead of the general core courses.)

The Hill College 42-hour core curriculum is designed primarily for students who desire to continue their education at a four-year college or university. The core components of the 42-hour core curriculum are part of the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees.

If you successfully complete the 42-hour core curriculum at Hill College, the entire 42-semester credit hour package will transfer to any other public college or university in Texas as the core requirements. If you do not successfully complete the 42-hour core curriculum, your credits will transfer, but the receiving institution may ask you to take additional courses to fulfill the core requirements.

CORE COMPONENT	HOURS
ENGLISH	SELECT BOTH COURSES
ENGL 1301 Composition I	6.00
ENGL 1302 Composition II	

MATHEMATICS	SELECT ONE COURSE	3.00
MATH 1314	College Algebra (3 SCH version)	
MATH 1316	Plane Trigonometry	
MATH 1324	Mathematics for Business & Social Science I (Finite Mathematics)	
MATH 1325	Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences II (Business Calculus, 3 SCH version)	
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods (3 SCH version, freshman level)	
MATH 2412	Pre-Calculus Math (4 SCH version)	
MATH 2413	Calculus I (4 SCH version)	

LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES	SELECT TWO COURSES	6.00
BIOL 1406	Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 1407	Biology for Science Majors II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 1408	Biology for Non-Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 1409	Biology for Non-Science Majors II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 1411	General Botany (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL 2406	Environmental Biology (lecture + lab)	
CHEM1406	Introductory Chemistry I (lecture + lab, allied health emphasis)	
CHEM1411	General Chemistry I (lecture + lab)	
CHEM1412	General Chemistry II (lecture + lab)	
ENVR 1401	Environmental Science I (lecture + lab) (Course cannot be taken with GEOL 1405)	
GEOL 1401	Earth Sciences I (lecture + lab)	
GEOL 1402	Earth Sciences II (lecture + lab)	
GEOL 1403	Physical Geology (lecture + lab)	
GEOL 1404	Historical Geology (lecture + lab)	
GEOL 1405	Environmental Geology I (lecture + lab) (Course cannot be taken with ENVR 1401)	
GEOL 1445	Oceanography (lecture + lab)	
GEOL 1447	Meteorology (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 1401	College Physics I (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 1402	College Physics II (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 1403	Stars and Galaxies (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 1404	Solar System (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 2425	University Physics I (lecture + lab)	
PHYS 2426	University Physics II (lecture + lab)	

LANGUAGES, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE	SELECT ONE COURSE	3.00
ENGL 2322	British Literature I	
ENGL 2323	British Literature II	
ENGL 2327	American Literature I	
ENGL 2328	American Literature II	
ENGL 2331	World Literature (single-semester course)	
ENGL 2332	World Literature I	
ENGL 2333	World Literature II	
HUMA1301	Introduction to the Humanities I	
HUMA 1302	Introduction to the Humanities II (Pending Co-Board approval)	
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I (3 rd semester Spanish)	
SPAN 2312	Intermediate Spanish II (4 th semester Spanish)	

CREATIVE ARTS	SELECT ONE COURSE	3.00
ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation		
ARTS 1303 Art History I		
ARTS 1304 Art History II		
DRAM1310 Introduction to Theater		
DRAM2366 Development of the Motion Picture (may also be single-semester course)		
MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation		
MUSI 1308 Music Literature I		
MUSI 1310 American Music		
AMERICAN HISTORY	SELECT BOTH COURSES	6.00
HIST 1301 United States History I		
HIST 1302 United States History II		
GOVERNMENTAL/POLITICAL SCIENCES	SELECT BOTH COURSES	6.00
GOVT 2305 Federal Government (Federal constitution & topics)		
GOVT 2306 Texas Government (Texas constitution & topics)		
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	SELECT ONE COURSE	3.00
ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics		
ECON2302 Principles of Microeconomics		
PSYC 2301 General Psychology		
PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth & Development		
SOCI 1301 Introductory Sociology		
SOCI 1306 Sociology of Social Problems		
SOCI 2301 Marriage & the Family		
COMPONENT AREA OPTION	SELECT BOTH COURSES	6.00
BCIS 1305 Business Computer Applications (3 SCH version)		
SPCH 1315 Public Speaking		
TOTAL CORE CURRICULUM		42.00

THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

The Associate of Arts Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in their major or the major of Liberal Arts will be awarded.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.

7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Arts Degree.

THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

The Associate of Science Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in Science and/or Mathematics.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Arts Degree.

THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN TEACHING DEGREE

The Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree from Hill College is for students seeking initial Texas teacher certification either in EC-4 (except Early Childhood Specialization), 4-8, EC-12 or in Early Childhood Specialization only. The degree will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in their major or the major of Liberal Arts will be awarded.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Arts Degree.

THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

The Associate of Applied Science Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.*
2. As part of the minimum 60 semester hour degree requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of general education courses. The core of general education courses must include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and mathematics/natural sciences.
3. The student must complete the prescribed competencies and curriculum for a two-year occupational program as outlined in the degree plan listed under Programs of Study.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Applied Science Degree.

THE CERTIFICATE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Certificate of Technology from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 43 semester hours of credit.*
2. The student must complete the prescribed technical competencies and curriculum for the occupational program as outlined in this catalog under Programs of Study.
3. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
4. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
5. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
6. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Certificate of Technology.

THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

The Certificate of Completion from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of credit.*
2. The student must complete the prescribed technical competencies and curriculum for the occupational program as outlined in this catalog under Programs of Study.
3. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
4. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
5. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Certificate of Completion.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS AWARD

An Occupational Skills Award is a sequence of technical-based credit courses totaling 9-14 semester credit hours (SCH) within an approved program of study. Typically, an external workforce advisory committee identifies the coursework (classes) to be included in the award. Students may receive a dual benefit from earning an award because it helps to create a 'pathway' to program completion and can also demonstrate to potential employers a level of aptitude and workplace preparedness.

GRADUATION FEE

Hill College believes that every student should have the opportunity to participate in graduation following the completion of a program of study. Therefore, the college does not charge a graduation fee.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *cum laude* (with honors). Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *magna cum laude* (with high honors). Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.9 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *summa cum laude* (with highest honors).