

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND TRANSFER INFORMATION

Graduation Requirements

Miami Dade College awards baccalaureate degrees in education, public safety management, nursing, supervision and management, film/television and digital production, health sciences with an option in physician assistant studies, electronics engineering technology, biological sciences, and early childhood education, as well as Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science degrees. MDC also offers college credit certificates, advanced technical certificates and career technical certificates. Students must meet the general education requirements and any program requirements to be eligible for a degree.

Continuous Enrollment for Graduation Requirements

The College graduation requirements are based upon the term of admission or readmission to Miami Dade College. Those requirements apply as long as the student has continuous annual enrollment. If a student does not register for a period exceeding one year, he or she is subject to the graduation requirements in effect for the year and term of re-admission to the College.

Residency Requirements for Graduation

To satisfy the residency requirement for graduation, students must earn at Miami Dade College a minimum of 25 percent of the credits applicable toward the program of study for which graduation is sought. Additional requirements for specific programs of study include:

1. Different residency requirements may apply as required by programs that have special accreditation or by state regulations such as the statewide articulation agreements.
2. All associate, baccalaureate, and college credit programs require a minimum 2.0 GPA to graduate; some programs may have higher GPA requirements.

Baccalaureate Degree

Required Hours and GPA

Successful completion of a minimum of 120 semester

hours or as approved by the State Board of Education, and a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Note: A higher GPA may be required for specific majors.

General Education

Satisfactory completion of General Education courses (36 semester hours) as follows:

- Area I. English Composition (6 semester hours)
- Area II. Oral Communication (3 semester hours)
- Area III. Humanities/Fine Arts (6 semester hours)
- Area IV. Behavioral/Social Science (6 semester hours)
- Area V. Natural Science (6 semester hours)
- Area VI. Mathematics (6 semester hours)
- Area VII. General Education Elective (3 semester hours) Per 6A-10.030, Florida Administrative Code

Civics Literacy Competency

Prior to the award of an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree, new and returning students entering a Florida College System institution in the 2021-22 catalog year, and thereafter must demonstrate competency in civic literacy. This requirement may be satisfied by passing AMH 2020 or POS 2041 AND an approved exam (AP, CLEP, or FCLE).

Computer Skills Competency

All MDC degree-seeking students with 16 or more credits must demonstrate computer competency prior to graduation. Students demonstrate this competency by passing the MDC computer competency test, currently known as CSP (Computer Skills Placement) examination or by enrolling in and successfully completing an equivalent course. No credit is awarded for successful completion. For additional information please visit the Testing Criteria Computer Competency Web site, accessed from MDC's Homepage (www.mdc.edu) by clicking on 'Admissions', then 'Testing Information'.

Requirements for Admission to Upper Division

Students should review the Baccalaureate Degree section of this catalog and contact the Academic Department responsible for the specific Baccalaureate admissions criteria.

Foreign Language Requirement

In accordance with Rule 6A-10.02412, Florida Administrative Code and pursuant to Section 1007.262, Florida Statute, all AA and baccalaureate degree-seeking students must demonstrate Foreign Language Competence (FLC) by: (a) successfully completing the elementary 2 level (i.e., 2 years of secondary/high school level) or postsecondary/college level equivalent in one (1) foreign language or American Sign Language OR (b) successfully completing a standardized examination that documents the required FLC. Students who demonstrate proficiency in a native language other than English are exempt. For more information, please visit the MDC Credit-by-Exam website or contact the MDC World Languages department.

Associate in Science Degree

Associate in Science degree: Awarded to students who successfully complete a program of career and technical instruction consisting of lower division college credit courses to prepare for entry into employment. The associate in science degree is a transfer degree and a basis for admission to a related bachelor's degree. The associate in science degree shall be awarded upon satisfactory completion of a planned program of instruction comprised of the standard credit hour length established, after demonstration of the attainment of predetermined and specified performance requirements. The standard credit hour length of all associate in science degree programs as defined in Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C.

Requirements for Associate in Science Degree

1. Complete an approved program of study with 60 credits or as approved by the State Board of Education.
2. Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in the 60 credits or as approved by the State Board of Education required for graduation.
3. Complete a minimum of 15 credits of general education courses.
4. First-time-in-college students must demonstrate competency in civic literacy.
5. Meet MDC Residency for Graduation requirements.

General Education and Miami Dade College Student Learning Outcomes

General Education: Student Learning

The General Education program provides multiple, varied, and intentional learning experiences that provide students with a solid foundation for personal, academic, and profes-

sional development. The program is meant to facilitate the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and skills and the development of attitudes that foster effective citizenship and the desire for lifelong learning. What begins in specified general education coursework is reinforced and expanded by purposeful Student Learning Outcomes present throughout degree programs and co-curricular activities.

Student Learning Outcomes: A Promise between Students and Faculty

All students who graduate from MDC - regardless of major or degree type - have ten things in common: the college-wide student learning outcomes (CSLO). Developed collaboratively by students, faculty, alumni and industry partners, and adopted in 2007, the outcomes are part of the Miami Dade College learning experience. The Learning Outcomes Committee (LOC) provides oversight of MDC's assessment and student learning improvement activities. The CSLOs summarized below will help students succeed in their chosen field, strengthen critical life skills, and encourage lifelong learning:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
2. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
3. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives
6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society
8. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities
10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment

General Education Requirements for the Associate in Arts

To receive an Associate in Arts, students must complete 36 Units of General Education courses and 24 Units of Pathway Elective courses.

Students must complete the following pathway/program information located at <https://www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/ps/associate-in-arts-pathway-guide-effective-2217.pdf>:

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

Total credits required for the degree: 60 :

Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills (6A-10.030) (often referenced as Gordon Rule)

- A.** In addition to assessments that may be adopted by the State Board of Education or Board of Governors to measure student achievement in college-level communication and computation skills, other assessment requirements shall be met by successful completion of coursework in English and mathematics. For the purposes of this rule, a grade of C or higher shall be considered successful completion.
- B.** Prior to receipt of an Associate in Arts degree from a public community college or university or prior to entry into the upper division of a public university or college, a student shall complete successfully the following:
 1. Six (6) semester hours of English coursework and six (6) semester hours of additional coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Each institution shall designate the courses that fulfill the writing requirements of this section. These course designations shall be submitted to the Statewide Course Numbering System. An institution to which a student transfers shall accept courses so designated by the sending institution as meeting the writing requirements outlined in this section.
 2. Six (6) semester hours of mathematics coursework at the level of college algebra or higher. For the purposes of this rule, applied logic, statistics and other such computation coursework which may not be placed within a mathematics department may be used to fulfill three (3) hours of the six (6) hours required by this section.
 3. (c) Students awarded college credit in English based on their demonstration of writing skills through dual enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate instruction pursuant to Rule 6A-10.024, F.A.C., and students awarded college credit based on their demonstration of mathematics skills at the level of college algebra or higher through one (1) or more of the acceleration mechanisms in Rule 6A-10.024, F.A.C., shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements in subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C., to the extent of the college credit awarded.
- C.** Exemptions and Waivers. Any public community college or university desiring to exempt its students from the requirements of subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C., shall submit an alternative plan to the Department of Education. Upon approval of the plan by the Department, the plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors as appropriate. Upon approval by the State Board of

Education or the Board of Governors, said plan shall be deemed effective in lieu of the requirements of subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C.

Note: A list of MDC courses that fulfill this requirement, can be found at http://www.mdc.edu/asa/faculty/gordon_rule_courses.asp.

Advanced Technical Certificate Programs

Awarded to students who successfully complete a program of career and technical instruction consisting of nine (9) hours or more but less than forty-five (45) college credits of lower division and/or upper division courses. Florida College System institutions offering advanced technical certificates with upper division courses must be approved to offer baccalaureate programs containing those courses. An advanced technical certificate may be awarded to students who have already received an associate in science degree or an associate in applied science degree and are seeking an advanced specialized program of instruction to supplement their associate degree (information located at www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/default.aspx).

College Credit Certificate Programs

Awarded to students who successfully complete a program of career and technical instruction consisting of less than sixty (60) college credits which are part of an associate in science degree or an associate in applied science degree program and prepare students for entry into employment. The standard credit hour length of all technical certificate programs as defined in Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C. (information located at www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/default.aspx).

Career Technical Certificate Programs

Awarded to students who successfully complete a program of career and technical instruction consisting of clock hour courses to prepare for entry into employment. Upon satisfactory completion of a planned program of instruction, after the demonstration of the attainment of predetermined and specified performance requirements, the career and technical certificate shall be awarded. The standard clock hour length of all career and technical certificate programs as defined in Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C. (updated information located at www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/default.aspx).



Commencement (Graduation Ceremony)

Students who anticipate completing their program during the academic year should meet with an academic advisor to ensure that all graduation requirements will be met. Also, students must apply for graduation by the deadline published in the academic calendar. Students planning to graduate in spring or summer terms should note that the deadline is very early in the spring term. The commencement ceremony is held once a year, at the end of spring term (late April or early May). Caps and gowns are available at campus bookstores for those who have applied for graduation. There is no cost for these items.

Special Recognition for Outstanding Academic Performance (College Credit Students Only)

The College gives special recognition to students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance while working toward a degree. Students are eligible for the following recognition:

Dean's List – recognizes students who have a term combined cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above for 12 or more credits earned in the fall, spring, or summer term.

Letter of Congratulations – the campus dean of faculty or

equivalent sends a special letter of congratulations to students who earn a term grade point average of 4.0 for 12 or more credits earned in the fall or spring terms (excluding courses that do not satisfy degree requirements).

In addition, special designations are entered on transcripts of students awarded a degree program as follows:

Honors

A combined cumulative GPA of 3.5–3.69 is required to graduate with Honors.

Honors and Distinction

A combined cumulative GPA of 3.5–3.69 and at least 15 credits earned in honors courses is required to graduate with Honors and Distinction.

Highest Honors

To graduate with Highest Honors, a student must achieve a combined cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher.

Highest Honors and Distinction

A combined cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher and at least 15 credits earned in honors courses is required to graduate with Highest Honors and Distinction.

Phi Theta Kappa

To be eligible for induction into Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two Year College, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 college-level credits leading to an Associate degree, with a minimum 3.5 combined cumulative GPA and the student must be



currently enrolled. Upon graduation, initiated students will have the designation noted on their transcript.

Transfer Information

Transfer information and resources, including transfer agreements and transfer tips, can be found at: <https://www.mdc.edu/transfer-information/>

Graduating with an Associate in Arts degree guarantees MDC graduates numerous transfer benefits. Certain Associate in Science degrees are also transferable to related baccalaureate degree programs. Additional information about transfer guarantees and agreements can be found in the Transfer Agreement section.

Miami Dade College offers baccalaureate degrees in several areas of study: <http://www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/bachelors.aspx>. Students who meet the admissions criteria for these programs may apply at: <https://mdcwap.mdc.edu/admission/>.

Campus Advisement & Career Services Offices offer students a variety of academic advising and career-related services. Students who are undecided about their academic major or career goals, or who are interested in a systematic investigation of the universities best suited for their needs, should visit the Advisement & Career Services Office at their campus.

Articulation

Articulation is a system designed to provide for seamless transfer pathways for students from high school, through

the Florida College System and into a baccalaureate degree program at a State University, Florida College System institution, or other postsecondary institution. There are a number of articulation agreements which create special transfer opportunities for students (updated information located at <https://www.mdc.edu/transfer-information/>).

Articulation Agreements with Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Miami Dade College and Miami-Dade County Public Schools have entered into several articulation agreements. These range from the formalized Early College Program agreements with New World School of the Arts and the School for Advanced Studies, to agreements for transfer of specific career pathways and career and technical education credits to Associate in Science degrees and certificate programs.

State of Florida Articulation Agreement

Section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, states the following:

- A.** The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation, facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across and among Florida's educational entities, and reinforce the provisions of this chapter by governing: (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary education; (b) Admission of Associate in Arts degree graduates

from Florida College System institutions and state universities; (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program graduates from Florida College System institutions or career centers; (d) Admission of Associate in Science degree and Associate in Applied Science degree graduates from Florida College System institutions; (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including nationally standardized examinations through which students may earn credit; (f) General education requirements and statewide course numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and (g) Articulation among programs in nursing.

- B.** (a) The articulation agreement must specifically provide that every associate in arts graduate of a Florida College System institution shall have met all general education requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of a:
1. State university, except for a limited access or teacher certification program or a major program requiring an audition.
 2. Florida College System institution if it offers baccalaureate degree programs, except for a limited access or teacher certification program or a major program requiring an audition. (b) Florida College System institution Associate in Arts graduates shall receive priority for admission to the upper division of a Florida College System institution or to a state university over out-of-state students. Orientation programs, catalogs, and student handbooks provided to freshman enrollees and transfer students at Florida College System institutions and state universities must include an explanation of this provision of the articulation agreement.
- C.** To improve articulation and reduce excess credit hours, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution in 2013-2014 and thereafter, the articulation agreement must require each student who is seeking an Associate in Arts degree to indicate a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of interest by the time the student earns 30 semester hours. The institution in which the student is enrolled shall inform the student of the prerequisites for the baccalaureate degree program.
- D.** The articulation agreement must guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate workforce development programs and courses between school districts and Florida College System institutions and specifically provide that every applied technology diploma graduate must be granted the same amount of credit upon admission to an Associate in Science degree or Associate in Applied Science degree program unless it is a limited access program. Preference for admission must be given to graduates who are residents of Florida.

E. The articulation agreement must guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate courses within Associate in Science degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs. Courses within an Associate in Applied Science degree program may articulate into a baccalaureate degree program on an individual or block basis as authorized in local interinstitutional articulation agreements.

F. The articulation agreement must guarantee the articulation of 9 credit hours toward a postsecondary degree in early childhood education for programs approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors which: (a) Award a child development associate credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition or award a credential approved under s. 1002.55(3) (c)1.b. or s. 402.305(3) (c) as being equivalent to the child development associate credential; and (b) Include training in emergent literacy which meets or exceeds the minimum standards for training courses for prekindergarten instructors of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in s. 1002.59.

Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF)

There is also an articulation agreement between the Florida College System and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF). Under the agreement, Florida College System graduates holding an Associate in Arts degree are guaranteed junior standing in any member institution, recognition of their completed general education core and the application of a minimum of 60 earned credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree.

Additional Agreements

In addition, Miami Dade College has developed several unique arrangements with local and out-of-state colleges and universities that make it possible for a student to apply for admission toward a baccalaureate degree. As a general rule, participating institutions will accept associate degree credits and work out a schedule for the additional bachelor's degree requirements. Miami Dade College also has agreements with universities that facilitate the transfer of MDC baccalaureate graduates to graduate programs. For additional information relating to articulation agreements, contact the Office of Articulation and Academic Pathways or visit <https://www.mdc.edu/transfer-information/transfer-agreements/>.

Miami Dade College (MDC) General Education Core Digital Badges


What is a Digital Badge

A digital badge is an award that is given to students upon completion of general education core courses that demonstrate career readiness. It is intended to help the student translate what they learned in general education courses to knowledge, skills and abilities that employers require.

Who's Eligible

Pursuant to s. 1007.25(4), F.S., all students initially entering a public postsecondary institution in the 2022-23 academic year (fall 2022) and thereafter and enroll in general education core courses are eligible for the awarding of a digital badge. This is inclusive of dual enrollment students who complete core courses while in high school in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter. Minimally, institutions must award badges to students meeting these criteria.

Digital Badges Offered at MDC

	Fundamentals of Written Communication	Students will demonstrate effective reading, writing, speaking, listening, and nonverbal communication skills.
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What is Effective Written Communication?

Effective written communication is the ability to communicate ideas, information, and perspectives clearly, adapting a message to different audiences and situations, and using the appropriate style to convey meaning in various written contexts.

What are you learning by earning this badge?

By completing the college course associated with this badge, you will demonstrate information literacy, comprehension of written material, and conveying information in writing for a variety of rhetorical purposes and audiences. Some of the learning outcomes associated with the college course that results in this badge include:

- Examining and analyzing written material
- Synthesizing information and ideas
- Developing content relevant to the purpose
- Demonstrating the ability to write to a specific audience
- Presenting a perspective informed by research and critical thinking
- Revising written communication based on feedback

Why is Effective Written Communication important in the workplace?

- Enhances an employee's ability to interpret and evaluate a wide variety of written material
- Promotes research, critical thinking, and problem solving
- Advances the development of clearly written material relevant to the intent
- Enhances the use of appropriate language for an intended audience
- Increases the competent, effective, and responsible use of information