

# AB Core Proposal

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RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AB TASK FORCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

FACULTY SENATE



# Why AB programs?

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Serve working adults with career/technical education background (e.g., AAS degree) who seek to:

Oregon Joint  
Board of  
Education  
Steering  
Committee  
(2010)

Increase their responsibility level but remain focused on a technical career.

Move into supervision or management.

- Obtain the advantages associated with a liberal arts, four-year degree including general broader knowledge and more advanced thinking and problem-solving skills, possibly including a desire to continue to pursue a graduate degree.
- Be a role model for their children and in their communities.

We have also  
seen...

- Finish something they started.

# Why AB programs at WOU?

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They allow us to:

- Better serve working adults in the Salem market
- Counter the effects of flat high school graduation rates
- Diversify our student population along the dimension of age
- Advance our deep commitment to access and student success for diverse students
- Make progress in becoming Oregon's university of choice for all transfer students

They advance these objectives in our strategic plan:

- I.2.2: Provide intentional and effective paths to graduation within 180 credits.
- I.2.3: Provide intentional and effective transfer paths to graduation.
- III.2.6: Strengthen partnerships with community organizations and businesses and local, regional and state government agencies.
- IV.3.5: Strengthen and expand community college partnerships to promote educational attainment.
- V.1.2: Support and enhance recruitment efforts for first-generation and underrepresented students, as well as a broad base of all Oregonians.

# WOU's AB programs:

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AB in Computer Science

AB in Economics

AB in Gerontology

AB in Information Systems

AB in Liberal Studies

AB in Psychology

Programs in the pipeline:

Early Childhood Studies

Professional Studies in the Deaf Community

The AB Core:

General  
Education for  
AB students

Mostly the same as  
BA/BS/BFA Core.

Responsive to the  
needs and interests  
of work adults.

	Credits		
	Minimum	Typical	Maximum
<b>Foundations</b>			
WR 121	4	4	4
WR 122 <b>or WR 227 (Technical/Workplace Writing)</b>	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	8
Communications	3	3	4
Critical Thinking	3	4	4
Health Promotion	4	4	4
<b>LS 300 Seminar on Multidisciplinary Learning</b>	2	2	2
<b>Exploring Knowledge</b>			
Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives	3	3	4
Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives	3	3	4
Scientific Perspectives	4	4	5
Scientific Perspectives	4	4	5
Social, Historic, and Civic Perspectives	3	3	4
Social, Historic, and Civic Perspectives	3	3	4
<b>Integrating Knowledge</b>			
Choose one option:			
I - Complete one Citizenship, Social Responsibility & Global Awareness course and one Science, Technology & Society course	6	8	8
<b>II - Complete an internship or practicum in the major that aligns with the Multidisciplinary Learning outcome in General Education</b>	4	4	4
<b>III - LS 499 Capstone</b>	4	4	4
Total	48	52	64

# Differences from BA/BS/BFA Gen Ed Core

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WR 122 or WR 227 (Technical/Workplace Writing)			
LS 300 Seminar on Multidisciplinary Learning (introduction, exploration of different approaches to knowledge, and identification of learning goals)			
Internship/practicum in the major that aligns with the Multidisciplinary Learning Outcome in General Education			
LS 499 Capstone (reflection, synthesis, and integration)			

Proposal: To best serve our students and properly position ourselves in the higher education landscape, replace Applied Baccalaureate (A.B.) degree designator with

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## **Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.)**

- We cannot find another four-year institution that calls this degree the Applied Baccalaureate (A.B.).
- NWCCU refers to the Bachelor's of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in its list of possible degrees.
- Current HECC guidance associates A.B. degree with community colleges.
- HECC rulemaking in progress is moving towards B.A.S.
- Other universities in our region use the B.A.S. designator: SOU, EOU, OIT, Central Washington, Idaho State, Boise State, Arizona State.