

Definitions of Educational Programs, Degrees and Certificates

Approved at the June 5 Curriculum Committee meeting. Includes updates from the second reading at the June 5 Curriculum Committee meeting. First reading at Curriculum Committee was on May 22. Includes input from the May 29 Faculty Roundtable meeting.

Program of Study – A set of required and elective college level courses that leads to the awarding of a degree or certificate upon successful completion. All NWIC programs of study include a general education component, which differentiates them from awards of completion and other types of educational programs. A program of study may also lay out a sequencing of courses, typically by designating course prerequisites. By declaring a program of study a student indicates the intent to follow that program of study toward a degree or certificate.

Degree – Title given for the completion of a program of study at the associate or higher level and official confirmation by NWIC signifying successful completion of that program of study. Degrees awarded are indicated on a student's transcript. Degrees available at NWIC are at the associate (AAS, AST, AAS-T, and ATA) and bachelor (BA and BS) levels. Guidelines for what constitutes each type of associate and bachelor degree are printed in the NWIC catalog.

Certificate – Title given for the completion of a program of study below the associate level requiring a minimum of 45 credits and official confirmation by NWIC signifying successful completion of that program of study. Certificates awarded are indicated on a student's transcript. Guidelines for what constitutes a certificate are printed in the NWIC catalog.

Award of Completion – An academic program consisting of a set of college level credit courses that focus within a particular area of study and usually does not contain a general education requirement. The courses within an award of completion may be a subset of the core courses in a program of study, in which case the courses may be applied toward completion of a program of study. Awards of completion must contain fewer than 45 credits and will usually contain at least 20 credits. Completion of awards of completion will be indicated on a student's transcript. Students completing an award of completion will be allowed to walk in graduation and will receive an award document issued by the Enrollment Office. Students enrolled in an award of completion program will usually not qualify for federal financial aid. Awards of completion may be for short-term or long-term purposes, such as a particular tribe's need for training in a specific area, or as additional certification for people who already have degrees and need focused training in their area of employment, such as casino management training or advanced use of digital media tools. Awards of completion are approved by the Dean of Academics and Distance Learning and do not require Curriculum Committee, Board of Trustees, or accreditation approval, although all new or revised credit courses used in an award of completion require Curriculum Committee approval prior to approval of the award of completion by the Dean of Academics and Distance Learning.

Training Program - A set of courses, which may include continuing education units (CEUs) or credit courses, including special topic credit courses (numbered 188, 288, 388 or 488) that focuses on a training need and usually does not require a general education component. Training programs are usually created as short term very quick responses to training needs although they may also address long-term income producing opportunities for the College. Completion of a training program is acknowledged with a printed document issued by the department overseeing the training program upon completion of the courses and will not be indicated on a student's transcript. Individual CEU and credit courses completed as part of the training program, however, will be listed on a student's transcript. Training programs are approved by the Director of Outreach and Community Education for community education and do not require Curriculum Committee, additional administrative, or Board of Trustees approval, although any new or revised credit courses used in a training program require Curriculum Committee approval prior to approval of the training program by the Director of Outreach and Community Education.