

PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Form No. SAAT-02

Section (s.) 1007.25(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 6A-14.094, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), outline the requirements for Florida College System institution specialized associate in arts transfer degree program proposals. The completed Proposal Application shall be submitted by the college president to the chancellor of the Florida College System at ChancellorFCS@fldoe.org.

CHECKLIST

The proposal requires completion of the following components:

- Institution Information
- Program summary
- Program description
- Rationale for the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program length
- Coursework beyond the 60 credits required for a general associate in arts degree program
- Workforce demand and unmet need of the articulated baccalaureate degree program
- Program of study to include all predetermined performance and graduation requirements
- Articulation agreement between the college and the state university (Attach to Appendix A)
- Documented alignment between college exit and state university admission requirements
- College response to state university comments to the notice of intent
- Program implementation timeline

PROPOSING FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTION INFORMATION

Institution Name.	Lake-Sumter State College
Institution Contact:	Karen Hogans, Vice President of Academic Affairs

RECEIVING STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTION INFORMATION

Institution Name:	University of Central Florida
Institution Contact:	Harrison Oonge

PROGRAM SUMMARY

1.1	Specialized associate in arts transfer degree program name.	Biology
1.2	Specialized associate in arts transfer degree program length (credit hours).	60-87
1.3	How will the proposed specialized associate in arts transfer degree program be delivered (check all that apply)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face (F2F) (Entire degree program delivered via F2F courses only) <input type="checkbox"/> Completely online (Entire degree program delivered via online courses only) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combination of face-to-face/online (Entire degree program delivered via a combination of F2F and online courses)
1.4	Type and name of the baccalaureate degree program to which the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program articulates (check only one).	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Arts (BA) Please specify the program name below: Click or tap here to enter text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Science (BS) Please specify the program name below: Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Please specify the program name below: Click or tap here to enter text.
1.5	Degree Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code (6-Digit) of the baccalaureate degree program to which the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program articulates. CIP code refers to the taxonomic scheme developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics .	Biology CIP-26.0101
1.6	Anticipated specialized associate in arts transfer degree program implementation date.	2026-2027 Academic Year

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1 This section will serve as an **executive summary** of this proposal. This section must include: the rationale for the specialized transfer degree program length, demand and unmet need of the articulated baccalaureate degree program in the state university's workforce area, and an overview of the program curriculum to include the proposed coursework beyond the sixty (60) credits required for a general associate in arts degree.

- **Rationale for the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program length:**
Our goal is to have students transfer to the university ready to be admitted to the major. This includes completing the Common Program Prerequisites and core coursework required by the major college for admission. While a general Associate in Arts degree can be completed in 60 hours, the biology degree pathway could exceed 60 credits as outlined in the following explanation and detailed in the proposed coursework. The number of credits may vary from 60 - 87 based on math entry assessment placement, high school foreign language completion, and high school chemistry and algebra completion. Students may place directly into MAC 2311 Calculus I with entry assessment scores. If they do, they will not need to complete 13 credits of prerequisite coursework. Students may satisfy the foreign language graduation requirement by successfully completing two years of the same foreign language in high school. This means they will not need to complete 8 credits of college-level foreign language coursework. If students have successfully completed one year of high school chemistry, and MAC 1105 with a minimum grade of C, they may be able to go directly into CHM 2045C. This bypasses the 4 credit CHM 1025C Introduction to General Chemistry course. If students have satisfied math, foreign language and chemistry requirements through entry assessment placement or high school coursework, courses listed in the coursework beyond 60-62 credits in the table will satisfy credits in the elective block.
- **Demand and unmet need of the university's articulated baccalaureate degree program:**
The demand for articulated baccalaureate degree programs in biology within the state university's workforce area indicates a positive trend, highlighted by an average employment growth rate of 6.1 %. This growth projection reflects the increasing importance of biological sciences in healthcare and research settings, suggesting a robust future demand for qualified professionals in the field. Furthermore, while the Florida Labor Market Estimating Conference indicates a baccalaureate degree as the minimum requirement for entry-level positions; the Bureau of Labor Statistics noting many advanced roles in this field may require a master's degree. The data also shows a strong workforce demand in the field and underscores the important role the University of Central Florida (UCF) continues to play in meeting regional and statewide talent needs. UCF's robust degree production—449 graduates in the most recent year and a five-year average of 357—demonstrates the university's ongoing commitment to preparing highly qualified professionals. Despite this strong output, employer demand remains even higher, with 520 annual job openings. This results in an estimated unmet need ranging from 71 graduates (based on the most recent year) to 163 graduates (based on a five-year average). Overall, the data illustrates the positive momentum of the biological sciences workforce

landscape, reinforcing the value of strengthening academic pathways that help meet Florida's rising demand for skilled professionals.

- Curriculum and coursework beyond 60 credits for a general associate in arts degree are found in Table 2.1-1.

Lake-Sumter State College Degree Pathway – Biology				
Area	Course Prefix / Number	Course Title	Credits	
Communications	ENC 1101	College Composition I	3	9
	ENC 1102	Composition: Literature	3	
	SPC 2608	Public Speaking	3	
Humanities	LIT 2000; PHI 2010	Introduction to Literature; Introduction to Philosophy	3	6
	Humanities	Any Gen Ed Humanities	3	
Mathematics	STA 2023	Elementary Statistics I	3	10
	MAC 1105	College Algebra	3	
	MAC 1140	Precalculus Algebra	4	
Natural Sciences	CHM 1025C	Introductory Chemistry with Lab	4	8
	BSC 1010C	General Biology I with Lab	4	
Social Sciences	AMH 2010; AMH 2020; POS 2041	U.S. History to 1877; U.S. History Since 1877; POS 2041 American National Government	3	6
	Social Sciences	Any GenEd Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)	3	
Electives ^a	MAT 1033	Intermediate Algebra	3	21-23
	MAC 2233 or MAC 2311	Calculus for Business Calculus with Analytical Geometry I	3-4	
	MAC 1114	Trigonometry	3	
	PHY 2053C or PHY 2048C	College Physics I with Lab Physics I with Calculus w/Lab	4-5	
	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	8	
Program Total			60-62^b	
Coursework Beyond 60 Credits Required for a General Associate in Arts Degree				
Natural Sciences	BSC 1011C	General Biology II with Lab	4	
	CHM 2045C	General Chemistry I with Lab	4	
	CHM 2046C	General Chemistry II with Lab	4	
	CHM 2210C	Organic Chemistry I with Lab	4	
	CHM 2211C	Organic Chemistry II with Lab	4	

	PHY 2054C or PHY 2049C	College Physics II with Lab Physics II with Calculus w/Lab	4-5
Additional Coursework Total			24-25
Total variable range of credits			60-87

^aIf students have satisfied math, foreign language and chemistry requirements through entry assessment placement or high school coursework, courses listed in excess of 60 hours will satisfy credits in the elective block. If a student enters ready for MAC 2311 and CHM 2045C, and has completed the foreign language requirement, the degree can be completed in as little as 60 credits.

^bWhile a general Associate in Arts degree can be completed in 60 hours, the biology degree pathway could exceed that based upon a student's math entry assessment placement or level of completion in algebra, high school foreign language completion, and high school chemistry.

WORKFORCE DEMAND AND UNMET NEED

3.1 Describe the workforce demand and unmet need of the baccalaureate degree program to which the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program articulates that incorporates, at a minimum, the shaded information from Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.3. The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. For proposed programs without a listed SOC linkage, provide a rationale for the identified SOC code(s). If using a SOC that is not on the CIP to SOC crosswalk, please justify why the SOC aligns with the articulated baccalaureate degree program.

There are a variety of job opportunities, especially within healthcare laboratories, research institutions, environmental sciences, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical research institutions. The growing biology and biotechnology sector in Lake-Sumter State College's service area has a high demand particularly for professionals who are working in drug research and development, and quality assurance sectors. According to our partners at UCF, the BS in biology degree prepares students to work in subspecialties including molecular biology, conservation biology and marine biology. In addition, the program prepares students in human and veterinary medicine which are included in the demand data. The Florida Commerce employment data and projections indicate that from 2024 through 2032, the total job openings for the SOCs aligned with the program CIP identified in Section 1.5 is averaged at 520. However, these job openings are specific to region 12 and the regional and state-wide trends are estimated to be higher. The number of degrees awarded by the University of Central Florida has a 5-year average of 357 which yields an unmet need of 71-163 in our region.

3.2 Describe any other evidence of workforce demand and unmet need of the articulated baccalaureate degree program, which may include qualitative or quantitative data and information not reflected in the data presented in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.3, such as local economic development initiatives, emerging industries in the area, or evidence of rapid growth.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in the biological sciences occupations will grow by an average of 8.0%. The BLS 2023 employment data and projections records 91 jobs (Table 3.2-1 below). State-wide trends are much higher.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment				
SOC	Occupation	Number of Annual Openings	% Growth	Level of Education Required
5 - 1042	Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	54	5.5	Bachelor's
11 - 9121	Natural Sciences Managers	37	10.4	Bachelor's

ESTIMATES OF UNMET NEED

3.1.3 The Excel spreadsheet below is set up with predefined formulas. To activate the spreadsheet, right click within the spreadsheet, go to “Worksheet Object”, and then “Open”. To exit, save any changes and exit out of the spreadsheet. Alternatively, double click anywhere on the table. To exit the spreadsheet, single click anywhere outside of the table.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ESTIMATES OF UNMET NEED SECTION: If data are not available for completers in the university’s workforce area, please report statewide data. You may note these are statewide figures.

	Demand	Supply		Range of Estimated Unmet Need	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A-B)	(A-C)
	Total Job Openings	Most Recent Year	5-year average or average of years available if less than 5 years	Difference	Difference
FloridaCommerce Total	520	449	357	71	163
Other Totals				0	0

SPECIALIZED ASSOCIATE IN ARTS TRANSFER DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 In accordance with s. 1007.25(9)(b)(3), F.S., except for developmental education required pursuant to s. 1008.30, F.S., all required coursework must count toward the specialized associate in arts transfer degree or the baccalaureate degree.

Requirement Area	Predetermined and Specified Performance Requirements
General Education Core	Pursuant to s. 1007.25(3), F.S., and Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C., complete at least one general education core course in each of the five subject disciplines (communications, mathematics, humanities, social science, natural science) for a total of 15 credits to fulfill the general education requirement. (Note: Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Institutional General Education	Pursuant to s. 1007.25(3), F.S., and Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C., complete the remaining 21 credits, in addition to the core, for a total 36 credits of institutional general education to fulfill the general education requirement. (Note: Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Electives	Pursuant to s. 1007.25(9), F.S., complete the remaining 24 elective credits to fulfill the total 60 credits for the attainment of an associate degree. (Note: Electives should be selected by program and/or pathway and may be used to fulfill associate in arts requirements and/or baccalaureate program prerequisites. Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Communication and Computation	Pursuant to Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C., complete 6 credits in English and 6 credits in mathematics to fulfill the assessment procedures for college-level communication and computation. (Note: Institutional general education courses and/or electives may be used to fulfill this requirement. Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Foreign Language	Pursuant to s. 1007.262, F.S., and Rule 6A-10.02412, F.A.C., complete 2 years in high school or 8 college credits in the same foreign language, which may be satisfied via CLEP or challenge exam. (Note: Institutional general education courses and/or electives may be used to fulfill this requirement. Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Civic Literacy Competency	Pursuant to s. 1007.25(5), F.S. and Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., complete a course (3 credits) and assessment to fulfill the civic literacy requirement. (Note: Institutional or core general education courses and/or electives may be used to fulfill the course requirement. Approved accelerated mechanisms may be used to fulfill this requirement.)
Requirements Beyond Sixty (60) Credits	
Specialized Coursework	Pursuant to s. 1007.25(5), F.S. and Rule 6A-14.094, F.A.C., complete additional specified credits beyond the 60 credits required for the general associate in arts degree for admission to a baccalaureate degree program. (Note: Specialized coursework may include course-level prerequisites as part of the specialized associate in arts transfer degree program, baccalaureate degree program prerequisites, or a combination).
Baccalaureate Program Prerequisites	The proposing college and receiving university should consult the Common Prerequisites Manual (CPM). The CPM lists the prerequisite courses and alternatives for each university degree program. Students must complete all required prerequisites to be admitted into an upper division program. (Note: Institutional general education, electives, and/or specialized coursework may be used to fulfill this requirement.)

5.1 Program of Study of at least sixty (60) college credits after the attainment of predetermined and specified performance requirements. For the articulated baccalaureate degree identified in Section 1.4, list all courses required by term. Include credit per term and total credits for the program. Please include the provided abbreviations in parentheses following each course title to indicate what courses fulfill the following requirements: foreign language (**fl**), civic literacy (**cl**), general education (**ge**) including core, electives (**elec**), baccalaureate degree program prerequisites (**pre**) as identified in the Common Prerequisites Manual, and additional courses (**saat**) beyond the 60 credits required for an associate in arts general degree. Please use the continued program plan on the next page, if needed.

The Excel spreadsheet below is set up with predefined formulas. To activate the spreadsheet, right click within the spreadsheet, go to "Worksheet Object", and then "Open". To exit, save any changes and exit out of the spreadsheet. Alternatively, double click anywhere on the table. To exit the spreadsheet, single click anywhere outside of the table.

5.1.1	Associate in Arts Specialized Degree Program of Study (Continued)	
Term 7	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
Term 8	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
Term 9	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
Term 10	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
Term 11	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
Term 12	Course Title	Credit Hours
	Total Term Credit Hours	0
	Program Total Credit Hours:	0

Instructions: The completed and signed articulation agreement form, Form No. SAAT-03, must be attached to Appendix A of this completed proposal form, Form No. SAAT-02.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT
Form No. SAAT-03

6.1 The proposed specialized associate in arts transfer degree program shall articulate into the specified state university and baccalaureate degree program below. The total credit hours must include all required courses of the associate in arts specialized transfer degree program and the articulated baccalaureate degree program.

College Name	University Name	Total Credit Hours
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Specialized AA Transfer Degree Program Name	Baccalaureate Degree Program Name	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Specialized AA Transfer Degree Program Credit Hours	Baccalaureate Degree Program Credit Hours	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	

6.2 The specialized associate in arts transfer degree program shall include the following requirements. Please check the boxes below to indicate that the Program Plan in Section 5.1 includes the requirements below.

General Education Core	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 credits
Institutional General Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 credits
Electives	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 credits
Communication and Computation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 credits
Foreign Language	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 credits
Civic Literacy Competency	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 credits and an assessment

6.3 The baccalaureate degree program shall include the following baccalaureate degree program requirements for the proposed articulation agreement between the specialized associate in arts transfer degree and the baccalaureate degree program indicated in Section 1.4.

Common Prerequisites	Please list the required prerequisites and alternatives as they appear in the Common Prerequisites Manual for the articulated baccalaureate degree program. Click or tap here to enter text.
Admission Requirements	Please list academic GPA, test scores, fingerprints, health screenings, background checks, signed releases, and any other program admission requirements, if applicable. Click or tap here to enter text.
Other Requirements	Please list any other requirements that a student completing a specialized associate in arts transfer degree program may need as part of the articulated baccalaureate degree program to seamlessly transfer. Click or tap here to enter text.

College Representative Signature Click or tap here to enter text.	University Representative Signature Click or tap here to enter text.
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COLLEGE RESPONSE TO UNIVERSITY COMMENTS

7.1 Provide comments received from any college or state university for this proposed program. The proposing college must submit a response and include any necessary supporting documentation, if applicable.

- Comments Received:
None

- College Response:
n/a

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

8.1	Indicate the date the Notice of Intent (NOI) was submitted to DFC.	July 13, 2025
8.2	Indicate the date the initial proposal was submitted to DFC.	October 24, 2025
8.3	Indicate the date the completed proposal was submitted to DFC.	
8.4	<p>Indicate the date the proposal is targeted for State Board of Education (SBOE) consideration.</p> <p>Please note that from the date the DFC receives the finalized proposal, the Commissioner has 45 days after DFC receives a completed proposal to recommend to the SBOE approval or disapproval of the proposal. Please take into account the date you plan to submit the proposal in accordance with the next SBOE meeting.</p>	February 20, 2026

Appendix A

Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degree Articulation Agreement
(Attach Completed and Signed Articulation Agreement, Form No. SAAT-03)