

# Individualized Technical Studies Degree

Program Number: 10-825-1

## Associate Degree

Program offered at Madison Campuses

For information call: (608) 258-2440 or  
(800) 322-6282 Ext. 2440

## About the Program

This associate degree program permits a qualified individual to plan a unique program of study to meet his/her own career goals. An occupational advisor from business/industry and a Madison College advisor provide direction to identify the knowledge and skills required for success in achieving those goals. Existing Madison College courses become components of the program. Courses include general education, mathematics and science, electives and specific technical core courses that may be selected from two or more traditional program areas.

The standard 60-70 planned credit hours of study are required to earn the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Technical Studies. Admission to the program must be approved prior to the completion of the first 32 credit hours.

## Program Intent/Rationale

This program is intended for currently employed individuals who have specific career objectives which cannot be met by Madison College's existing degree programs. Since many adult students already have occupational skills and work experience, they are looking for additional specific skills to operate their own business or prepare for career advancement. They value a portable credential that attests to their level of achievement. No single existing program may meet their unique needs.

With the growth of employment opportunities in small to mid-sized companies, employers are increasingly seeking workers able to perform multiple tasks that can cut across traditional occupational designations. New kinds of technologies and work processes require employees to have flexible sets of skills drawn from a variety of traditional disciplines and programs. Employers may be interested in designing and sponsoring a customized program (unique combination of existing courses) to meet their company's specific needs.

## Curriculum

The courses listed below outline the requirements for graduation for students entering this program in the 2011-2012 academic year. Requirements for graduation may vary depending on the semester in which a student is admitted to their program. Current/continuing students should consult their degree progress report available through their student center account for specific graduation requirements. Program requirements are subject to change.

- I. **General Education Core (select one from each content group).....21-30 credits**

Associate Degree	College Transfer	
<b>Communications.....6 credits</b>		
1. 10-801-195 Written Communication	or	20-801-201 English Composition 1
2. 10-801-196 Oral/Interpersonal Communication	or	20-801-202 English Composition 2
10-801-197 Technical Reporting (Prerequisite: Written Communication)		
10-801-198 Speech	or	20-810-201 Fundamentals of Speech
<b>Social Science.....3 credits</b>		
3. 10-809-195 Economics	or	20-809-211 Macroeconomics 20-809-212 Microeconomics
4. 10-809-197 Contemporary American Society	or	20-809-203 Introduction to Sociology
<b>Behavior Science.....3 credits</b>		
5. 10-809-199 Psychology of Human Relations	or	20-809-231 Introduction to Psychology 20-809-233 Developmental Psychology
<b>Math/Science.....3 credits*</b>		
6. *Associate degree or college transfer approved courses		
<b>Additional General Studies Courses.....6-15 credits</b>		
- II. **Individualized Technical Studies Courses.....36-49 credits**  
Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours relevant to career goals. A minimum of 20 of these credits must be focused in one discipline.
- III. **Electives .....0-6 credits**  
Students may complete up to six credit hours of electives relevant to career goals. You may utilize your electives to take additional technical courses.
- IV. **Total Program Credits.....60-70 credits**
- V. **Advanced Standing Request**  
A minimum of 50% of the total program credits required must be earned at Madison College.

Note: Students are placed in English and mathematics courses based on their scores on the COMPASS or ASSET test or on completion of the appropriate prerequisite/s.



## Program Objectives

The objectives of the Individualized Technical Studies Program are to provide flexibility to meet the educational needs of individuals with unique career goals and specific occupational outcomes, to serve the individual whose career goals cannot be achieved through enrollment in any single program currently available at Madison College, and to provide employers with a flexible program of study to meet the educational needs of their employees.

## Program Requirements

Required coursework includes: general studies, 21-30 credits; technical studies, 36-49 credits; and electives, 0-6 credits, for a total of 60-70 credits.

## Technical Studies Core

A minimum of 36 credits of occupational-specific courses is required with a minimum of 20 of those credit hours focused in one instructional area. Courses must be selected to achieve the specific career outcomes identified by the student. There must be sufficient concentration of coursework in one or two areas to ensure technical competence and employability.

## Student Admissions Process

This program involves a unique admissions process as well. An occupational advisor from business/industry must be involved and also be willing to serve as a program advisory committee member. With the help of an occupational and Madison College advisor, the student must develop a portfolio that identifies the individual's career goals and desired program outcomes. These outcomes serve as the basis for the development of the individualized program plan. The proposed program of study is then reviewed and must be approved by an ad hoc Individualized Technical Studies Degree Committee. These committees will be composed of deans and faculty from related areas as well as the assigned academic advisor for this program.

## Clarification of Purpose

The Individualized Technical Studies Program is NOT intended to become a catch-all for students with little or no career focus, nor to prepare students for occupations that have little or no job market demand. It is also NOT simply an accumulation of credit hours which leads to a degree. It is a pre-planned program of study. Finally, this degree program option is NOT designed to give students the opportunity to make minor course changes to current existing programs.

## Examples of Individualized Programs

It might be helpful to consider just a few of the possible examples of new individualized programs of study that a student or employer might request. A degree in "Police Management" may be needed in support of occupations in the law enforcement field—a program which could be designed with current courses from our police science and supervisory management programs. Perhaps area advertising agencies need to fill positions that call for skills and abilities in marketing and desktop publishing. For this purpose, a degree program in "Marketing Design and Production" may be in demand by a few individuals or agencies—a demand Madison College could fill by repackaging current program courses.

*More detailed and updated information on this program may be available at: [madisoncollege.org](http://madisoncollege.org). The college reserves the right to make changes in the regulations and courses announced in this publication without notice.*

*Madison Area Technical College provides equal opportunity in education and employment.*