

**REQUEST FOR UW SYSTEM APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A  
COLLABORATIVE ONLINE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**1. Name and Email Address of Person Submitting:**

(Lead campus to be determined)

**2. Institution Name:**

UW-Eau Claire

UW-Milwaukee

UW-Oshkosh

UW-Parkside

UW-River Falls

UW-Stevens Point

UW-Whitewater

With administrative and financial support from the University of Wisconsin Extended Campus

**3. Proposed Program:**

UW Collaborative Online Associate of Arts and Sciences degree

**4. Mode of Delivery:**

Collaborative and Distance Delivery only

**5. Provide a Brief Rationale for Adding the Degree:**

*Brief History/Background*

As a result of the restructuring of UW Colleges and UW-Extension, the fully online AAS degree offered by UW Colleges Online was eliminated effective July 1, 2018. At that time, UW Extended Campus (previously referred to as UW-Extension Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning) was charged by UW System with working with interested UW campuses in the development of a new collaborative online Associates degree for introduction in fall 2020. Following a solicitation to campuses, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Whitewater committed to move forward in the formal development and delivery of the degree. Initial and overarching goals of the new degree program included a continued focus on expanding access to higher education and improving transfer of credits between institutions.

*Rationale for Degree*

The proposed collaborative online Associate of Arts and Sciences degree serves as the foundational degree for bachelor's programs offered within and outside of the University of Wisconsin System. The program will also serve as a resource for diverse groups of students to access general education courses to satisfy or supplement their current academic program requirements across all majors and to decrease the time to degree. The degree complies with Regent Policy Documents [4-4](#) and [4-6](#) and meets the requirements of [SYS 115 \(Associate Degree Standards\)](#).

**6. Provide an Outline of the Curriculum. Include a List of Courses and Other Requirements such as Internships, Practica, etc.:**

Students completing the UW Collaborative AAS degree program will gain the following core competencies and learning outcomes:

**Knowledge of Human Cultures (HC)**

*Competency:* Courses focus on analysis of the human condition, culture, and society. This typically includes coursework that requires students to engage with and analyze human interaction and culture, social organization and institutions, historical contexts, and/or complex interdependent systems.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will be able to 1) describe and evaluate existing knowledge of human cultures; 2) interpret and analyze data, texts, and/or artifacts; and/or 3) apply concepts across disciplines.

**Knowledge of the Natural World (NW)**

*Competency:* Courses focus on concepts and applications related to the natural and physical sciences and mathematics.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will 1) describe and evaluate existing knowledge of the natural world; 2) interpret, analyze and communicate data, results, and conclusions; and/or 3) apply concepts across disciplines.

**Critical and Creative Thinking (CC)**

*Competency:* Courses extend students' abilities to analyze issues and produce responses that are both logical and innovative.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will 1) investigate problems; 2) execute analytical, practical, or creative tasks; and/or 3) combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways.

**Effective Communication (EC)**

*Competency:* Courses support and assess students' development of reading, listening, speaking, information literacy, and/or writing proficiencies.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will 1) use effective reading, listening, speaking, and/or writing skills, for a variety of purposes and audiences; and 2) use language effectively to construct scholarly, evidence-based arguments.

**Intercultural Knowledge and Competence (IK)**

*Competency:* Courses prepare students to live and work in diverse contexts. Courses with this degree designation focus on building cross-cultural communication, interaction, and empathy with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will 1) develop cultural self-awareness in the context of diverse human cultures; and/or 2) develop strategies for effectively and appropriately negotiating intercultural interactions.

**Individual, Social and Environmental Responsibility (ER)**

*Competency:* Courses provide the foundation for lifelong learning and the intellectual tools for engaging ethically as members of society.

*Learning Outcomes:* Students will 1) describe and evaluate ethical, social, and/or environmental issues; and/or 2) apply knowledge and skills for the purpose of civic engagement.

Table 1 illustrates the course options for the proposed 60-credit AAS degree program. Students will complete the required number of courses/credits under each of the defined knowledge domains. At this time, there are not defined capstone, internships, or other required culminating experiences for degree-seeking students to satisfy in the curriculum, however, those may be added (along with additional course options) in the future to complement specific subject area tracks or concentrations.

**Table 1: AAS Proposed Curriculum**

<b>Knowledge of Human Culture (HC) 12 cr.</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Other Info</b>
UWX PS101	General Psychology	3	Depth
UWX SC101	Introduction to Sociology	3	Depth
UWX EN250	Introduction to Literature	3	Depth
UWX PL104	Introduction to American Government and Politics	3	
UWX BU101	Introduction to Business	3	Depth
UWX PS250	Lifespan Psychology	3	Depth
UWX HS102	US History Since 1877	3	ES
UWX RE101	Introduction to Religion	3	
UWX AR175	Worlds of Art	3	ES
UWX AN100	Introduction to Anthropology	3	
<b>Knowledge of the Natural World (NW) 12 cr.</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Other Info</b>
UWX MA116	College Algebra	3	QL
UWX BL101	Concepts of Biology	4	LS
UWX MA117	Elementary Statistics	4	QL
UWX MA108	Quantitative Reasoning	3	QL
UWX CH144	General Chemistry I (lecture)	4	
UWX CH140	General Chemistry I (lab)	1	LS
UWX CH114	Chemistry in the Kitchen	4	LS
UWX GE170	Disasters--Living on the Edge	4	LS
UWX HE209	Nutrition and Weight Management	3	
UWX MA113	Trigonometry	2	
UWX MA221	Calculus I	5	
<b>Individual, Social, and Environmental Responsibility (ER) 6 cr.</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Other Info</b>
UWX GS101	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	3	
UWX ES105	Introduction to Environmental Studies	3	
UWX FN210	Personal Finance	3	Depth
UWX PH237	Technology, Values, and Society	3	Depth
UWX SC231	Crime and Criminal Justice	3	Depth
<b>Intercultural Knowledge and Competence (IK) 3 cr.</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Other Info</b>
UWX LB103	Diversity in the US	3	ES
UWX MU278	Rock and Roll Roots	3	ES
UWX CM213	Intercultural Communication	3	ES
UWX EN278	Multicultural Literature in the United States	3	Depth, ES
UWX HS127	The World in the 20th Century	3	
UWX SP101	First Semester Spanish	4	

Critical and Creative Thinking (CC) 3 cr.			
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Other Info
UWX EN203	Creative Writing	3	
UWX PH121	Critical Thinking	3	Depth
UWX SS310	Media Literacy	3	
UWX EC203	Macroeconomics	3	
UWX CS130	Introduction to Programming	3	
Effective Communication (EC) 6 cr.			
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Other Info
UWX CM101	Introduction to Public Speaking	3	
UWX EN102	Critical Writing and Research (Comp 2)	3	
UWX EN210	Business Communication	3	Depth
Other/Electives			
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Other Info
UWX EN101	College Writing and Critical Thinking (Comp 1)	3	
Developmental			
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Other Info
UWX EN098	Introduction to College Writing	3	NC
UWX MA091	Elementary Algebra	3	NC
UWX MA093	Intermediate Algebra	3	NC

ES	fulfills Ethnic Studies/Diversity requirement
LS	fulfills Lab Science requirement
QL	fulfills Quantitative Literacy requirement
NC	non-credit course
Depth	combined with another course, fulfills depth requirement

The collaborative online AAS degree is scheduled for launch in fall 2020. Due to funding limitations, course options in the initial AAS offering will be limited to 43 courses (to include three developmental courses). Following successful launch of the program and first year experience, and assuming sufficient enrollments and resulting revenues during that period, the program workgroup will be engaged in the formal development of the following Phase 2 program enhancements:

- Expansion of course offerings and options in all defined domain areas
- Creation of professional tracks/concentrations as supported by research
- Development and incorporation of high impact practices consistent with current best practices
- Other program and service enhancements as deemed valuable and appropriate by partners

#### 7. Provide Information on the Program Assessment Process:

Consistent with the current UW Collaborative Online Program approach, the assessment of student learning outcomes for the AAS degree program will be managed by the academic program directors from each partner campus as well as the UW Extended Campus (UWEX) program manager. This

assessment team will identify and define measures and establish a rubric for evaluating how well students are meeting the program's six competency areas. The team will also identify what data will be needed and serve as the collection point for the data. As a part of the course development process, the assessment team will determine which examples of student work will be most appropriate to demonstrate competency.

The team will receive data collected from institutions by UWEX each semester. UWEX will also monitor data on new enrollments, retention rates, and graduation rates. The assessment team will compile these various sources of data and complete annual reports summarizing and assessing the data and making decisions regarding improvements to the curriculum, structure, and program delivery. The report will be shared with the faculty of the program and other stakeholders at each partner institution. The assessment team is responsible for ensuring that recommendations for improvement are implemented.

**8. Provide Information on Transfer Possibilities to a Bachelor's Degree. Identify the Bachelor's Degree(s) for Possible Transfer:**

The Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree is the foundation for many college majors and Bachelor's Degrees. The AAS degree provides a two-year, general education liberal arts-based academic program, and is generally accepted by other University of Wisconsin System institutions as fulfilling the university-wide general education breadth requirements.

**9. Provide Information on Opportunities for Collaboration with Other UW Institutions:**

The AAS is a collaborative degree program that benefits from the shared academic and administrative resources of all partnering institutions. UW System encourages and supports system-wide cooperative and collaborative efforts among institutions as a means to develop need-based programs of mutual interest, benefit, and value to all partners; add to the existing base of quality academic offerings within the System; leverage limited resources; and more effectively and efficiently address the needs of both traditional and nontraditional learners, as well as employers within the state. This degree, like other collaborative programs currently offered within the System, provides each of the participating academic institutions the ability to offer a high-quality, sustainable program, and resource for students without a requirement to extend significant local resources or a risk of compromising existing programs.

Faculty and staff from seven partner institutions collectively developed and approved the program curriculum, program competencies, student learning outcomes, and admission requirements. These partner institutions will be responsible for identifying qualified faculty and instructional staff to deliver coursework, assess student learning and conduct program review.

Each partner institution will appoint an academic program director who will work with their respective academic units to implement the program. Collaboratively, these directors along with a designated campus continuing education representative or designate and the UWEX program manager will comprise the program workgroup. This team will oversee the ongoing growth, development and performance of the AAS degree program. The committee will meet quarterly in person and via teleconferencing, as needed. Instructional development and delivery of the online courses will be supported and hosted by UWEX. This cohesive development and offering of courses will ensure students have a consistent experience even though the faculty reside at multiple partner institutions.

Students will choose a home institution from where their degree will be conferred. All courses will be listed in each of the partner institutions course catalog and registration system. The student record will be maintained in the student information system of the home institution. Local program stakeholders,

to include academic directors, continuing education staff, host department representatives, academic support office leads, and business office personnel from each institution will also meet biannually to review local processes and concerns, and to make adjustments as necessary. Program evaluation regarding the collaborative nature of the model will help assess processes critical to the success of the collaboration, such as the financial model, marketing, student recruitment and advising, admission and enrollment processes and trends, and curriculum and course design. UWEX will regularly report on program performance. All partners will share equally in the net revenues from the program, once realized.

One of the many recognized and significant benefits of the collaborative program model is the extended reach or scope of contacts provided through the involvement of multiple academic partners located within unique markets throughout the state. Our academic partners have established significant relationships, reputation, and strength-of-brand within their individual regions, which has proven valuable in identifying regional interest in the program and will help raise awareness of this opportunity throughout the state and expand program reach. This will ultimately result in greater success in reaching and serving students throughout the state, supporting student and regional business needs and interests, promoting program growth, and positioning the program for sustainability.

**10. State whether Higher Learning Commission Approval will be Needed:**

Partners will be securing authorization to offer this program as a consortial online degree from the Higher Learning Commission, the regional accrediting body for all seven partner institutions.