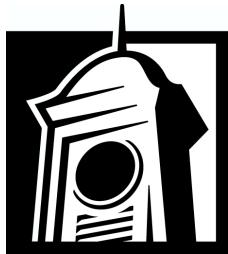


Curriculum Committee February 24, 2026/Faculty Senate March 10, 2026

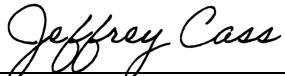
College of Arts and Humanities – Department of History and Political Science

1. Add the Certificate of General Studies.



**Request for New Certificate Program
(CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY, TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE, ADVANCED
CERTIFICATE, or GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)**

Department Initiating Proposal	Date
Department of History and Political Science	1/28/2026

Title	Signature	Date
Dr. Aaron McArthur, Department Head		2/2/2026
Dr. Jeff Cass, Dean		2/2/26
Ms. Amanda Gardner, Assessment		2/3/26
Ms. Tammy Weaver, Registrar		2/3/2026
Graduate College (if appropriate)		
Dr. Adolfo Santos, Vice President for Academic Affairs		

Committee	Approval Date
General Education Committee (Undergraduate Proposals Only)	
Teacher Education Committee (Graduate or Undergraduate Proposals)	
Curriculum Committee (Undergraduate Proposals Only)	
Faculty Senate (Undergraduate Proposals Only)	
Graduate Council (Graduate Proposals Only)	

Program Title: Certificate of General Studies

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

New Certificate Program

The Certificate of General Studies is a specific set of general education core courses that will document a student's mastery of skills and competencies needed to be successful in the workforce and today's world. The range of credit hours is 31-38 semester hours. Remedial/developmental education courses must be used for placement purposes only and cannot be used to fulfill certificate requirements.

Required Information:

- 1. Proposed degree title: Certificate of General Studies**
- 2. CIP code: 24.0102**
- 3. % online (if applicable): 100% online**
- 4. Justification/need for the new program including degree program goals, objectives, student learning outcomes, and projected enrollment of new degree.**

Awarding the Certificate of General Studies is an important step in supporting student access, completion, and credential attainment in alignment with institutional priorities. Approving this certificate would allow Arkansas Tech University to award a recognized postsecondary credential to concurrent high school students who complete the required coursework prior to high school graduation. This provides students with an early, meaningful academic milestone and formally recognizes college-level achievement while strengthening pathways from secondary to postsecondary education.

In addition, awarding the Certificate of General Studies allows Tech to appropriately confer credit and credentials to currently enrolled students at the point when general education requirements are completed. This ensures that students receive earned credentials in a timely manner, particularly for those who may pause or change their academic pathway before completing a degree. Providing an interim credential improves student outcomes, increases credential completion rates, and supports workforce readiness.

The certificate also aligns directly with the goals of the Arkansas legislation by expanding access to postsecondary credentials, supporting concurrent enrollment opportunities, and improving affordability and flexibility for Arkansas students. By recognizing completed general education coursework with a credential, Tech reinforces stackable pathways that promote persistence, transfer, and workforce mobility.

Overall, awarding the Certificate of General Studies enhances student success, strengthens partnerships with K-12 institutions, and positions Arkansas Tech University to remain competitive and responsive to the evolving needs of students and state educational priorities.

The general education curriculum is designed with the philosophy of "college, career, community" to provide a foundation for knowledge common to educated people and to develop the capacity for an individual to expand that knowledge over his or her lifetime. Students who have completed the general education curriculum at Arkansas Tech University will be able to:

- Communicate effectively
- Think critically
- Develop ethical perspectives
- Apply scientific and quantitative reasoning
- Apply the value of the arts and humanities
- Practice civic engagement

To accomplish the above goals, Arkansas Tech requires the completion of the following general education curriculum.

Approximately, 200 students could be awarded the Certificate of General Studies each fall and spring term.

5. Proposed degree curriculum. If applicable, indicate new courses and include new course descriptions.

The Certificate of General Studies would include 35 hours comprised of existing courses. The required curriculum includes the following:

ENGL 1013: Composition I

ENGL 1023: Composition II

COMM 1003: Introduction to Communication; COMM 2003: Public Speaking; or
COMM 2173: Business and Professional Speaking

MATH 1003: Quantitative Literacy; MATH 1113: College Algebra; or STAT 2163: Introduction to Statistical Methods

8 hours of Science with Laboratory

POLS 2003: American Government

HIST 1903: Survey of American History; HIST 2003: United States History to 1877; HIST 2013: United States History since 1877; or HIST 2043: Honors United States History to 1877

6 hours of Social Sciences

6 hours of Fine Arts and Humanities

- 6. Approval letter from licensure/certification entity, if required.**
Not applicable

- 7. Effective date, term, and academic year: 2026 Fall 2026-27 academic year**