

**Follow Up to Questions  
from the January 26, 2016, Board of Trustees Meeting**

**re: Approval of the Associate of Arts Degree  
as the College's Multidisciplinary Associate Degree**

**Question:** At its meeting of January 26, 2016, the Board of Trustees approved the Associate of Arts Degree as the college's multidisciplinary associate degree. Several board members asked for additional information regarding the degree required under Senate Bill 1189.

**Answer:** Senate Bill 1189 requires each Texas public community college to adopt a multidisciplinary studies associate degree. THECB rule 9.553 states that the degree must meet the following three criteria.

1. It must include the college core curriculum.
2. After completion of the core curriculum, the courses selected by the student and in the student's completed degree plan must account for all the remaining credit hours required for the completion of the degree.
3. The degree plan must include courses that will transfer to the particular four-year college or university of the student's choice and must prepare the student for a particular field of study or major at the four-year college or university.

Senate Bill 1189 further requires that all students declaring the designated multidisciplinary studies degree as their intended educational goal at the college must meet with an academic advisor to develop a degree plan after completing 30 semester credit hours.

The goal of SB1189 is to allow students more flexibility in selecting elective courses that would transfer and apply to their intended baccalaureate degree. Community colleges had the option to choose an existing degree program or develop a new degree program that would meet the three multi-disciplinary degree criteria. Since Collin College's Associate of Arts degree already includes the core curriculum and has flexibility in the choice of electives, it meets SB1189 criteria. Other community colleges may have strict degree requirements in their associate degrees requiring the adoption of a new degree. This was not the case for Collin College. Designating the Associate of Arts degree as the Collin College multidisciplinary studies degree provides Collin College students with the broadest range of opportunities for developing a degree plan that will include courses that apply to the degree they want to pursue at the four-year institution where they prefer to attend.

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