

Programs and Degrees

What Degree Programs are Available?

Northland Pioneer College offers an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Arts in Early Childhood (AAEC), Associate of Arts in Elementary Education (AAEE), Associate of Business (ABus), and Associate of Science (AS) degrees designed for students transferring into four-year college or university programs. The general education requirements (see AGEC, page 65) for these degrees are specifically designed to transfer to Arizona's public universities, fulfilling their lower division general education requirements.

All courses included in these degrees must transfer to the three Arizona public universities as direct equivalents, departmental elective credits or general elective credits. Students should work with their NPC academic adviser to facilitate a smooth and efficient transfer to a four-year college or university.

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree and the Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) are awarded at the completion of programs designed to prepare graduates for employment. Public universities in Arizona now offer many AAS to BAS pathways. Visit www.aztransfer.com for more

information or speak to your academic adviser. A Certificate of Proficiency (CP) is also awarded in certain occupation-specific programs. Not all degree programs are offered at every NPC location. Consult with an academic adviser for offerings at your campus or center, or information about a housing assistance scholarship if you need to re-locate to attend specific classes.

The Associate of General Studies (AGS) Degree is intended for nonmajors seeking greater flexibility in planning their education. Although many courses within this degree program may transfer to a four-year college or university, students should not assume that all courses will transfer.

For further information contact your instructor. Information about degrees and pathways, common courses, Course Equivalency Guides, transfer guides and Arizona college and university catalogs are available through an NPC academic adviser or at www.AZTransfer.com.

Graduation Requirements

Degrees and Certificates

Associate Degrees

- Associate of Arts (AA)
- Associate of Arts in Early Childhood (AAEC)
- Associate of Arts in Elementary Education (AAEE)
- Associate of Business (ABus)
- Associate of Science (AS)
- Associate of General Studies (AGS)
- Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

A student pursuing a certificate or degree needs to declare a degree plan with an academic adviser. The declared degree plan is then posted to the student's file. Degrees and certificates will be posted to transcripts three to six weeks after each semester.

A student who files an Application for Graduation by the appropriate deadline and is approved for graduation will be invited to participate in the Commencement Ceremony in May. A student who is late in filing an Application for

Graduation may participate in the Commencement Ceremony the following year by sending a notification to the Records and Registration Office by the following spring deadline (email: evaluations@npc.edu).

A student who will complete their degree or certificate in the upcoming summer semester may also participate in the Commencement Ceremony by submitting their summer graduation application by the spring deadline.

A student must complete an Application for Graduation with their academic adviser and have their application submitted to the Records and Registration Office during the semester in which the student expects to complete requirements for their degree or certificate:

- October 4, 2021 - Monday for Fall 2021
- February 17, 2022 - Friday for Spring 2022
- July 1, 2022 - Friday for Summer 2022

A student must remove any indebtedness to the college and resolve any outstanding holds on their account prior to the Application for Graduation deadline. Upon verification of completed degree or certificate requirements, NPC may

Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements Continued

automatically award degrees or certificates for students without a graduation application.

To obtain the Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts in Early Childhood, Associate of Arts in Elementary Education, Associate of Business, Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies or Associate of Applied Science degrees from NPC, the candidate must:

1. Satisfy the degree requirements as published in the applicable NPC catalog prior to the date of graduation on which the degree is to be awarded. All petitions for degree requirement waivers must be submitted and approved prior to the Application for Graduation deadline listed on page 57.
2. File an Application for Graduation with the Records and Registration Office by the deadline listed on page 57.
3. Be credited with not less than 64 applicable semester credits in the Records and Registration Office (except for the AAS Paramedicine degree where 63 credits are required and the AAS LPN to RN degree where 57 credits are required). No course numbered below the 100 level can be used to satisfy the requirements for any degree.
4. Have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or better in courses taken at NPC. No 'D' credit will be allowed in the AA, AAEC, AAEE, ABus or AS degrees. For AGS or AAS degrees, (except for degrees with explicit requirements – refer to specific degree and certificate requirements for more details) no more than nine units of 'D' credit will be allowed and only in unrestricted electives.
5. Have no more than 12 credits of 'P' grade applied toward graduation credit for the AAS and AGS degree requirements. No 'P' credit will be allowed in the AA, AAEC, AAEE, ABus or AS degrees. Additional 'P' grades may only be applied toward a degree as allowed by the college for extenuating circumstances.
6. Have a minimum of 16 semester credits in residence at NPC that apply toward the degree being pursued and meet the requirements for the applicable NPC catalog (see "Applicable Catalog" for additional details). Credits obtained by assessment may not be used toward the residency requirement.

Certificate of Applied Science (CAS)

A Certificate of Applied Science will be awarded to students who have completed an approved vocational program with all courses successfully completed with a grade of 'C' or better to indicate the achievement of technical skills and competence in a specific area of endeavor.

The candidate for the Certificate of Applied Science must:

1. Satisfy the certificate requirements as published in the applicable NPC catalog prior to the date of graduation at

which the certificate is to be awarded. All petitions for degree requirement waivers must be submitted and approved prior to the Application for Graduation deadline listed on page 57.

2. File an Application for Graduation with the Records and Registration Office by the deadline listed on page 57;
3. Have a minimum of 12 semester credits in residence at NPC that apply toward the certificate being pursued and meet the requirements for the applicable NPC Catalog (see "Applicable Catalog" for additional details). Credits obtained by assessment may not be used toward the residency requirement.

Certificate of Proficiency (CP)

Certificates of Proficiency are approved programs that indicate specific vocational competencies. Any number of certificates may be awarded to a student who completes the requirements. A formal certificate will be sent to the applicant once the completion of requirements is certified. Normally these students do not attend commencement ceremonies. An exception is made for those students who complete a Certificate of Proficiency of 32 credits or more in two semesters.

Certificates of Proficiency will be awarded when the student:

1. Satisfies the requirements for the certificate as published in the applicable NPC catalog;
2. Files an Application for Graduation with the Records and Registration Office by the deadline listed on page 57;
3. Completes successfully, with a grade of 'C' or better, all courses to indicate the achievement of technical skills and competence in a specific area of endeavor;
4. Has a minimum of 75 percent of the credits required for the certificate in residence at NPC. Credits obtained by assessment cannot be used toward the residency requirement.

Applicable Catalog

Students maintaining continuous enrollment at any public Arizona community college or university may graduate according to the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment or according to the requirements of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment. A student may maintain continuous enrollment whether attending a single public community college or university in Arizona or transferring among public institutions in Arizona while pursuing his or her degrees.

Students transferring among Arizona public higher education institutions must meet the admission, residency and all curricular and academic requirements of the degree-granting institution.

1. A semester in which a student earns course credit is counted toward continuous enrollment. Noncredit courses, audited

Graduation Requirements

Applicable Catalog Continued

courses, failed courses or courses from which the student withdraws do not count toward the determination of continuous enrollment for catalog purposes.

2. Students who do not meet the minimum enrollment standard stipulated in number 1 during three consecutive semesters (fall/spring/fall or spring/fall/spring) and the intervening summer term* at any public Arizona community college or university are no longer considered continuously enrolled. These students must meet requirements of the public Arizona community college or university catalog in effect at the time they are readmitted or of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment after readmission.

*Students are not obligated to enroll and earn course credit during summer terms, but summer enrollment may be used to maintain continuous enrollment status.

3. Students admitted or readmitted to a public Arizona community college or university during a summer term must follow the degree or certificate requirements of the catalog in effect the following fall semester or of any single catalog in effect during subsequent terms of continuous enrollment.
4. In areas of study in which the subject matter changes rapidly, material in courses taken long before graduation may become obsolete or irrelevant. Course work that is more than eight years old is applicable to completion of degree requirements at the discretion of the student's major department. Departments may accept such course work, reject it or request that the student revalidate its substance. The eight-year limit on course work applies except when program accreditation agencies limit the life of course work to less than eight years. Departments may also require students to satisfy current major requirements rather than major requirements in earlier catalogs, when completing earlier requirements is no longer possible or educationally sound.
5. Enrollment by Arizona community college students in nontransferable courses still constitutes enrollment for purposes of determining whether the student has been continuously enrolled. For example, if a student takes two semesters of cooperative education classes, which are not transferable to the university but constitute continuous enrollment at the community college, the university should consider it continuous enrollment.
6. Exceptions made by an institution apply only to the institution that made the exception. For example, if the community college departments accepted credit which was more than eight years old, the university department to which the student transfers has the right and the obligation to reevaluate any credit which is more than eight years old.
7. Inquiries about these guidelines should be directed to the

student's academic adviser.

Degree Exclusions and Exceptions

Students who have completed an Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts in Early Childhood, Associate of Arts in Elementary Education, Associate of Business or Associate of Science degrees or higher degree (BS, BA, etc.), will not be awarded an Associate of General Studies, or a second degree of the same type. Students completing the aforementioned degrees may complete a different transfer degree providing they complete the appropriate Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) courses, the common courses identified for the major they will be pursuing at the university, and applicable language requirements.

1. Students who complete an AAS degree offered by NPC may complete an AA, AAEC, AAEE, AS, ABUS or AGS degree. For each degree students must complete 12 additional credits transferable to all three Arizona state universities. Students must meet all requirements specific to the degree they wish to earn.
2. A student may earn any number of CAS or AAS degrees; however, students must earn a minimum of nine additional credits that apply to each new area of specialization.

Due to Arizona State Board of Nursing requirements, nursing students must complete all general education requirements for the Certificate of Applied Science Practical Nursing and the Associate of Applied Science Registered Nursing.

Credits and degrees over eight years in age are subject to review prior to acceptance toward the prerequisites and/or degree requirements in some NPC programs, except when program accreditation agencies limit the life of course work to less than eight years.

Petitions for Exceptions

Students seeking exceptions to degree requirements should meet with an academic adviser for assistance in completing the petition forms. These forms, accompanied by supporting information such as copies of transcripts, course descriptions, and articulation rules, are forwarded to the Dean responsible for the degree program being petitioned. The Dean makes a recommendation and forwards the paperwork to the Director of Enrollment Services for review, then to the Vice President for Learning and Student Services for a final decision and distribution of the copies of the petition form. For acceptance of courses over eight years old, students should work with an academic adviser to follow the petition process. Courses petitioned based solely on the age of the course, require only adviser and dean approval before being sent to the Director of Enrollment Services for processing.