

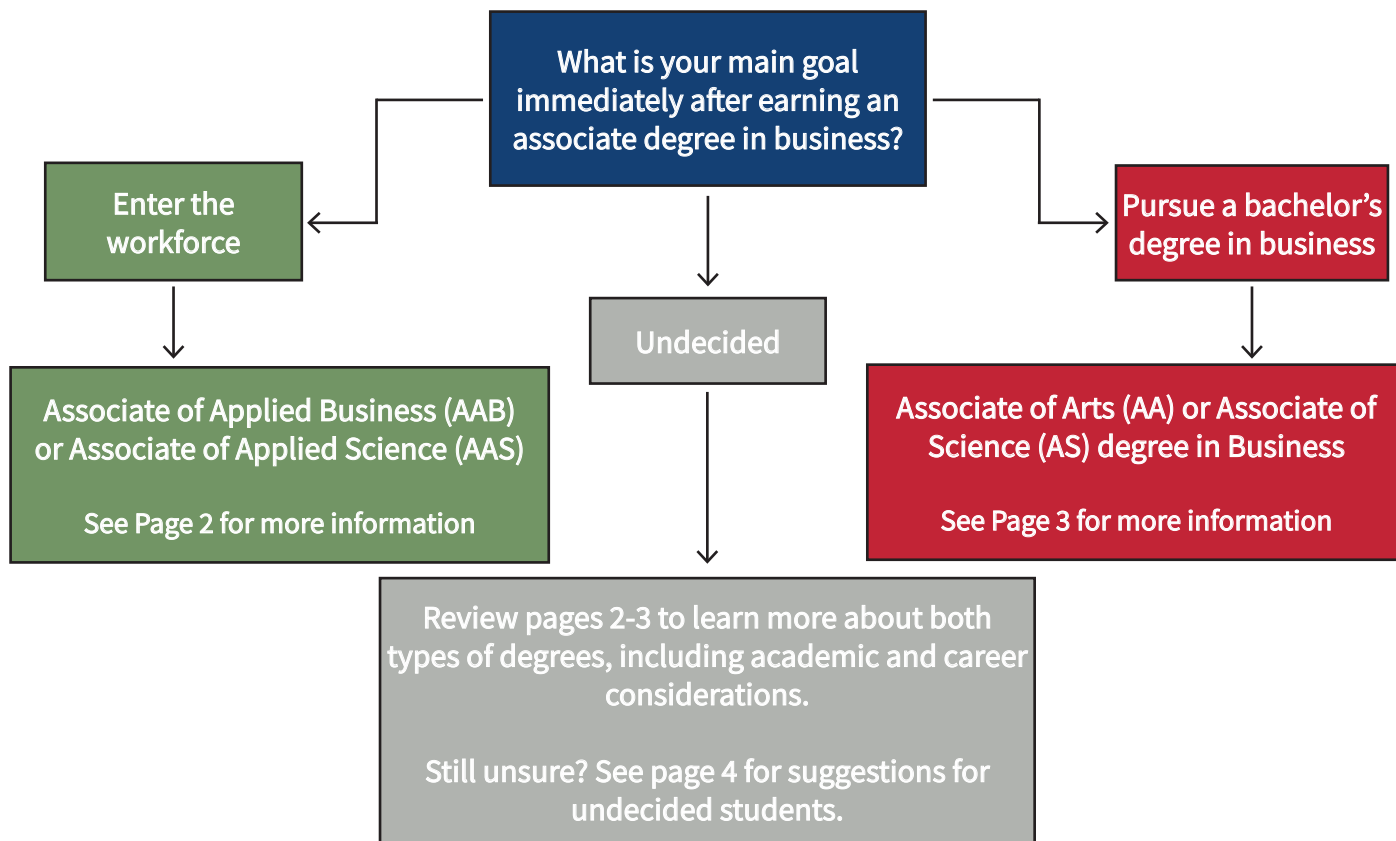


Business: Guide to Associate Degree Options

EFFECTIVE BEGINNING ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

LAST REVISED: April 3, 2025

So you're interested in earning an associate degree in Business? There are two main types of degrees that you could earn. This flow chart will help you to consider which might better fit your academic and career goals. Also work with your academic advisor for help with your decision and to get additional information specific to your institution.



DEFINITIONS

Associate of Applied Business (AAB)/Associate of Applied Science (AAS) - The AAB and AAS degrees are awarded in recognition of successful completion of career-focused education programs and prepare students for immediate employment upon graduation.

Associate of Arts (AA)/Associate of Science (AS) - The AA and AS degrees are designed for students who desire to complete the first half of a bachelor's degree at an Ohio public community college, technical college, or regional campus, and then transfer as juniors to an Ohio public university.

General Education - The set of courses and experiences that provide students with a broad exposure to multiple disciplines within the arts and sciences with the aim of providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. In Ohio, the general education curriculum typically includes coursework in oral and written communication, mathematics and data analysis, arts and humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

Ohio Transfer 36 - The Ohio Transfer 36 contains 36-40 semester hours of coursework in general education. It is a subset or the complete set of general education requirements at each college or university that is guaranteed to transfer among Ohio public institutions.

Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) Courses - TAG courses are pre-major or beginning-major courses that are guaranteed to transfer among Ohio public institutions and count toward the major degree program. These courses may have different names and numbers at different institutions, so we identify them with an Ohio Articulation Number made up of three letters and three numbers, such as (OBU004) for Legal Environment of Business.



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ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED BUSINESS (AAB) OR ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

The AAB or AAS is primarily for students wanting to enter the workforce immediately after graduating with their associate degree. There are a number of different applied degree programs within the area of business and students will typically specialize in one area, such as accounting, business administration/management, human resources, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, etc.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Talk to business faculty and career counselors at your institution to find out where recent graduates have found employment and typical starting salaries.
- Certificates showcasing new skills can often be earned along the way in under one year.
- Depending on the focus of the degree, possible job titles after graduation could include Human Resources Assistant, Office Manager, Event Coordinator, or Accounts Receivable Specialist, just to name a few.
- Typical starting salary will vary, particularly depending on previous work experience, but [OhioMeansJobs](#) and the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) are good resources for exploring various occupations, including their median salaries and projected demand.

See next page for academic program and contact information.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Applied degrees tend to have fewer required math courses than AA/AS degrees.
- You will take mostly business courses and fewer Ohio Transfer 36 general education courses.
- If you go on to pursue a bachelor's degree, research a variety of universities and majors with the help of your academic advisor to find the best option for you. There are two main types to consider:
 1. A business-related bachelor's completion degree, such as a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management or Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies, accepts most or all credits from an AAB or AAS and allows for efficient and affordable bachelor's degree completion. Review the Applied Business Bachelor's Degree Directory for more information.
 2. A Bachelor of Business Administration or a Bachelor of Science of Business Administration through a business college at a public Ohio university may take longer for you to complete than for a student who earns an AA or AS in Business. Not all courses from an AAB or AAS are guaranteed to transfer and apply. Work with your college to learn about articulation agreements or other ways to maximize your credit transfer.



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ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Associate of Applied Business degree in Accounting

The associate degree program in Accounting provides a foundation for paraprofessional tax and accounting careers with an eye toward future advancement to supervisory positions.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/accounting/index.html>

Associate of Applied Business degree in Business Management

The Associate of Applied Business Degree in Business Management is designed to help you become an effective manager of projects as well as personnel. The business management curriculum will enable you to advance personally in a business environment while you contribute to your company's goals and objectives.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/business-management-program-at-tri-c.html>

Associate of Applied Business degree in Business Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management

Students experience and develop Human Resource generalist capabilities through this competency-driven and applications-based Human Resource program. By combining a dynamic market designed and driven Human Resource Concentration with a well-rounded Business Management degree, the student is preparing to become a marketable Human Resource practitioner with a business partner orientation.

Program is not fully online. Courses offered in multiple modalities.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/business-management-human-resource-management.html>

Associate of Applied Business degree in Business Management with a concentration in International Business

Our program is designed to meet the needs of business professionals who find that they are newly accountable for, or have an opportunity to be promoted to, a position with international business responsibilities. Courses cover useful, pertinent and practical techniques to further your international business knowledge. From export documentation to global marketing strategies, foreign manufacturing logistics to international communications etiquette, these courses provide you with what it takes to succeed internationally.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/international-business-at-tri-c.html>



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ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED BUSINESS PROGRAMS, CONTINUED

Associate of Applied Business degree in Marketing

The program addresses the broad scope of activities performed in the buying and selling of goods and services to the consuming sectors of the economy. Students are prepared for a variety of marketing positions via a broad working knowledge of the theories and practices of marketing.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/marketing-program-at-tri-c.html>

Associate of Applied Business degree in Supply Management

Purchasing of materials, supplies and equipment represent a large part of a business or industrial firm's total cost of operation. Purchasing, because of its importance, is often designated as a separate responsibility to be handled by one or more individuals. Purchasing agents and their assistants are responsible for obtaining raw materials, goods and services at the lowest cost consistent with required quality.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/purchasing-supply-management-at-tri-c.html>

Associate of Applied Business degree in Business Management with a concentration in Small Business Management

This program is designed for those who aspire to be entrepreneurs, as well as for those already operating a small business. Fundamentals of entrepreneurship are emphasized. A solid management foundation is provided.

Program can be completed online. Courses are offered Online Synchronous, Online Asynchronous, Hybrid, Daytime in-person, and Evening in-person.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/business-management-small-business-management.html>

Program Contact Information:

Cuyahoga Community College

College of Business, Legal Professions and Hospitality

<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/business-management/index.html>

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ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) IN BUSINESS

The AA or AS in Business is designed to count for the first half of a bachelor in business degree at a 4-year school and is intended to provide smooth and seamless transfer directly into a bachelor's degree program in business with junior standing at any of the business schools at Ohio's public universities. Complete the [Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathway for Business](#) to receive this guarantee. Please note that some bachelor-degree granting business programs may be competitive and the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathway does not guarantee admission to a specific business program. Students should check with individual institutions for their program admission requirements. To view all available pathways, please visit the [Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Search Tool](#).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- The AA or AS in Business is designed for transfer to a bachelor's degree and is not designed for immediate employment.
- Depending on the major/specialization of the bachelor's degree, possible job titles after bachelor's degree completion could include Market Research Analyst, Loan Officer, Financial Analyst, Human Resources Manager, or Accountant, just to name a few.
- Typical starting salary will vary, particularly depending on previous work experience, but [OhioMeansJobs](#) and the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) are good resources for exploring various occupations, including their median salaries and projected demand.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- You will likely need to complete Business Calculus or Calculus I, depending on the requirements of your receiving institution and/or major.
- You will take more general education courses than business courses during the associate degree program but will take almost entirely business courses after transfer and acceptance into the bachelor's degree program.
- Certain programs, majors, or specializations may have competitive admission, so work with your advisor early in your studies to learn about GPA requirements or application deadlines for your desired bachelor's program.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS PATHWAY IN BUSINESS

https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/transfercredit.ohio.gov/files/transfer/pathways/CYCC_Business.pdf



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UNDECIDED STUDENTS

If you are interested in business, but are undecided between an applied associate degree and an associate of art or science degree, ask your advisor to help you select courses that will count toward both types of associate degrees. Below is a list of courses that are typically required for both types of business degrees, but your advisor should be able to provide suggestions specific to your college. Taking courses that count toward both types of degrees will give you time to research which path is the best fit for you. In addition to your academic advisor, you can talk with mentors, employers, and family to help you explore your options and decide on a degree program. Students will need to decide on their degree program, at the latest, by the time they complete approximately 30 credit hours (which is about 10 courses).

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GENERAL EDUCATION/OHIO TRANSFER 36

- First Writing (TME001): ENGL 1010/101H
- Microeconomics (OSS004): ECON 2000
- Second Writing (TME002) or Oral Communication (TMOC) or Public Speaking (OCM013): COMM 1010/101H

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUSINESS TAG COURSES

- Introduction to Financial Accounting (OBU010): ACCT 1311
- Introduction to Managerial Accounting (OBU011): ACCT 1341
- Legal Environment of Business (OBU004): BADM 2151
- Management and Organizational Behavior (OBU012): BADM 1122
- Principles of Marketing (OBU006): MARK 2010
- Business Communications (OBU005): BADM 2010/201H
- Business Statistics (OBU013): MATH 1490