Western Dakota Tech Policy Number: 3007

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how Western Dakota Tech (WDT) establishes academic programs of study.

II. General Statement of Policy

A. A goal of WDT is to provide quality post-secondary education that meets the needs of students and employers. WDT offers Associate of Applied Science degrees, Diplomas, and Technical Certificates to meet these needs.

1. Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees
   AAS degrees prepare students to enter the workforce immediately following graduation in career positions in their chosen field. AAS degrees provide a robust technical education and includes general education classes.

2. Diplomas
   Diplomas prepare students to enter the workforce immediately following graduation in entry-level career positions in their chosen field. Diplomas provide a basic technical education and include general education classes.

3. Technical Certificates
   Technical certificates are credit-granting and provide value-added training. Technical certificates provide the opportunity for stackable credentials and establishing career-ladder opportunities. Technical certificates are defined as follows:
   a. Embedded Technical Certificates – consist of existing curriculum from approved Diploma or AAS degree program.
   b. Stand-Alone Technical Certificates – consist of some portion of new curriculum that does not currently exist in an approved Diploma or AAS degree program.

B. It shall be a violation of this policy if approved programs of study are not followed.
III. Definitions – None

IV. Reporting Procedures

A. Academic programs and courses are recorded in the Course Catalog. The Curriculum Committee must approve all changes in program courses. The Course Catalog is available on the WDT website.

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

A. This policy shall appear on the WDT website on the policy webpage.

Legal References

None

Board Approved 10/15/2018; Committee Reviewed 12/8/2020