

## PROGRAMS OF STUDY

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) establishes academic programs of study.

### II. General Statement of Policy

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

Certificates are credit-granting and provide value-added training. Certificates provide the opportunity for stackable credentials and establishing career-ladder opportunities. Certificates are defined as follows:

- a. Embedded Certificates – consist of existing curriculum from approved Diploma or AAS degree program.
- b. Stand-Alone Certificates – consist of some portion of new curriculum that does not currently exist in an approved Diploma or AAS degree program.

### 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 programs and courses. The Course Catalog is available on the WDTC website.

**V. Dissemination of Policy and Training**

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDTC website on the policy webpage.

Legal References: None

Board Approved 10/15/2018; Committee Reviewed 12/8/2020; Committee Reviewed 3/28/2023