

# Wisconsin Technical College System

## Aid Code Policy Change Summary

**Final 6/20/2022 - Policy Integrated into Educational Services Manual on 6/23/2022**

### Policy Change Purpose:

Remove unnecessary barriers and provide increased flexibility and degree completion options for students; establish equitable associate degree completion options for technical diploma graduates and Individual Technical Studies degree seekers.

### Background:

WTCS has an established structure of Aid Codes that are used to designate program types and course types. As our System has evolved, post-secondary courses (Aid Codes 10, 20, 30, 31, 32) have been established with equal post-secondary value and rigor. Our current program configuration rules present unnecessary barriers to some students.

Aid Code 10, 32, 31, 30 courses are of equal post-secondary value. The core difference is the credit-hour make up. 1 credit lecture = 18 hours in 10; 1 credit lecture = 36 hours in 30s. Total effort hours for 1 credit of both is 54. Course content and rigor is set course by course and not determined by Aid Code designation.

Colleges received and reviewed a draft proposed Aid Code Policy in 2021. Feedback was considered and incorporated in this final draft. A summary of feedback as presented to the ISA group is available here:

[AID CODE POLICY FEEDBACK SUMMARY .docx](#)

### Policy Changes:

These policy changes provide flexibility to colleges to better meet student needs in existing programs where previous policies posed barriers and in new programs where desired. These policy changes do not require colleges to make any changes to existing programs, curricula or courses.

**AAS** = Applied Associate of Science

**AAA** = Applied Associate of Arts

**ITS** = Individualized Technical Studies

**ATC** = Advanced Technical Certificate

**TD** = Technical Diploma

1. Expand Aid Code types allowed in program types as follows (*additions highlighted in bold*):
  - AAS/AAA programs (Aid Code 10) are allowed to include Aid Code 10, **32, 31, 30\*** courses
  - ITS programs (Aid Code 10) are allowed to include Aid Code 10, **32, 31, 30**, courses
  - ATC programs (Aid Code 11) are allowed to include Aid Code 10, **32, 31, 30**, courses
  - TD programs (Aid Codes 30, 31, 32) are allowed to include Aid Code **10\*\***, 32, 31, 30 courses
  - AA/AS programs (Aid Code 20) are allowed to include Aid Code 20 and 10 courses as defined in ESM Chapter 1.

\* Aid Code 30, 31, and 32 courses included in AAS/AAA programs should be part of a previously approved technical diploma.

\*\* Any TD programs that are not embedded in an associates degree have to go through the Financial Aid Clock-to-Credit hour conversion. Thus, using Aid Code 10 courses in non-embedded TD is not recommended. If using Aid Code 10 courses in a non-embedded TD is necessary to meet student needs, financial aid implications must be clearly understood and communicated to students.

2. Expand Aid Code types allowed as alternates in program types as follows:
  - Aid Code 20 courses are only allowed in AAS/AAA, ATC or **TD** programs as alternates.

### Credit for Prior Learning and Transfer Considerations:

1. To maintain continuity and portability of credits across WTCS colleges, it is expected that WTCS colleges will accept Aid Code 30, 31, and 32 courses students have successfully completed at another WTCS college as transfer credits for Aid Code 10 courses where the course competencies and outcomes are *determined to be equivalent*. This is also expected internally between programs at a WTCS college. Compliance with WTCS Board Policies is an expectation of the Board and a consideration in program and course approvals.
2. Due to financial aid limitations, Aid Code **50** courses are not allowed in **AAS/AAA** or **TD** programs as core courses or alternates. However, it is expected that WTCS colleges will accept Aid Code 50 courses students have successfully completed as transfer credits for Aid Code 10, 30, 31, or 32 courses where the course competencies and outcomes are *determined to be equivalent*. The Aid Code 50 course must have been taken as part of an approved WTCS Apprenticeship Program (Aid Code 50 program) and have a documented curriculum standard that connects the course to the relevant 10, 32, 31, or 30 course in the AAS or TD.

### Timeline and Implementation:

#### 2021: Policy Developed

- Policy developed summer/fall 2021
- Discussed at ISA meeting 9/2/2021
- Colleges reviewed and provided feedback
- Discussed feedback at ISA meeting 10/7/21

#### 2022: Policy Revisions

- Feedback incorporated & Financial Aid clock-to-credit conversion considered winter/spring 2022
- Overview to Course and Curriculum teams 5/10/22
- Revised policy distributed to colleges 5/19/2022
- Discussed at Financial Aid managers meeting May/2022
- Discussed at ISA meeting 6/2/22
- Additional feedback incorporated 6/20/22
- Policy finalized and published in the Educational Services Manual (ESM) June 24, 2022
- ESM update/release June 2022

## 2022: Next Steps

- Webinar July/August 2022
- Policy effective July 1, 2022 (FY23)
- Implementation:
  - WTCS Data System Aid Code revisions anticipated to be complete by August 1, 2022
  - College implementation timing TBD related to:
    - Finalized revisions to WTCS Data Systems
    - Data system requirements of each college