Degree Programs

The Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree/transfer program is designed to parallel the first two years of a liberal arts education at a four-year college. Credits earned usually can be transferred to West Virginia University or another four-year school granting the baccalaureate degree. The degree encourages students to:

• explore, discover and develop their special aptitudes and interests and to reach beyond their own perceived limitations;
• acquire the knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, ethical, and social skills needed to support their immediate educational goals, as well as life-long learning in a world characterized by change;
• nurture social responsibility and receptive attitudes compatible with citizenship within a global society.

The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree/career and technical program offers students the opportunity to gain the technical and occupational skills needed for employment. Some four-year colleges accept a portion of A.A.S. degree credits as part of a bachelor’s degree. The degree encourages students to:

• explore, discover and develop their special aptitudes and interests and to reach beyond their own perceived limitations;
• acquire the knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, ethical, and social skills needed to support their immediate educational goals, as well as life-long learning in a world characterized by change;
• nurture social responsibility and receptive attitudes compatible with citizenship within a global society;
• acquire and develop skills necessary to enter the workforce.

Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.)

This baccalaureate completion degree allows students holding an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree to earn a bachelor’s degree upon completion of a prescribed curriculum of 61 to 62 credits. Emphases are currently offered in Business Management, Computer Information Systems, and Criminal Justice. The degree encourages students to:

• explore, discover and develop their special aptitudes and interests and to reach beyond their own perceived limitations;
• acquire the knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, ethical, and social skills needed to support their immediate educational goals, as well as life-long learning in a world characterized by change;
• nurture social responsibility and receptive attitudes compatible with citizenship within a global society;
• acquire skills necessary to enter the workforce;
• experience leadership;
• experience opportunities for defining relationships between the student’s degree program and post- baccalaureate goals;
• apply acquired skills and knowledge in a capstone experience involving a simulated business (Business Management) or in discipline-related research (Criminal Justice).

Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree (RBA)

Potomac State College makes it possible for adults to complete a bachelor’s degree through the Regent’s Bachelor of Arts (RBA) program in the College of Education and Human Services of West Virginia University. Students design their degree in conjunction with an adviser at Potomac State. West Virginia University confers the baccalaureate degree.

The College of Education and Human Services instills high expectations for personal academic achievement in students, along with the skills, experience and confidence to succeed. Through nontraditional degree programs, students gain empowerment to set and accomplish personal academic success goals. The Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) degree is an innovative baccalaureate designed to be a foundational bachelor’s degree for adult students. It makes use of flexible methods of degree completion including the use of prior learning as credit. The RBA is designed to provide a broad set of core competencies that support general education while allowing students to develop skills and knowledge for the next step in their career, education, or life. Through the guidance of their academic advisor, RBA students design a curriculum that meets their current and future academic and life needs.

The Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) degree program will:

• provide ability to communicate effectively in various contexts;
• build on past life experiences for a well-rounded curriculum of knowledge;
• promote development of core competencies;
• demonstrate connections between general education courses and career goals;
• provide a flexible path to an undergraduate degree;
• serve as a foundation to graduation education.