

Section II: COC Core Requirement

2.7.2 The institution offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study compatible with its stated purpose and that support fields of study appropriate to higher education.

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliance Non-Compliance

NARRATIVE/JUSTIFICATION FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In accordance with the [mission statement](#) of the College, Northwest offers “academic and career-technical curricula leading to certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees” and “university-parallel courses and programs meeting requirements of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree.” The Associate of Arts Degree is awarded for programs designed as the first two years of a four-year college or university program leading to a baccalaureate degree. The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded for programs designed to meet the needs of graduating students seeking employment in occupational fields not requiring a four-year college or university degree.

To insure coherence of all university-parallel programs of study, the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges maintain an [articulation agreement](#) on the transfer of student coursework between state universities and community colleges. Begun in 1991, this agreement serves as a safety net for the transfer of university-parallel programs of study all community and junior colleges in Mississippi.

All Mississippi public community and junior colleges utilize a [Uniform Course Numbering System](#) which was adopted in 1971 and is revised every five years. This system ensures commonality of course levels, provides for sequential progression of courses, and also facilitates the transfer of community college coursework to senior institutions in the state.

To insure coherence of study for career-technical programs of study, the State of Mississippi has adopted a standardized curriculum for each technical and career program. In the [Foreword](#) to the *2005 Mississippi Curriculum Framework* it is stated that “federal and state legislation calls for articulation between high school and community college programs, integration of academic and vocational skills, and the development of sequential courses.” The Research and Curriculum Unit for Workforce Development at Mississippi State University is assigned responsibility for developing the standardized curriculum for each program. A committee is appointed for each program with membership coming from business, industry, and the community colleges. The committee develops the curriculum and then sends it to the State Department of Education for final approval.

To insure that all programs of study are appropriate to higher education, the Northwest [Curriculum Committee](#) has the responsibility for approving all institutional courses and programs of study. No career technical courses are approved unless they are part of a standardized curriculum approved by the Research and Curriculum Unit referenced above. No academic course is approved unless the same course is already offered by a Mississippi Institution of Higher Learning. This [approval process](#) ensures that all programs of study are appropriate to higher education.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

SOURCE	LOCATION/Special Instructions
<i>Bulletin</i> , pages 11-12	..\pdfs\Bulletin_0506.pdf
<i>Articulation Agreement</i>	..\pdfs\Articulation_Agreement.pdf
<i>Uniform Course Numbering System Mississippi</i>	..\pdfs\Uniform_Course_Numbering_System.pdf

<i>Post-secondary Curriculum Frameworks</i>	http://www.rcu.msstate.edu/PDF/cur/2005/Executive_Summaries/2005_Postsecondary_Executive_Summary.pdf
Presidential Appointment Memo – Curriculum Committee	..\pdfs\Haraway_Curriculum_Committee_Memo.pdf
Curriculum Committee Approval Process	Supporting_Documents\272a2.pdf