

3.6.1

Educational Programs: Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate:Post-baccalaureate program rigor

The institution's post-baccalaureate professional degree programs, master's and doctoral degree programs, are progressively more advanced in academic content than its undergraduate programs.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

Note: Text for all linked documents below can be increased/decreased for ease of reading by pressing your keyboard's Ctrl key while rotating the mouse wheel.

At Angelo State University, the College of Graduate Studies faculty and administration authorize all degrees beyond the baccalaureate degree awarded by the institution. ASU recognizes that the purpose of graduate education is to provide advanced and specialized training beyond the baccalaureate program. Specifically, graduate study is intended to help students not only master knowledge in their disciplines but also to have the skills to work effectively in a diverse and changing world. These expectations are reflected in the ASU Graduate Student Learning Goals, which are applicable to all graduate programs and are progressively more advanced than the goals of ASU's undergraduate programs. All graduate programs require students to demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and values appropriate to their disciplines. For those programs requiring a thesis, graduate students are required to complete additional training in research methods.

An inventory of ASU's graduate-level academic degree programs and certificates is provided in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 48–49. The academic content of these programs is designed to be more rigorous and complex than the content of undergraduate programs and to build upon the foundation established in the undergraduate education required for admission (see admission requirements in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 10–17). The academic rigor of ASU's graduate programs is also reflected in program-specific admissions requirements, degree requirements, and course descriptions, as summarized below.

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

ASU offers one doctoral program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). The DPT program is a 36-month, lock-step, sequenced, professional course of study that builds upon the general-education and basic-science foundation established in the undergraduate education required for admission (see DPT admission requirements and prerequisite courses in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 116–117). The DPT provides education in advanced foundational sciences, behavioral sciences, clinical sciences, research, and professional practice. It should be noted that there is no undergraduate physical therapy program at ASU. Defined standards for continuation in the DPT program include successful completion at the mastery level for each physical therapy course. These standards for continuation, the DPT program of study, and course descriptions are provided in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 119–125. The Learning Goals for the DPT program are as follows:

1. Students will be able to apply Clinical Foundation Sciences to Patient Management.
2. Students will be able to examine, evaluate, and diagnose a patient.
3. Students will be able to perform competent Patient Intervention.
4. Students will be professional in Patient Management.

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

ASU offers a variety of master's degree programs, post-master's certifications, and other graduate certificates, all of which are progressively more advanced than corresponding undergraduate programs, as reflected in the program-specific degree requirements and course descriptions provided in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 50–165. A sample curriculum map for the Department of Agriculture shows the progression of learning goals from the department's baccalaureate degree programs to its master's degree program. Further evidence that the academic content of ASU graduate programs is progressively more advanced than its undergraduate programs is provided in the following selected examples comparing degree requirements and course descriptions at different program levels within the same discipline:

Table 3.6.1-A. Example Degree Requirements and Course Descriptions at Different Program Levels

Field of Study	Degree Requirements and Course Descriptions	
	ASU Undergraduate Catalog 2011–2012	ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012
Biology	Bachelor of Science (pp. 87–97)	Master of Science (pp. 58–62)
Communication	Bachelor of Arts (pp. 109–116)	
English		Master of Arts (pp. 77–79)
	Bachelor of Arts (pp. 143–151)	Master of Arts (pp. 86–88)
Nursing	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (pp. 226–249)	Master of Science in Nursing (pp. 104–113)
Security Studies	Bachelor of Cultural Competence and Security Studies (pp. 128–132)	Master of Security Studies (pp. 145–150)
	Bachelor of Cultural Fluency and Security Studies (pp. 133–136)	

DISTANCE EDUCATION

In accordance with ASU OP 04.11, Distance Education, all programs offered via distance education are approved through the usual curriculum approval process, and all policies, standards, and guidelines for on-campus instruction apply to programs delivered via distance education.