

**PROPOSED ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE**  
**Ouachita Baptist University**  
**New Life Church Location**  
**November 20, 2013**

**Background**

In August, President Horne appointed a study committee chaired by Dr. Danny Hays to explore the possibility of partnering with New Life Church in Conway, Arkansas, to offer an Associate of Arts degree on the church campus. The committee conducted its work in September and early October, presenting its findings at a Faculty Forum on October 9. The committee also submitted to the administration a written feasibility and implementation report, which is available at the following location on the M drive: M:\Faculty Forum\OBU at New Life Church Report.

The study committee concluded that offering an associate's degree through a partnership with New Life Church would contribute to the fulfillment of the university's vision and mission. Likewise, such a program would advance one of the initiatives in the university's strategic plan. Initiative 4—"Target new opportunities for growth consistent with our vision, mission, and values"—includes a strategy to develop "new academic ventures designed to generate revenue and become self-sustaining." The committee recommended that the administration move forward with implementing this program by Fall 2014.

In late October the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee reviewed and approved the Core curriculum requirements for the proposed degree, and in early November the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee began reviewing the proposed degree program. After thorough consideration, the CAS Committee recommends approval of the degree program and curricula outlined below.

**Associate of Arts Degree**

The A.A. degree is designed to prepare students for further study in baccalaureate-level college work. The program, which emphasizes general education in the liberal arts and sciences, promotes the following goals for student learning:

- Intellectual and applied skills that promote competency and lifelong learning, including articulate communication; critical and creative thinking; analytical and quantitative reasoning; scientific reasoning; and information literacy.
- Engagement with content and methods of the major domains of knowledge.
- Heightened awareness of personal and social responsibility, including the ability and inclination to practice civic engagement, ethical reasoning, personal integrity, stewardship, physical well-being, and spiritual growth.
- Appreciation for cultural diversity and development of intercultural competence for constructive engagement in both local and global contexts.

**General Requirements for the Associate of Arts Degree**

1. Earn at least 61 credit hours, including the 46 hours required in the Core Curriculum and 15 hours of elective credit for either a General Studies or Christian Studies concentration. The required Core courses and the potential electives are listed below. The language requirement may be satisfied by six hours of credit in any approved ancient or modern language.
2. Achieve a 2.0 GPA overall and for all Ouachita courses.
3. Actively participate in the ministry of New Life Church to earn one chapel credit for each semester of full-time enrollment.
4. At least 30 hours must be completed at the New Life Church campus, and a maximum of 15 hours can be earned through online instruction.

## **Curriculum for Associate of Arts in General Studies (61 hours)**

### Required Core Curriculum (46 hours)

Connections (1)	American Civilization (3)
Concepts of Wellness (2)	Western Civilization (3)
The Contemporary World (3)	World Literature (3)
College Algebra (3)	Scientific Inquiry (4)
Composition I (3)	Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3)
Composition II (3)	Music Appreciation (3)
Survey of the Bible (3)	Elementary Spanish I and II (6)
Interpreting the Bible (3)	

### Elective Courses (15 hours):

Students completing the General Studies concentration may choose from any of the courses listed below. These course options will allow students to explore areas of interest they may want to pursue after completing the associate's degree. While the list below is intended to indicate a range of possible courses, actual course offerings will depend on the interests of the students who enroll in the program and on the university's ability to recruit qualified adjunct instructors.

Introduction to Christian Ministry (3)	General Psychology (3)
Introduction to Student Ministry (3)	Introduction to Sociology (3)
History of Christianity (3)	Personal Finance (3)
Introduction to Christian Missions (3)	American National Government (3)
ESL in Missions (3)	Microcomputer Applications (3)
Spiritual Formation (3)	Introduction to Economics and Business (3)
Ministry Internship (3)	Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
Renaissance and Reformation (3)	Introduction to Mass Communications (3)
Introduction to Philosophy (3)	Introduction to Video Production (3)
Elementary Greek I and II (6)	Introduction to Photography (3)

## **Curriculum for Associate of Arts in Christian Studies (61 hours)**

### Required Core Curriculum (46 hours) – Same as for A.A. in General Studies (see above).

### Elective Courses (15 hours)

Students completing the Christian Studies concentration will choose fifteen hours from Christian Studies offerings. While the list below is intended to indicate a range of possible courses, actual course offerings will depend on the interests of the students who enroll in the program and on the university's ability to recruit qualified adjunct instructors.

Introduction to Christian Ministry (3)	Spiritual Formation (3)
Introduction to Student Ministry (3)	Ministry Internship (3)
History of Christianity (3)	Renaissance and Reformation (3)
Introduction to Christian Missions (3)	Introduction to Philosophy (3)
ESL in Missions (3)	Elementary Greek I and II (6)

## Course Descriptions for the Associate of Arts Degree

Courses in the list below with an asterisk (\*) will require new course proposals or short form changes to be submitted and approved by the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee. In some cases this is because the course is being added or revised in conjunction with the new university CORE curriculum. In other cases, the course is currently offered at the junior or senior level, and a new version of the course will need to be created for the associate's degree. In this case, the content will be similar to the existing course, but the course title, description, and student learning objectives will be rewritten to reflect the lower level of instruction. Work has already begun on most of these modifications. Final versions of all new course proposals will be reviewed by the CAS Committee and presented to the faculty before the end of this academic year.

### Core Curriculum

**\*Connections** (1 hr.) This course introduces first-year students to higher education in the context of a Christian college and the liberal arts tradition and helps students develop skills necessary for academic success at the college level.

**Concepts of Wellness** (2 hrs.) Students will examine their fitness needs, producing an exercise program and lifetime personal fitness goals.

**The Contemporary World** (3 hrs.) Students will examine major issues in the current world, emphasizing the development of understanding to address these issues.

**\*College Algebra** (3 hrs.) A study of functions and their use in elementary data analysis and mathematical modeling. The course will include a survey of the properties and uses of linear, exponential, logarithmic, quadratic, and polynomial functions, as well as an introduction to absolute value, piecewise, and rational functions. Additional topics will include transformation and composition of functions, as well as matrices and their use in the solution of linear systems. Prerequisite: An ACT Math score of 19 or higher, an SAT Math score of 460 or higher, or a grade of C or better in either ASKL 1013 or ASKL 1023.

**\*Composition I** (3 hrs.) Students will improve their ability to write clear, well-organized, and well-reasoned prose, observing the grammatical and mechanical conventions of Standard American English, through study of grammar and a variety of rhetorical modes and patterns of exposition. Students must pass a competency examination to complete the course.

**Composition II** (3 hrs.) Students will improve their ability to read, research, and write about texts, observing the conventions of formal prose. Prerequisite: Composition I.

**Survey of the Bible** (3 hrs.) Students will survey the redemptive story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, emphasizing how that story shapes the Christian's worldview and affects life decisions.

**Interpreting the Bible** (3 hrs.) Students will learn to recognize and develop valid interpretations and applications of the Bible. Prerequisite: Survey of the Bible

**American Civilization** (3 hrs.) Students will examine North American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present, emphasizing the historical-cultural context of institutions and intellectual movements. This course also highlights the ideas, individuals, and events from which modern American culture emerged.

**Western Civilization** (3 hrs.) Students will survey the diversity of Western human experience in historical-cultural context, sketching as well the West's entwining with global culture.

**\*World Literature** (3hrs.) Students will survey the diversity of global literary and philosophical currents in historical-cultural context.

**\*Scientific Inquiry** (4 hrs.) Students enrolled in this sophomore-level course will be introduced to big ideas in natural science, will learn how scientific information is gathered and analyzed, and will use this knowledge to interact with issues of contemporary scientific importance. This course will meet three hours per week in the classroom and two hours per week in the laboratory. Prerequisite: College Algebra.

**Fundamentals of Public Speaking** (3hrs.) An introduction to preparing, organizing, delivering, and evaluating a speech delivered to an audience.

**\*Music Appreciation** (3 hrs.) Students will examine musical expression and its cultural contexts from prehistory to the present.

**Elementary Spanish I and II** (6 hrs.) A course in the fundamentals of grammar and composition, using the conversational approach.

#### Elective Courses:

**Introduction to Christian Ministry** (3 hrs.) An introduction to Christian ministry, including theological foundations and practical applications.

**Introduction to Student Ministry** (3 hrs.) An introduction to the foundations, relationships, and programming of student ministry in the local church.

**\*History of Christianity** (3 hrs.) A study of the development of Christianity from the close of the New Testament period to the present with emphasis on evangelical forms of the faith and special attention to Baptists.

**Introduction to Christian Missions** (3 hrs.) A study of the biblical basis of missions and a survey of current missiological trends and practices.

**\*ESL in Missions** (3 hrs.) A study of current methods and materials used for teaching reading, writing, listening and speaking in English as a Second Language, with a view to how such programs are utilized in mission work.

**Spiritual Formation** (3 hrs.) A course focusing on the personal spiritual growth of students involved in Christian ministry.

**Ministry Internship** (3 hrs.) The internship consists of a supervised ministry experience and must be approved in advance by the Chair of the Department of Christian Ministries and the Dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies.

**\*Renaissance and Reformation** (3 hrs.) A survey of the major political, social, economic, cultural and intellectual trends in Europe 1300-1600 with special emphasis upon the Protestant and Catholic reformations of the sixteenth century.

**Introduction to Philosophy** (3 hrs.) A study of the basic concerns of philosophy which seeks to introduce the student to the spirit of reasoned inquiry and to encourage a reflective approach to life.

**Elementary Greek I and II** (6 hrs.) An introduction to New Testament Greek. The course focuses on the forms, grammar, vocabulary and syntax of Koine Greek for the purpose of translating and interpreting the Greek New Testament. Offered in online format.

**General Psychology** (3 hrs.) An introductory course dealing with elementary principles, terminology and various aspects of different branches of the subject.

**Introduction to Sociology** (3 hrs.) This course introduces basic principles in understanding patterns of social relations—including theoretical perspectives and sociological methods—while examining major societal institutions.

**Personal Finance** (3 hrs.) Students will survey the management of personal and family finances, including budgeting, consumer buying, personal credit, savings and investment, home ownership, insurance, and retirement.

**American National Government** (3 hrs.) A survey of the guiding principles, dynamic processes and enduring institutions of American national government and politics.

**Microcomputer Applications** (3 hrs.) The use of microcomputers and application software to solve business problems. Topics include operating systems, word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and database management.

**Introduction to Economics and Business** (3 hrs.) A basic study of principles and characteristics of economic systems and theories, economic and business history, and business institutions and their operations and environment.

**Principles of Macroeconomics** (3 hrs.) Economic resources, capitalism, supply and demand, business organization, the economic function of government, national income and gross domestic product, unemployment, inflation, consumption, saving, investment, the monetary and banking system, central banking, monetary and fiscal policy, stagflation, supply-side economics and economic growth.

**Introduction to Mass Communications** (3 hrs.) Readings and discussion concerning the effects of mass media on society with emphasis also placed on career opportunities within the mass communications profession.

**Introduction to Video Production** (3 hrs.) Fundamentals of television production with emphasis on creative ideas, visualization, script preparation and editing of basic programs.

**Introduction to Photography** (3 hrs.) The fundamentals of digital photography, lighting, composition and use of photographic equipment. Students photograph a variety of situations including sports, student life, still life, portraits.