

Associate of Arts Degree Program at Yelm High School

AA-DTA Degree

Beginning with the Class of 2025, YHS students will now have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts-Direct Transfer Degree on the high school campus during regular school hours. The AA-DTA, sometimes referred to as an *Associate in Arts Degree*, is fully accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The program is made possible through a partnership between South Puget Sound Community College and Yelm Community Schools. The AA-DTA program allows YHS students to fulfill all high school diploma and college degree requirements while enjoying the full benefits of high school life. Upon graduation, students who earn the AA-DTA will be prepared to transfer to Bachelor of Arts Degree programs at all Washington public 4-year colleges and universities with junior-level status.

The AA-DTA degree provides students with:

- Priority admissions consideration for most humanities and social science majors at public 4-year colleges and universities.
- Completion of lower division general education requirements.
- Credit for all courses completed within the DTA up to and in some cases beyond 90 credits.
- Opportunity to explore several fields of study through each category and in the elective courses.
- Opportunity to complete prerequisites for a future major.

Program Requirements

- 90 quarter credits in courses numbered 100 or higher. All grades must be "D" or better.
- Minimum of 30 credits must be earned in SPSCC courses.
- Completion of a Diversity designated course through SPSCC.
- **Quarterly GPA (Academic Standards):** All SPSCC students are required to maintain a quarterly **2.0 GPA**. If they fall below a 2.0 quarterly GPA, they are placed on Academic Probation: <https://spscc.edu/services-support/warning-probation-dismiss>. Students are required to follow SPSCC processes if they are placed on probation or are dismissed from the college. For CiHS students, SPSCC considers the SPSCC classes only (not CWU and not regular high school courses). Students who are dismissed are required to sit out for a semester and may submit an appeal to be readmitted. During dismissal, students may not earn credit for SPSCC CiHS classes. Students will still earn regular high school credit).
- **Graduation GPA:** All SPSCC students applying for a degree must have a minimum cumulative **2.0 GPA**. If students have less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA, they may continue taking college classes until they raise their GPA to 2.0. Once the GPA requirement is met, they can apply for graduation. <https://spscc.edu/graduation> under "General Requirements." Any CWU CiHS courses and CTE Dual Credit courses applied to the AA degree will be factored into the graduation GPA calculation.

IMPORTANT: Enrolling in a college in the high school course starts a permanent college transcript.