The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences is unique among all other degrees at Stephen F. Austin State University in that it allows students to apply credits earned through community college vocational or technical programs, military training, and occupational licensure or certification to the completion of a bachelor’s degree.

Students who have completed an Associate of Applied Sciences or certificate program in a field related to the planning, delivery and/or administration of public services are well positioned to pursue a course of study in public administration. Specifically, the BAAS program allows students to combine the skills acquired through workforce education courses (AAS) and work experience with academic courses that will prepare them for positions within local, state and federal governmental entities.

For more information:
Dr. Steve Cooper, associate dean
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(936) 468-6066

A program application can be accessed at sfasu.edu/oidp/100.asp.
Degree Components

There are essentially three parts to the BAAS degree: the core curriculum, the area of specialization and the professional development area.

The core curriculum provides an academic foundation for all university students and is outlined in the General Bulletin. Students also are required to take ENG 273 (pre-requisite for AAS 300). In addition to the core, the BAAS has a collateral requirement of three hours from CSC 101, 102, 121 or 201.

The area of specialization takes the place of the major in a traditional degree program and consists of 36 to 48 hours from a specific occupational area. This is where the vocational/technical credit is applied. In most cases, students will receive up to 33 hours of transfer credit (AAS 201) for their vocational/technical courses. Students may transfer additional hours that are applicable to the core curriculum and/or elective hours (up to 66 total hours from a two-year institution). The area of specialization also includes AAS 300, which is a required three-hour seminar in professional planning and development.

The professional development area takes the place of the minor in a traditional degree program. It is intended to broaden the student’s academic foundation and should complement the area of specialization. The professional development area consists of 24 to 36 hours selected from an academic discipline in consultation with a BAAS advisor.

Public Administration

Students who pursue a professional development area in public administration are required to take the following 27 hours: AAS 300, AAS 498, PBA 300, PBA 305, PBA 310, PBA 400, PBA 405, PBA 415, and PBA 420 or GBU 325. These courses will be offered via online or distance education (web-conferencing). Before taking AAS 300, students must complete ENG 273.

Students also must complete any remaining core courses before taking AAS 498. Core courses may be taken at SFA and/or any other institution of higher education. No more than 66 hours from two-year institutions will be applied to the plan of study. Students are encouraged to meet with a BAAS advisor in order to ensure that selected courses will meet his/her degree requirements.