

The AAT in ILLINOIS

FACT and/or FICTION

What is an AAT?

- An Associate of Arts in Teaching is a rigorous, structured Education degree program , designed by a Steering Committee, with membership from: ISBE, IBHE, ICCB, Public and Private Universities, & Community Colleges.
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Why Was It Developed?

- ❑ Provide effective pathway for large % of teacher candidates transferring from C.C.'s to Senior Institutions.
 - ❑ Attract quality students into high needs teaching disciplines.
 - ❑ Facilitate articulation of these students into upper-division teacher ed. programs.
 - ❑ Ensure AAT graduates have equal status with Senior Institution native students.
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How Many AAT Degrees Are There?

- There are four AAT Degree Programs:
 - ✓ AAT in Secondary Math
 - ✓ AAT in Secondary Science
 - ✓ AAT in Early Childhood Education
 - ✓ AAT in Special Education
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How Many Approved AAT Programs Will There Be by 1-1-2009?

- Secondary Math: 22, 3 in process
 - Secondary Science: 3, 4 in process
 - Early Childhood: 9, 4 in process
 - Special Education: 12, 4 in process
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To Obtain an AAT Degree, a Student Must:

- Complete Entire AAT Program
 - Maintain a GPA of at Least 2.5
 - Pass the Illinois Basic Skills Test
 - Complete Appropriate Field Experience
 - Initiate a Professional Portfolio containing standards-based artifacts
 - Exhibit Appropriate Dispositions
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Benefits to Senior Institutions:

- ❑ Standardized, Rigorous Curriculum—
No Course by Course Analysis Needed
 - ❑ Professional Ed Course Syllabi tied to
ISBE Content Standards for Educators
 - ❑ Gen Ed Courses IAI Approved
 - ❑ Graduates Have Passed ITBS, Started
Portfolios, Have Appropriate GPA's
 - ❑ Students Screened--Field Experience,
Disposition Assessment
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Impact on Community Colleges:

- ❑ Stronger Gen Ed & Prof Ed Curricula
 - ❑ Prof Ed Courses Standardized, Address Required ISBE Standards
 - ❑ Student Advising, Tracking Systems Strengthened
 - ❑ Must Negotiate Partnerships, Agreements with Senior Institutions
 - ❑ Must Address ITBS Issues, Establish Valid Field Experience Mechanisms
 - ❑ Greater Involvement in teacher preparation
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Downside to the AAT:

- ❑ Process/Paperwork are Complex
 - ❑ Systemic Changes Required at Colleges and Universities
 - ❑ High Level of Cooperation Across & Within Institutions Required
 - ❑ Initial Enrollments Small
 - ❑ Rigorous Requirements Scare Students/Faculty (ITBS)
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Myths--The AAT Does not:

- Eliminate AA, AAS or Certificate Programs
 - "Water Down" Prof. Ed. Courses
 - Intend to "Morph" into a Four Year Program
 - Eliminate Current 2+2 Agreements or Baccalaureate Completion Programs
 - Discriminate Against Private Institutions
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Upcoming AAT Plans

- ❑ Creating Two Options in Sec. Science: Life Sciences and Physical Sciences
 - ❑ Developing Sample Syllabi for Early Childhood Education
 - ❑ Tracking Students and Evaluating Effectiveness of AAT
 - ❑ Local Community College/Senior Institution Workshops
 - ❑ Recruitment/Communication Efforts
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For Additional Information:

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 - ❑ Go to: www.iccb.org, click on-
Administrators, Academic Affairs,
Baccalaureate/Transfer, AAT
 - ❑ Go to: www.ibhe.org, click on
Academics, P20, AAT Degree Models
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