

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) VS ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

An Associate of Science (AS) degree is a 2-year degree offered by most community colleges and some 4-year colleges. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree prepares graduates to enter a career immediately after graduation and have been considered terminal degrees. Most AS degrees are transfer degrees as they provide an academic foundation. To make the transfer process easier, many community colleges have transfer agreements with 4-year institutions. These agreements often ensure that the credits earned while completing an AS degree meet the general education requirements at the transfer institution. Since the AAS degree prepares graduates for the workforce and are terminal degrees, the curricula were not developed with transfer in mind. As a result, the transfer process for AAS degree graduates is often more difficult.

American Association of Community Colleges. The associate degree. AACC Policy Statement 1998:2.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) VS BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (BAS)

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree is a 4-year degree offered at colleges and universities. This degree prepares graduates for the workforce or to pursue graduate education. The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree offers a pathway for graduates of terminal Associate of Applied Science degrees to obtain a bachelor's degree. The BAS is considered a terminal degree.

Bragg, D. D., & Ruud, C. M. (2011). *The adult learner and the applied baccalaureate: Lessons from six states*. Champaign: Office of Community College Research and Leadership, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.