# Explore Areas of Study

## PURPOSE

Finding your academic path helps you explore and understand the Areas of Study at Clark College, as well as the degrees and certificates you can pursue within each area. In this activity, you will:

* Identify the right [Area of Study](http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/index.php) for you. Within each area of study at Clark, there are a number of degree or certificates.
* Decide upon the degree or certificate (within your Area of Study) for your time at Clark based on what you have planned for your next steps after Clark. This degree or certificate is often called your “program of study.”

Here’s more information to help you better understand the difference between degrees and certificates you may earn at Clark.

### Transfer Degrees

* Designed for students planning to transfer to a 4-year university to pursue a bachelor’s degree
* Focus is on completing the first two (2) years of general education requirements for the university (freshman/sophomore level classes)

Transfer Degree Options at Clark (you will see these acronyms on the Area-Related Programs image on each Area of Study page):

**AA-DTA:**  Associate in Arts – Direct Transfer Agreement

**AA-DTA/MRP:**  Associate in Arts – Direct Transfer Agreement/Major-Related Program

**AFA:**  Associate in Fine Arts

**AST-1:**  Associate in Science, Track 1

**AST-2:**  Associate in Science, Track 2

### Career and Technical Degrees

* Designed for students gaining specific technical career skills for employment upon graduation
* Focus is on completing program-specific coursework, with minimal general education courses
* Not designed for transfer, though some individual courses may be transferrable

Career-Technical Degrees and Certificates available at Clark (you will see these acronyms on the Area-Related Programs image on each Area of Study page):

| **Bachelor Degrees** | **Applied Associate Degrees** | **Certificates** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| BAS Bachelor of Applied Science | AAS Associate in Applied Science | CP Certificate of Proficiency (45 units minimum) |
|  | AAT Associate in Applied Technology | CA Certificate of Achievement (21 units minimum) |
|  |  | CC Certificate of Completion (20 units or less) |

## ACTION

### Part I: Identify and explore your Area of Study

1. On the Clark College website, review the [Areas of Study](http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/index.php). There are six (6) Areas of Study on the page, excluding the “Pre-College” category.
2. Choose an Area of Study, to learn more about it.
3. Click on an Area of Study title (i.e. Creative and Communication Arts) to learn more about that Area of Study.
4. Which Area of Study did you choose?
5. What are two reasons you selected this Area of Study at Clark?

### Part II: Identify the program of study you will pursue at Clark

1. Go back to the [Areas of Study](http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/index.php) page.
2. Click on the Area of Study you chose in Part I of this activity and look at the Area Related Programs for the degree and certificate opportunities available to you. (The acronyms on this page are defined in the information about Degrees and Certificates included above.)
3. Determine which degree or certificate you intend to pursue at Clark College.
4. Are you still deciding, or need help determining the degree or certificate that’s right for you? Indicate “undecided” and contact your career advisor for assistance in exploring your career goals and the related program of study.
5. What Program of Study did you choose? (Examples: Associate in Arts General Transfer degree, or Associate in Applied Technology Web Development)
6. Using a scale of 1-10 where 10 is very high and 1 is very low, what is your level of confidence that this is the right program for you?

***If your score is a 9 or 10***, have you met with an Academic Advisor in Advising Services to create an Education Plan in your program of study? If not, why not?

***If your score is 8 or lower***, have you considered meeting with a Career Advisor in Career Services?  If not, why not?

## NEXT STEPS

You are now one step further in MyPlan. At this point we encourage you to discuss your progress with a faculty or staff member at Clark College, such as an academic advisor or faculty advisor, Career Services staff, or class instructor.

It may be useful to print out and refer to this completed activity before your meeting, or email it to the staff/faculty ahead of time.