

A.A. GENERAL EDUCATION (AAGE) - OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS, & OUTCOMES 2018-2023

Because enrolment in the AA General Education degree is so low and data is limited, aggregate data for the past five years is reported (2018-2023).

OBJECTIVE 1 – General Education students will have a foundation in a range of general education courses

The A.A. in General Education contains at least 33 hours of general education courses, addressing communication, humanities/fine arts, natural science/mathematics, and social/behavioural sciences.

Benchmark: 75% of AAGE students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in general education courses¹

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	31%
Number of courses	10
AAGE students enrolled in above courses	45

OBJECTIVE 2 – General Education students will be adequately prepared for continuing education in an arts-related field

The original goal of the degree was to provide a solid foundation for students who wanted a Bible college experience but wanted to study an area outside Kingswood's program offerings. Articulation agreements about the transfer of the degree are in place with several institutions. A GPA of 3.0 is more than adequate to meet the terms of these agreements.

Benchmark: 75% of AAGE students will graduate with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%
Average GPA	3.39
Number of graduates	1

OBJECTIVE 3 - General Education students will receive education in a Bible-based university context for enriched spiritual growth and development

Although the focus of the courses in the AA General Education degree is to provide a well-rounded education, the context of the education is of equal value, in an environment with a focus on spiritual growth and development. Students take at least 12 hours of Bible and theology courses and are required to engage in the same spiritual formation components as students in other programs. Students participate in a variety of experiences intended to guide them in the development of their relationship with God. Reporting and reflection on these experiences happens both anecdotally and through a weekly check-in in a Spiritual Formation Component 'course' which is transcribed.

Benchmark 1: 75% of AAGE students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in Bible and theology courses²

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	25%
Number of courses	6
AAGE students enrolled in above courses	12

Benchmark 2: 75% of AAGE students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in the Spiritual Formation Component

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	60%
AAGE students enrolled in above courses	15

OBJECTIVE 4 - General Education students have basic ministry experience preparing them for enhanced lay ministry

AA General Education degree students are required to engage in ministry practicum credits in the same way as students in other programs. These credits require not only the engagement in ministry, but in reflective writing about the ministry experience. Supervisors also report on student fulfilment of expectations.

Benchmark 1: 75% of AAGE students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in Practicum credits

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	70%
Total enrolment in above courses	10

Benchmark 2: 75% of AAGE students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in the supervisor evaluation of Practicum ministries

Data:

	2018-2023
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%
Total enrolment in above courses	6

CONCLUSION / ACTION STEPS

The data addressed in this report comes from the “COVID-19 years,” each influenced by the pandemic and accompanying health and safety regulations in different ways. While this cannot be used as an excuse, it was a contributing factor to the overall student learning experience. Although 2022-2023 was a more ‘normal’ years, at Kingswood, the impact of COVID-19 was by no means over. Canadian border restrictions were not fully removed until October 2022 and some ministry sites only re-opened during the 2022-2023 year. Further, it should be noted that lower enrolment in programs and courses means that one student failing to meet a benchmark can significantly impact the percentage of students meeting a target. For this reason, the analysis of data looks at trends more than minute fluctuations.

The data shows that most of the A.A. General Education objectives have not been met in the past five years. A review of the academic careers of the nine students enrolled in this degree at various times in this time period confirms the sense that this degree has, in many cases, become a fallback for poor students to allow them “to at least get a degree,” and thus has become perceived as an easy route to a degree. The data proves otherwise as most of these students have not completed the degree, and several were dismissed for academic reasons.

Action Steps include:

- An increased promotion of the A.A. General Education degree as a viable degree and a steppingstone to further education in fields other than those offered by Kingswood. Transfer agreements for this degree are in place with several other educational institutions; these should be marketed more aggressively.
- An increase in intrusive advising for student success.
- A decrease in using this degree as a back-up plan for weak students who enjoy and benefit from the Kingswood experience and thus want to remain on campus without full attention to academics.

These recommendations were initiated in 2022 but it will take time to see the results of them.

¹ Courses in English language & literature, history, psychology, sociology, math/science, music, and philosophy

² Biblical Literature I (OT 101); Biblical Literature II (NT 101); Basic Christian Beliefs (TH 203); Bible or Theology electives