

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN HIP HOP STUDIES

Los Medanos College

Program Goals and Objectives

This program is a Certificate of Achievement is a local certificate designed to explore the intersectionality of hip hop, particularly how hip hop expresses culture, politics, gender and sexuality. Through a rigorous interdisciplinary study, students will interrogate systems of oppression within the U.S. that helped create hip hop culture while also studying the music itself, including foundations in music theory and lyrical analysis.

This program is also designed to act as a de facto guided pathway, ushering students through both the CSUGE and IGETC transfer requirements while also grounding the course work at the intersection of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, and class.

Catalog Description

A dominant cultural force, hip hop was once the product of cultural, social and political abandonment. Conservative federal and state government policies and the resulting gutting of social programs, left many urban areas — communities of color in particular — with no resources. The outcome of such policies was staggering. Even Ronald Reagan, on a visit during his 1980 Presidential campaign would describe the birth place of hip hop — the Bronx, New York — as resembling “a bombed-out city.” And yet, it was the programs of Reagan’s own intelligence agency that would flood urban centers, like the Bronx, with crack cocaine as a means to fund unsanctioned government activities. From these ashes, however, a culture would emerge that would give voice and power to these very communities and birth a billion-dollar industry.

The Certificate of Achievement in Hip Hop Studies at Los Medanos College offers students an interdisciplinary approach to studying the global rise and reign of hip hop culture. The program explores the intersectionality of hip hop, particularly how hip hop culture celebrates and amplifies voices to address social justice, politics, gender and sexuality. Through a rigorous interdisciplinary study, students will interrogate systems of oppression that helped create hip hop culture while also studying the music itself, including foundations in music theory and lyrical analysis. The course sequence is such that students take courses from as many as six disciplines, including Music, Ethnic Studies, English, and Social Sciences. Encompassing several college departments, the certificate provides students with the sense of the richness, complexity and vitality of hip hop culture.

The certificate requires 18 units of lower division work. Students have the option of completing all 18 units in a single semester or spreading them out across Summer, Fall and Spring semesters, as well as Winter cybersession. All 18 units fulfill general education course requirements for both the CSU-GE and IGETC.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Read, write and discuss primary and secondary texts about hip hop.
2. Analyze hip hop as a form of oppositional culture — one that demonstrates distrust, anger, resistance, and critique of a racist and discriminatory society, particularly as it relates to Black and Latinx populations.
3. Examine the ethical and moral implications inherent in hip hop music, culture and economy.

Program Requirements

MUSIC-015: Basic Music (CSUGE: C1 | IGETC: 3A)

ETHN-045: Introduction to Black Studies (D, F | 4C)

HIST-061: History of African-Americans since 1865 (C2, D, US-1 | 4F)

ENGL-144: Hip Hop as Lit (C2 | 3B)*

HUMAN-050: Hip Hop Culture: An American Phenomenon (C2 | 3B)*

SOCSC-150: Introduction to Race & Ethnicity (D | 4)

Total Units: 18

*PHIL-151: Philosophy of the Arts (C2 | 3B): Can be substituted for either ENGL-144 or HUMAN-050

This certificate would fulfill areas C and D (as well as partially US-1) of the CSUGE requirements and areas 3 and 4 (as well as a partially US-1) of the IGETC requirements.

In addition, these courses are offered throughout the academic year, enabling students to complete the certificate in just one semester.