

PHILOSOPHY AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

PHILOSOPHY ON GENERAL EDUCATION

The General Education component of the curriculum developed at each of the colleges in the Contra Costa Community College District is designed to provide the student with the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed by a person to be an effective individual in our society. A college-educated person should understand the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world and the interrelatedness of certain basic principles, concepts and methodologies, both unique to and shared by the various disciplines.

General Education is intended to lead to better self-understanding and the ability to evaluate and appreciate the physical environment, culture and society in which one lives.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE

A student is eligible for graduation with the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree after the satisfactory completion of sixty (60) degree-applicable semester units of work with a grade point average of 2.0 (C) or better, including the specific requirements outlined below.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Governing Board approves associate degrees that meet the following course requirements:

- A. A minimum of 60 semester units of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.
- B. A minimum of 18 semester units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.
- C. A minimum of 21 semester units of general education in the areas described below

District and State General Education Requirements

Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of ~~eighteen (18)~~ twenty-one (21) units of general education coursework which includes at least three (3) units in each of areas A, B and C below and the same minimum in each subdivision of area A D, and three (3) units each in areas B through F. The remainder of the general education unit requirement is also to be selected from among these four divisions of learning.

- A. English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum of 6 units)
 - (i) English Composition (minimum of 3 units)
Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing
 - (ii) Oral communication and Critical Thinking (minimum of 3 units)
Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses
- B. Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum of 3 units)
Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.
- C. Arts and Humanities (minimum of 3 units)
Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and

develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

Natural Sciences

Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

D. Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum of 3 units)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to and develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to They stimulate critical thinking about the ways how people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative survey baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

E. Natural Sciences (minimum of 3 units)

Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

F. Humanities

Courses in humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in the humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.

G. Language and Rationality

Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student the principles and applications of the language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses. Such courses include:

(i) English Composition

Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to include both expository and argumentative writing.

(ii) Communication and Analytical Thinking

Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.

Ethnic course emphasis shall be offered in one or more of the areas listed above.

F. Ethnic Studies (minimum of 3 units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American

Studies.

General Education requirements are to include proficiency in writing and mathematics. Each college will determine how these proficiencies will be met, in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section ~~55063~~ 55062.

Major Field

~~A minimum of 18 units is to be taken in the major field or area of emphasis.~~

Additional Coursework

The additional coursework required for each degree, including electives and/or additional general education requirements, is specified in the college catalog.

This outline of graduation requirements is supplemented by a statement at each college which explains the specific manner by which these requirements may be fulfilled. The interpretation of the requirements at each school may produce slight variations and full information may be obtained in the college catalog. Each college may make additional course requirements.

GRANTING OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

The Contra Costa Community College District offers the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. To obtain an associate degree, students must accomplish the following:

- A. Complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable units of approved coursework, including a minimum of 18 units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis and 21 units of general education.
 1. A minimum of 12 semester units must be completed in residence within the District.
 2. The general education requirement can be satisfied by completing the requisite units across the college's general education areas or an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University. Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from another institutionally accredited institution in the United States shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirement for the associate degree.
 3. Courses may meet multiple associate degree graduation requirements, including general education and a major or area of emphasis, when courses are approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas.
 4. Students may petition to have completion of a noncredit course counted toward satisfaction of the requirements for an associate degree.
 5. Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through the District's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning
 6. Courses completed at other institutionally or regionally accredited institutions will be evaluated to determine whether they meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges. Courses that meet these standards will be applied toward associate degree unit requirements.
- B. Complete the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses and a minimum grade of "C" or "P" in each course counted toward the major or area of emphasis.

If units accumulated beyond those required for the associate degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, then the student's grade point average will be computed solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major/area of emphasis and general education requirements.

The Governing Board shall award the appropriate degree or certificate whenever a student has completed the requirements, regardless of how long it took the student to complete the requirements, contingent upon continuous enrollment. Re-enrollment may necessitate new and/or additional requirements.

Education Code 66745-66749
California Code of Regulations, Title 5, 51004, 55060-~~55064~~55062, 55070, 55130, ~~55063~~

Historical Annotation:
BP3007:
Revised 1/11/84
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Fifth Revision 10/25/00

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Sixth Revision 2/23/11
Seventh Revision XX/XX/XX

Related Procedures:
Curriculum & Instruction 4007
Curriculum & Instruction 4016