

PART II: CREDIT CURRICULUM

SECTION 3

CREDIT PROGRAM CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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I. Overview of Credit Programs

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the standards for all credit programs and is organized as follows:

- Program Types
- General Associate Degree Standards
- Standards for Writing and Computation Competency

II. Associate Degree for Transfer Degrees: AA-T and AS-T

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the standards for all credit programs and is organized as follows:

- Degree Standards
- Criteria for Approval
- Double Counting Procedures for General Education

III. Career Technical Education Degrees: AA and AS

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the standards for all Career Technical Education Degrees (AA and AS) and is organized as follows:

- Degree Standards
- Criteria for Approval

SECTION 3: CREDIT PROGRAMS CRITERIA AND STANDARDS (continued)

IV. Local Associate Degrees: AA and AS

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the standards for Local Degrees (AA and AS) and is organized as follows:

- Degree Standards
- Criteria for Approval

V. Certificates of Achievement

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the standards for Local Degrees (AA and AS) and is organized as follows:

- Standards and Definition
- Criteria for Approval

VI. Collaborative Programs

VII. Labor Market Information and Analysis

I. Overview of Credit Programs

An educational program is defined in title 5, section 55000(m) as "an organized sequence of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of higher education." All associate degrees and certificates of achievement that appear by name on a student transcript or diploma require Chancellor's Office approval, whether they are intended primarily for employment preparation (CTE), transfer (ADT), transfer preparation, as a record of academic achievement, or to fulfill other community needs.

The types of credit educational programs that must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for approval include: Associate Degrees – local AA or AS and AA-T/AS-T, and Certificates of Achievement that require 12 or more semester units (or 18 or more quarter units) and Certificates of Achievement that require 18 or more semester units (or 27 or more quarter units).

A. Program Types

All associate degrees in the California Community College system are classified in four general categories:

- Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T)
- Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T)
- Associate of Arts (AA)
- Associate of Science (AS)

Certificates of Achievement, defined in title 5, section 55070 are the only credit certificates that may appear by name on a student transcript, diploma, or completion award. Colleges *must* submit programs of 18 or more semester units or 27 or more quarter units of degree-applicable coursework for Chancellor's Office approval. Colleges *may* submit programs of 12 or more semester units or 18 or more quarter units of degree-applicable coursework for Chancellor's office approval in order that the program may be included in the student transcript.

Additionally, all programs submitted for Chancellor's Office review are required to state the primary goal of the program. This program goal is used to determine the standards and documentation for approval, but is not a component of state data tracking or reports and is not included for MIS data submissions. The three program goals are:

- Transfer: All ADTs and Certificates of Achievement for CSU GE-Breadth or IGETC.
- Career Technical Education (CTE): Limited to programs in a CTE TOP Code. May include both CTE and transfer goals (not including ADTs).

- Local: All other AA and AS degrees and certificates, not in a CTE TOP Code, that are developed to meet locally defined needs consistent with the system mission, including transfer preparation. These degrees must align with a TOP Code.

Degrees submitted with a program goal of “CTE” or “Local” may include transfer preparation as a component or as the primary intent of the program. Standards and further explanations of these categories and associated approval criteria are discussed in detail in this chapter.

The Chancellor’s Office supports [ASCCC Resolution 9.06](#), approved in Spring 2008, which provided guidelines for classifying disciplines into AA or AS degrees as follows:

- Associate of Science (AS) are strongly recommended for any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field and CTE programs
- Associate of Arts (AA) are strongly recommended for all other disciplines
- Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) must be used for any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field and CTE programs
- Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) must be used for all other disciplines

B. General Associate Degree Standards

The general standards for the Associate degree are set forth in title 5, section 55063 which specifies the following requirements:

- At least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units defining a major or area of emphasis and aligned with the TOP Code identified for the degree
- At least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of GE
- At least 60 total semester units or 90 quarter units

The 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in the major or area of emphasis can be in a single discipline or related disciplines, or it can be in an area of emphasis, defined as a more general grouping of lower division course work that prepares students for a field of study or specific major at a CSU or UC. The standards for GE are further defined in title 5, section 55061. The remaining units may be used for local graduation requirements or electives, as permitted for the degree type.

C. Standards for Writing and Computation Competency

All students awarded a degree must demonstrate competence in writing by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of Freshman Composition or by achieving a score on an assessment comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition or higher satisfies both this competency requirement and the English Composition GE coursework requirement.

Competence in mathematics must be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by achieving a score on an assessment comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified mathematics course. Satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at the level of Intermediate Algebra or higher satisfies both this competency requirement and the Communication and Analytical Thinking GE coursework requirement.

For the purpose of this section, “satisfactorily completed” means either credit earned on a “pass-no pass” basis or a grade point average of 2.0 or better in community college credit courses in the curriculum upon which the degree is based.

II. Associate Degree for Transfer Degrees: AA-T and AS-T

Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) were developed in response to Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla, 2010) and subsequent revisions to Education Code section 66746(a) that required community colleges to develop and offer “associate degrees for transfer” which fulfill the lower division component of a baccalaureate major at a California State University. These degrees allow students to fulfill lower division major requirements at a community college and guarantee transfer with junior status to the CSU system. Students who complete an ADT and transfer to a similar major at a CSU are guaranteed a pathway to finish their baccalaureate degrees in 60 semester or 90 quarter units. These degrees require students to meet both of the following requirements:

- (1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
 - (A) The Intersegmental GE Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University GE-Breadth Requirements (CSU GE-Breadth).
 - (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs include both Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degrees. The law authorizing these degrees also requires that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis. A “P” (Pass) grade is also an acceptable grade for courses in the major if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Education Code section 66746(b) prohibits a community college district from imposing any additional course requirements for a student to be eligible for the associate degree for transfer, and subdivision (e) prohibits allowing remedial