

LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

Contra Costa Community College District  
Los Medanos College

General Education Committee AA Degree Senate Report  
March 2023

Prepared for  
The Los Medanos Academic Senate

By the

General Education Committee

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## Introduction

On October 10, 2022, Mark Lewis, Academic Senate President, and Senator Louie Giambattista brought forward to Academic Senate a first read item regarding the LMC AA Degree. They wanted senate feedback on the degree requirements as listed in the LMC College Catalog from 2022-2023 (pages 14 and 15).

During the first read discussion, Mark Lewis asked the senate to note that the LMC local AA degree (not for transfer degree) allows students to take 15 out of the 18 units as English courses. It was suggested to invite the GE Interim Chair, Sara Toruno-Conley, and former chair Cindy McGrath to a future senate meeting to explain the reasons and have a discussion with the Academic Senate.

On October 24, 2022, the LMC AA Degree came back for a second read and discussion. It was explained that students earning a LMC AA Degree can completely fulfill GE requirements by taking one science class and five English classes. The feedback received from senate included:

1. Is it rare for students to meet those requirements and earn those degree and bypass math?
2. The fact that there is a possibility for students to fulfill these GE requirements with all English courses is something that the senate might not be comfortable with.
3. The Academic Senate recognized that students could shape their general education in a way that is meaningful to them.
4. The Academic Senate asked the General Education Committee to “run the data” to see how many students are doing this.

On November 11, 2022, the LMC AA Degree came back for a final read and discussion. Academic Senate President Mark Lewis researched other colleges and their local degree GE requirements and noted that students must take classes from different areas. It was recommended that General Education Committee investigate the situation further at LMC and work with data that they can bring back in a report to the Academic Senate for review. No motions were raised, and the General Education Committee was tasked with writing a report and making a recommendation for the Academic Senate.

## Report Contents

The General Education Committee began discussions on February 8, 2023. Interim General Education Chair Sara Toruno-Conley began the discussions at how English courses are in almost every LMC AA Degree General Education box. She explained that there was confusion over the cross-listed SJS and English courses, and that faculty were wondering if they needed to stay cross-listed.

Discussion continued at the February 22, 2023 General Education Committee meeting. It was determined that LMC is the only AA Degree program that contains an Ethnic Studies and Multicultural Studies box as a stand-alone GE requirement, which DVC and CCC do not require. This provided an extra category that English courses can be housed in. It was determined that LMC is the only college in our district with English classes in a Social and Behavioral Science category box, however, it was stressed that there are only two English classes in that category, both of which are cross listed with Social Justice Studies classes. The General Education Chair made data requests both to the 4CD district and to our Sr. Dean of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, Ryan Pedersen.

At the March 8, 2023 General Education Committee meeting, the data sets that were received from district and from Dean Pedersen were reviewed by the committee. It was determined that there did not appear to be any students taking all English classes for their LMC AA Degree pattern for General Education. Along with discussing the data sets, the English Department chair Marci Lapriore attended as a guest and discussed the possibility of not cross-listing the SJS courses with the English Department now that the college has an Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies Department. She explained that these would be continual discussions to occur between the departments.

Further work was completed by Adrianna Simone, Diwa Ramos, and Ryan Pedersen outside of the scheduled General Education Committee meetings to review the data sets in a smaller and more manageable format. The summary of these data readings is included in the conclusion of our report, and a data-set table can be found in the appendix of this report for the Academic Senate's review.

## Conclusion

The General Education Committee looked at a total of 1,218 students who completed an AA or AS degree at LMC in 2021-2022. Of these 1,218 students, 32 of them successfully completed 4 or more English courses. Of these 32 students, they successfully completed GE courses in an average of 11.25 disciplines. The minimum number of disciplines taken for these 32 students was 8. Please refer to the data-set table in the appendix for a breakdown of the total number of English classes that students were taking versus the total disciplines taken for GE courses.

The General Education Committee concluded that there are no students taking only English classes to satisfy their GE requirements. In fact, our local degree students are taking a wide range of classes and disciplines during their tenure at LMC. We did note that there is still the possibility for students to take mainly English classes in the future, especially if students streamline their General Education experiences.

The General Education Committee recommends that the Academic Senate leave the LMC AA Degree GE requirements as they are and let individual departments determine if they do not want to cross-list courses that are in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. Furthermore, we recommend a similar analysis be made every three years by the General Education Committee, so that we can comment on the trends between this report and future reports. This fulfills the breadth of discipline knowledge that a robust General Education should have, as instructed by Title 5.

## Appendix

2021-2022 LMC AA or AS degree completions with 4 or more English courses

	<b>Total English Classes Taken</b>	<b>Total Disciplines Taken for GE Courses</b>
<b>Student 1</b>	9	10
<b>Student 2</b>	8	10
<b>Student 3</b>	7	9
<b>Student 4</b>	6	12
<b>Student 5</b>	6	10
<b>Student 6</b>	6	10
<b>Student 7</b>	6	17
<b>Student 8</b>	6	11
<b>Student 9</b>	6	9
<b>Student 10</b>	6	12
<b>Student 11</b>	5	10
<b>Student 12</b>	5	11
<b>Student 13</b>	5	10
<b>Student 14</b>	5	11
<b>Student 15</b>	5	12
<b>Student 16</b>	5	11
<b>Student 17</b>	5	14
<b>Student 18</b>	5	8
<b>Student 19</b>	5	9
<b>Student 20</b>	5	11
<b>Student 21</b>	4	9
<b>Student 22</b>	4	14
<b>Student 23</b>	4	12
<b>Student 24</b>	4	13
<b>Student 25</b>	4	15
<b>Student 26</b>	4	12
<b>Student 27</b>	4	9
<b>Student 28</b>	4	10
<b>Student 29</b>	4	9
<b>Student 30</b>	4	17
<b>Student 31</b>	4	10
<b>Student 32</b>	4	13
<b>Average Disciplines</b>		11.25
<b>Minimum Disciplines</b>		8