

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.

District and State General Education Requirements

Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of eighteen (18) 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 D. The remainder of the general education unit requirement is also to be selected from among these four divisions of learning.

A. 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.

B. Social and Behavioral Science

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 develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

C. 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

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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.

D. 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.

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.

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 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 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, 55070, 55130, 55063

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Related Procedures:
Curriculum & Instruction 4007