

SECTIONS 55060, 55061, and 55062 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS ARE AMENDED TO READ:

§ 55060. Philosophy and Criteria for the Associate Degree and General Education

(a) District governing boards shall adopt and maintain a policy that states their goals for offering associate degrees and their specific philosophy on general education. In developing this policy, governing boards shall consider the following policy of the Board of Governors:

The Associate Degree provides a framework within which students complete patterns of learning experiences designed to develop capabilities and insights to support their academic and career goals. Among these capabilities and insights are competencies that are germane to all aspects of higher education and comprise a “general education” curriculum, such as the ability to think critically and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, to use mathematics, understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines, to be aware of other cultures and times, to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems, and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

Furthermore, general education introduces students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction of colleges that those who receive their degrees must have mastered principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. A general education program should create coherence and integration among the separate requirements and involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

(b) District governing boards shall establish criteria to determine which courses may be used to implement their goals for the associate degree and their philosophy of general education.

§55061. Associate Degree Course Requirements

District governing boards may only approve associate degrees that meet the following course requirements:

(a) A minimum of 60 semester units (90 quarter 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 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 (27 quarter units) of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.

(1) A “major” is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation

must be designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.

(2) An “area of emphasis” is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.

(c) A minimum of 21 semester units (28 quarter units) of general education in the areas described below.

(1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum of 6 semester/8 quarter units) including:

(A) English Composition (minimum of 3 semester/4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

(B) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

(2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter 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.

(3) Arts and Humanities (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter 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.

(4) Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

(5) Natural Sciences (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter 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.

(6) Ethnic Studies (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in Ethnic Studies, African American Studies, Native American Studies, Chicano/a/x and Latino/a/x Studies, Asian American Studies, and related areas of study.

§55062. Requirements for Awarding of the Associate Degree

(a) District governing boards shall confer the associate degree upon students who have fulfilled the course requirements of section 55061, and who have met the following conditions:

(1) Satisfactory completion of at least 12 semester units (18 quarter units) in residence within the college district. Governing boards may waive this requirement under locally-adopted policies designed to alleviate injustice or undue hardship;

(2) Satisfactory completion of each course counted toward the major or area of emphasis requirement with a grade of "C" or better, or of "P" if the course is taken on a "pass-no pass" basis;

(3) Completion of a minimum 21 semester units (or 28 quarter units) general education pattern pursuant to section 55061, or completion of the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University; and

(4) Completion of the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, colleges shall compute the grade point average based 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.

(b) Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements.

(c) Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major or area of emphasis, and additional requirements stated in section 55061 when courses are locally 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. Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.

(d) Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.

(e) Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the associate degree.

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