

BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

Reference:

Title 5, Sections 55060 et seq., 55805

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability to think and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to use mathematics, to 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.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

Central to an Associate degree, general education is designed to introduce 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 possess in common certain basic principles, concepts and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College educated persons must be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most important, general education should lead to better understanding.

In establishing or modifying a general education program, ways shall be sought to create coherence and integration among the separate requirements. It is also desirable that general education programs involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major society problems.

The President of the College shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Faculty Senate involvement, through the college's curriculum committee.

See Administrative Procedure #4025

Amended by the Board of Trustees: May 13, 2008

Approved by the Board of Trustees: June 11, 2002

AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

Reference:

Title 5, Sections 55060 et seq., 55805; Accreditation Standards II.A

The philosophy and criteria for the associate degree and general education address the considerations contained in the references listed above.

The District Board affirms the policy of the Board of Governors that the associate degree symbolizes a successful attempt to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insight, including:

- the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively orally and writing;
- use mathematics;
- understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines;
- be aware of other cultures and times;
- achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and
- to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

The programs of the District are consistent with the institutional mission, purposes, demographics and economics of its community.

Gavilan's General Education (GE) requirements introduce students to a variety of means through which people comprehend and interact with the modern world. The GE requirements are central both to the college's mission and to its associate degrees.

Completion of the GE requirements will develop in students the abilities to think and communicate clearly, both orally and in writing; to use mathematics and employ the scientific method; to understand the modes of inquiry in major disciplines; to be aware of other cultures and other eras; to apply critical thinking to ethical and social issues; and to develop the capacity for self understanding and improvement. The student will also develop a depth of knowledge in a specific field of interest. In completing the requirements, students will come to understand basic principles, concepts and methodologies that may be unique to a specific discipline or universal in the quest for knowledge.

Students receiving Associate's degree shall complete at least 32 semester units of general education in addition to a minimum of 18 units in a major or area of emphasis and elective units, when necessary, to complete a total of 60 units.

General education introduces the content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge and provides an opportunity for students to develop intellectual skills, information technology facility, affective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

Area A: Communications in the English Language: Courses will cover the principles and applications of language towards logical thought, clear precise expression, and critical evaluation of communication. English composition courses will include both expository and

argumentative writing. In this area, courses emphasize oral and written communication skills, and sharpen analytical thinking.

Area B: Physical Universe and its Life Forms: These courses examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. Courses will help students develop appreciation and understanding of the scientific method, mathematics, and statistics, and encourage understanding of the relationship between science, technology, and other human activities.

Area C: Arts, Foreign Language, Literature and Philosophy: These courses study the cultural activities and artistic expression of human beings. Courses will increase students' awareness of ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures have responded to both their own internal landscapes and to the world around them in artistic and cultural creation. Humanities courses will also develop in student's aesthetic understanding, logical thinking skills, and an ability to make sound value judgments.

Area D: Social, Political, and Economic Institutions: These courses focus on people as members of societies. Courses will acquaint students with methods of inquiry used in the social and behavioral sciences. The courses will stimulate critical thinking about peoples' actions and interests on the local, national, and global levels, and will promote appreciation of political, social, and cultural pluralism.

Area E: Lifelong Understanding and Self Development: Courses in this area will equip students for lifelong understanding and development as physiological, social, and psychological beings. These courses have universal and durable utility in aiding students to make choices which will contribute to personal and social well being, and to the achievement of self-actualization through the integration of physical, emotional, social, technological, and intellectual growth.

Area F: Cultural Diversity: Courses in this area will connect students' knowledge of self and society to larger cultural contexts. Students will be able to articulate the differences and singularities between and within cultures.

Proposals for new courses should include recommendations for inclusion as general education requirements. The Curriculum Committee shall determine which courses meet general education requirements and submit recommendations to the Board for final approval.

Amended by the Board of Trustees: May 13, 2008

Approved by the Board of Trustees: June 11, 2002