

AREA OF EMPHASIS

Presented by

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With the California Community College system increasingly focused on student degree completion and transfer as a metric to assess a college's overall performance, the area of emphasis degree plays an important role in supporting students to achieve a goal of completing an associates degree while helping colleges tell their story of student success.

FAQs are provided to clarify the parameters around area of emphasis degrees as defined in [title 5 §55063](#).

HOW IS AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE DIFFERENT THAN A MAJOR?

- ▶ A **major** must consist of a minimum of 18 semester units of required courses or restricted electives and must serve to prepare a student for employment or transfer in a specific area of study
 - ▶ Examples: Associate of Arts in Psychology, Associate of Science in Landscape Architecture
- ▶ An **area of emphasis** is courses that are considered to be in “related disciplines” that share commonalities under a broader scope of related subjects or topics
 - ▶ Example: an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts - Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences might include sociology, psychology, Mexican-American studies, and history courses

WHAT ARE “RELATED DISCIPLINES”?

Courses can be included together in an area of emphasis if they are either:

- ▶ courses in the same GE area, or
- ▶ courses defined by a local process to be related
 - ▶ Curriculum committee may define criteria for “related disciplines” and document in its local process and in narrative/supporting docs sent to the Chancellor’s Office.

WHO DECIDES IF COURSES ARE RELATED?

For traditional or “local” associate degrees, local curriculum committees with purview and responsibility for approving programs must review an area of emphasis degree to ensure that courses in the program either:

- ▶ fall within the same GE areas defined by title 5 §55063, or
- ▶ meet locally defined and documented criteria

Process is different for ADTs...

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ADT AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE & LOCAL AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE?

Both are based on an area of emphasis; however, Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) are based on Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) that are vetted by Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG).

Unlike local area of emphasis degrees, there is no further need to justify the inclusion of courses as related disciplines; the TMC template includes its own documentation requirements.

Associate in Arts in Anthropology for Transfer Degree						
College Name: _____						
TRANSFER MODEL CURRICULUM (TMC)		COLLEGE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
Course Title (units)	C-ID Descriptor	Course ID	Course Title	Units	GE Area	
					CSU	IGETC
REQUIRED CORE: (9 units)						
Introduction to Biological Anthropology (3)	ANTH 110					
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3)	ANTH 120					
Introduction to Archaeology (3)	ANTH 150					
LIST A: Select one (3 units)						
Any course articulated as lower division preparation for the Anthropology major at a	AAM					

HOW ARE GENERAL EDUCATION AREAS DEFINED?

Title 5 §55063 defines general education (GE) areas:

- ▶ Natural Sciences
- ▶ Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ▶ Humanities
- ▶ Language and Rationality

Courses are placed in the general education pattern for a college's local associate degree by the curriculum committee.

CAN A COURSE BE PLACED IN MORE THAN ONE GENERAL EDUCATION AREA?

Yes, a course may be placed in more than one general education area.

- ▶ Course can then be included in multiple areas of emphasis
- ▶ Example: Ethnic studies course may be placed in GE areas for both Humanities and Social Science, and be included in area of emphasis degrees for each.

CAN AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE USE COURSES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN GENERAL EDUCATION AREAS FOR CSU BREADTH OR IGETC RATHER THAN IN TITLE 5 §55063?

Colleges may decide locally to create an area of emphasis degree based on courses that appear in the general education areas of CSU Breadth or IGETC.

The **CSU GE- Breadth Requirements** is a lower-division 39 semester (58.5 quarter) unit pattern. Transfer students must take specified courses in the areas of:

- **Area A** — English Language Communication and Critical Thinking
- **Area B** — Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning
- **Area C** — Arts and Humanities
- **Area D** — Social Sciences
- **Area E** — Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Subject area
English communication One course in English composition and one course in critical thinking/English composition
Mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning
Arts and humanities Three courses with at least one from the arts and one from the humanities
Social and behavioral sciences Three courses from at least two disciplines, or an interdisciplinary sequence
Physical and biological sciences One physical science course and one biological science course, at least one of which includes a laboratory
Language other than English (LOTE) Proficiency equivalent to two years of high school courses in the same language

CAN AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE BE CREATED USING AREA E OF THE CSU BREADTH?

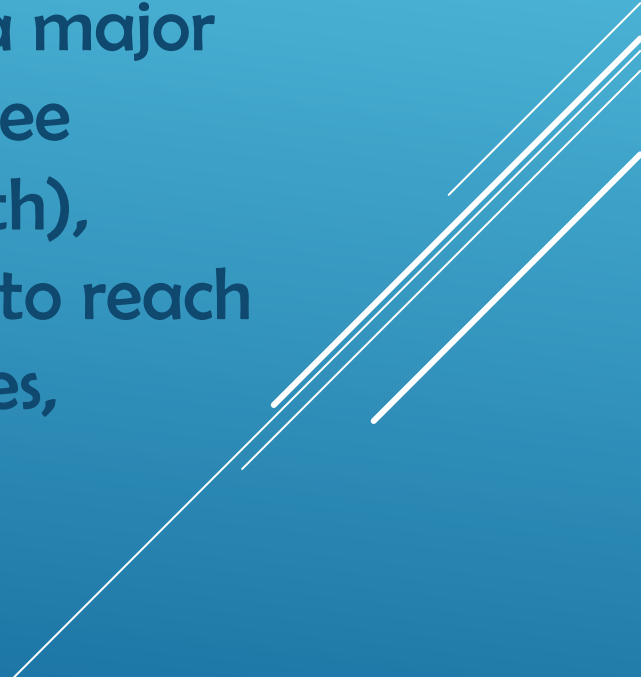
An area of emphasis degree created in an area of general education not found in title 5 §55063 (such as the Area E in CSU) would not meet the requirements for courses in related disciplines even though they are identified in the same CSU general education area.

However, faculty might consider creating the degree if they can document that the degree serves to prepare a student for employment or transfer in a specific area of study.

CAN AN ENTIRE GENERAL EDUCATION PATTERN (LOCAL AA, IGETC, CSU) BE USED AS AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE?

No – PCAH p.80 says:

“GE transfer patterns do not satisfy the requirement for a major or an area of emphasis. In other words, an associate degree cannot consist solely of CSU GE-Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth), IGETC, or the local GE pattern with the remaining units (to reach 60 semester or 90 quarter) in other GE courses or electives, selected at the student's discretion.”



WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED IN COCI FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE?

For local degrees, supporting documentation is defined by the goal of the program. Include supporting documentation for the goal types as outlined in the latest edition of the PCAH, in section 4 entitled Local Degrees: AA and AS.*

In addition to the requirements stated in the PCAH, it is helpful for the Chancellor's Office staff and recommended to include in the program narrative the curriculum committee's rationale for determining related disciplines.

For ADTs, include TMC template and any documentation specified on template.

*If program is in a CTE TOP Code, include supporting documents required for CTE.

WHICH PROGRAM GOAL SHOULD BE SELECTED TO INDICATE AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE CURRICULUM INVENTORY (COCI)?

For AA/AS – select “Local” (or “CTE” if in a CTE TOP code)

For ADTS – select “Transfer”

An Area of Emphasis degree may be intended to prepare students for transfer, but the "Transfer" goal is reserved for ADTs and Transfer GE Pattern Certificates of Achievement.

If the local degree is designed to prepare students for transfer and this is mentioned in the narrative, you will need to select the “local” goal and also submit transfer documentation as outlined in PCAH.

ARE THERE GUIDELINES FOR THE NUMBER OF COURSES TO INCLUDE IN AN AREA OF EMPHASIS?

No, however, every course outline of record must be attached when a program is uploaded to COCI.

Local curriculum committees should determine their own criteria if they decide a limit on the number of courses listed as options is desired.

CAN AN AREA OF EMPHASIS DEGREE INCLUDE A LIST OF REQUIRED CORE PROGRAM COURSES?

Yes, if the faculty and curriculum committee conclude that the preparation students need for transfer must include a specific education experience to support their restricted electives in the program.

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POSSIBLE SOCIAL JUSTICE ADT'S

Top Code	Title	CIP
2201.30	Social Justice: General	05.0299
2201.40	Social Justice: LGBTQ Studies	05.0203
2201.50	Social Justice: Ethnic Studies	05.0200
2201.60	Social Justice: Chicano Studies	05.0208
2201.70	Social Justice: Gender Studies	05.0207
2201.80	Social Justice: African American Studies	05.0201
2201.90	Social Justice: Asian American Studies	05.0206
2201.91	Social Justice: Native American Studies	05.0202

Got Questions?

