

PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

The District adopts the following as its philosophy for associate degrees and general education consistent with the policy of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

- I. The programs are consistent with the District's institutional mission, purposes, demographics, and economics of the community.
- II. The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. The degree symbolizes the student's successful navigation of learning experiences designed to develop specific 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 of knowledge in the field of degree to contribute to lifetime interest.

- III. 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 unique to or 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 Chancellor shall establish administrative regulations to ensure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The regulations shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.

References:

*Title 5, California Code of Regulations 55060, 55061, and 55002(a)
Accreditation Standard II.A.1*

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