

# ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 4025

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

General education requirements are at the heart of what is broadly acknowledged as the fundamental foundation for higher education. These requirements are ambitious and designed to develop a breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding, insights, and skills. They include competencies in reading, critical thinking, writing, and basic mathematics. The courses that meet the general education requirements are designed to help students:

- Develop and refine the skills needed to acquire knowledge and communicate effectively;
- Develop intellectual skills, information technology facility, effective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity;
- Employ science as a dynamic method of observation;
- Appreciate individuals as members of society or components of society;
- Study culture for increased aesthetic enlightenment and appreciation of creative contributions;
- Expand their understandings of American institutions and ideals; and
- Gain experiences leading to a better self-understanding

### I. TYPES OF COURSES APPROPRIATE TO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

The criteria established by the District shall permit only courses that conform to the standards specified in Section 55002(a) and that fall into the following categories to be offered for associate degree credit:

- All lower division courses accepted toward the baccalaureate degree by the California State University or University of California or designed to be offered for transfer.
- Courses that apply to the major in non-baccalaureate occupational fields.
- English courses including, at the level of, or above the first transfer level composition courses.
- Transfer level mathematics courses.

II. PROCESS TO DETERMINE WHICH COURSES IMPLEMENT THE DISTRICT'S  
PHILOSOPHY ON THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

Each college shall develop a process led by the Academic Senate to review, define, and publish its general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements consistent with Title 5 and this administrative regulation. Any revisions to the general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements shall be subject to approval by the District's Board of Trustees.

*References:*

*Title 5, California Code of Regulations 55060, 55061, and 55002(a)*  
*ACCJC Accreditation Standard 2*