

AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degrees, Baccalaureate Degrees, and General Education

Reference:

Title 5 Section 55061 et seq., Section 55090 et seq.;

Title 5 Section 55063;

Title 3, Section 78040 et seq.;

Accreditation Standard I & II;

AB 1725; AB 927

Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degrees General Education

The philosophy and criteria for associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and general education should address the considerations contained in the references listed above. These include, but are not limited to:

- A. The programs of the District are consistent with the institutional mission, purposes, demographics and economics of its community.
- B. The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree references 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:
 - a. Think and communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing,
 - b. Use mathematics,
 - c. Understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines,
 - d. Be aware of other cultures and times,
 - e. Achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems, and
 - f. To develop the capacity for self-understanding.

The philosophy and criteria regarding general education reference the policy of the Board of Governors that general education should lead to better self-understanding, including:

- A. General education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world.
- B. General education introduces 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.

- C. As part of the pre-approval process, each course is reviewed for compliance with minimum requirements for the Associate Degree. The Curriculum & General Education Committee determines appropriate placement in the lower division General Education areas, and the Articulation Officer submits to the CSU system for approval in the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC). Once approved by the CSU and the UC, it is added to the transfer general education patterns.

Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degrees General Education

- A. Students completing a baccalaureate degree shall complete the Cal-GETC pattern for the lower division general education.
- B. The College shall require a minimum of six additional semester units of upper division General Education courses. Upper division General Education courses should come from at least two disciplines outside of the major, one of which must have an emphasis in written communication, oral communication or computation. The Curriculum Committee shall define the relevant upper division coursework required at the college for completion of a baccalaureate degree. Upper division courses are defined as requiring lower division knowledge and applying that knowledge as demonstrated measures of critical thinking through writing, oral communication or computation. Upper division coursework may also encompass research elements, workforce training, apprenticeships, internships, required practicum or capstone projects.
- C. Upper division courses typically will have one or more lower division or upper division prerequisites that have been established using content review of the entry skills necessary to be successful as outlined in Title 5, Section 55003. Courses that have been designated as upper division are only intended to be applicable to baccalaureate degrees.