AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

Central to the associate degree and general education requirements is the District’s mission to improve lives within the diverse communities it serves through equal access to quality occupational, transfer, general education, and foundation programs in a learning-centered environment where student success is highly valued, supported, and assessed.

The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree symbolize a successful student’s journey through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain competences and insights as identified within the District’s Core Competencies of Communication, Critical Thinking and Information Competency, Community/Global Awareness and Responsibility, and Personal, Academic and Career Development. These Core Competencies are exhibited by the following:

- Comprehend, analyze, and respond appropriately to oral, written and visual information.
- Effectively communicate/express information through speaking, writing, visual and other appropriate modes of communication/expression.
- Identify vital questions, problems, or issues and evaluate the plausibility of a solution.
- Analyze, compose and assess the validity of an argument.
- Compute and analyze multiple representations of quantitative information, including graphical, formulaic, numerical, verbal and visual.
- Compare, contrast and analyze scientific concepts and scientific observation.
- Select, analyze and evaluate the accuracy, credibility, relevance and reasonableness of information and its sources.
- Identify the social and ethical responsibilities of the individual in society.
- Demonstrate commitment to active citizenship by recognizing and evaluating important social, ecological, economical and political issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for individual, social and cultural diversity.
- Demonstrate professional and ethical responsibilities of the individual.
- Identify personal, academic, psychological, and social needs, determine resources and access appropriate services.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate progress towards achieving personal goals, academic goals, career goals and career resilience.
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- Demonstrate the ability to use technology to assess, evaluate, and present information.

The graduation requirements for associate degrees are set forth in AP 4100 titled Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates. The District's General Education requirements are as follows:

General Education Requirement:
The associate degree will be granted upon completion of 60 semester units of course work and the fulfillment of the specific requirements listed below.

1. General Education (minimum of 18 units from the following: ) Students who are qualified to be certified for the CSU General Education pattern of classes or the IGETC pattern of classes also fulfill the associate degree General Education for Chaffey College.
   a. Language and Rationality (minimum of 2 courses)
   b. Natural Sciences (one laboratory science course)
   c. Humanities (minimum 4 units)
      i. Arts (one course)
      ii. Humanities (one course)
   d. Social and Behavioral Sciences

2. Major Requirements (minimum 18 units) Complete an associate degree program as described under “Programs of Study” area in the Chaffey College catalog.

3. Electives (any additional units necessary to meet minimum degree requirement)

All degree requirements including General Education must be completed with an overall grade point average of 2.0 (“C”) or better. In addition, all courses that count toward the Associate Degree major or area of emphasis must be satisfactorily completed with grades of “A”, “B”, “C”, or “P”. (Title 5 §55063)

References: Title 5 Section 55061; WASC/ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A.3

Approved: 4/17/12