



**BP 4025      Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education**

References:      Title 5 Section 55061  
                         Accreditation Standard II.A.3  
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Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall be congruent with the following philosophy:

The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It recognizes a successful attempt on the part of the college and its faculty to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop the capabilities and insights requisite to educated citizenship in a democratic society. Among these are the ability to think critically and independently; to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to apply mathematics; to understand the modes of inquiry of major academic disciplines; to understand and respect other cultures; to develop historical understanding; to achieve and act on insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; to acquire an appreciation for the arts; to commit to a life of self-integration and wellness; and to develop the capacity for self-understanding and empathy for others. In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

Central to an Associate Degree, general education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the contemporary world. It reflects the conviction of higher education that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain disciplines and habits of mind. 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 importantly, general education should lead to a deeper understanding of the natural and human world and of the institutions that support civil society.

In establishing or modifying a general education program, methods shall be pursued 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 the proposed solutions to major problems facing society.

The Superintendent/President shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements will reflect the values and criteria of this general education philosophy. The procedures shall provide for Academic Senate advice and direction on the aims and outcomes of the general education program.

See Administrative Procedure 4025