



AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

References:

Title 5 Section 55061;
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

1. The programs of the District shall be consistent with its institutional mission and purpose, and its community's demographics and economics, while developing a sense of diversity, equity, inclusion, civic awareness, and global responsibility.
2. Students receiving an Associate Degree must satisfactorily complete the requirements in general education selected from the following areas indicated below. A given course may only meet the requirement for a given general education area, with the exception of the Diversity Requirement. Courses meeting the Diversity Requirement and another general education area may be accepted to meet both areas. The requirements are:
 - **4025.1 Natural Sciences** (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.
 - **4025.2 Social and Behavioral Sciences** (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science,

psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

- **4025.3** Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in the humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.
- **4025.4** Language and Rationality (minimum 6 semester units) - Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.
 - (a) English Composition (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement should include both expository and argumentative writing.
 - (b) Communication and Analytical Thinking (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirements include oral and written communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer language and programming, and related disciplines.
- **4025.5** American Institutions Requirement (minimum 3 semester units; must cover categories a and b, below) - Courses in American Institutions are those which focus on the historical development of American institutions and ideals, the operation of representative democratic government under the Constitution of the United States, and the principles of state and local government established under the Constitution of this State.
 - (a) United States History
 - (b) U.S. Constitution, State and Local Government
- **4025.6** Physical Education and Wellness (minimum 2 semester units) - Courses in physical education and wellness are those which develop the knowledge and skills to empower students to sustain regular, lifelong physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life.
 - (a) RN and LVN to RN Nursing majors are exempt from this requirement by virtue of the physical education requirements threaded throughout the curriculum as a requirement of national standards within that discipline, to

include healthy living instruction, and required physical activity in the clinical component of the program, among other things.

- **4025.7** Diversity Requirement (minimum 3 semester units) - Courses in Diversity examine general issues of diversity, equity, ethnocentricity, and/or ethnicity; and relationships to problems facing contemporary society, especially those resulting from prejudice, discrimination, and cultural conflict. Attention is paid to critical thinking skills which allow students to address cultural, racial, and/or gender issues in a sensitive and responsible manner and to evaluate their own attitudes and those of others.

(a) The course used to satisfy this area may also be used to satisfy another area of General Education, if applicable.

(b) RN and LVN to RN Nursing majors are exempt from this requirement by virtue of the cultural competency emphasis threaded throughout the curriculum as a requirement of national standards within that discipline.

(c) The Curriculum Committee will approve a list of qualifying courses and review any new course developed in the future for diversity content.

- **4025.8** Transfer Degree Exemptions – Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) degrees and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degrees are exempt from the following local requirements:
 - American Institution requirement
 - Physical Education and Wellness requirement
 - Diversity requirementas listed in sections 4025.5, 4025.6 and 4025.7 of this procedure, respectively.

Reviewed and endorsed by CPC 11/23/2021

Next review date fall 2027