



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

Issued: December 8, 2020

References:

Board Policy 4025 - Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education
Title 5 Sections 55061 and 55063
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree

The philosophy and criteria for the associate degree and general education of the Compton Community College District address the considerations contained in the references listed above. These include, but are not limited to:

The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree reference 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 following:

- To think and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
- To use mathematics;
- To understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines;
- To be aware of other cultures and times;
- To achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems;
- To develop the capacity for self-understanding; and
- To engage in lifelong learning.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest. Each associate degree offered by Compton College shall contain a pattern of general education and major courses selected to assure the college of experiences, capabilities, and insights.

Philosophy and Criteria for General Education

Central to an associate degree, general education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction of the College that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique and shared by the various disciplines. College-educated individuals 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 better self-understanding. Courses approved for inclusion in the general education requirements shall be evaluated as meeting this philosophy.



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The general education areas are as follows:

1. **Natural Sciences:** A minimum of 3 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 that emphasize experimental methodology, the testing of hypotheses, and the power of systematic questioning, rather than only the recall of facts. Courses which focus on personal, practical, or applied aspects are not suitable for this category.
2. **Social and Behavioral Sciences:** A minimum of 3 units.
Courses in the social and behavioral sciences promote an appreciation and understanding of how members of diverse societies operate or have operated as individuals and social groups. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall develop an awareness of methods of inquiry and stimulate critical thinking about the ways in which people act and interact within social and cultural contexts. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses such as child development, cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, family and consumer studies, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.
3. **Humanities:** A minimum of 3 units.
Courses in the humanities are those that promote an appreciation of the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in humanities, a course shall develop the student's awareness of the ways that people throughout the ages have artistically and culturally responded to themselves and the world around them and shall develop the student's aesthetic understanding and ability to make value judgments. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.
4. **Language and Rationality:** A minimum of 6 units including one course in English Composition and one course from Communication/Analytical Thinking.
Courses in language and rationality are those that develop for the student the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation.
 - a. English Composition courses that fulfill the written composition requirement shall focus primarily on both expository and argumentative writing.
 - b. Communication and Analytical Thinking courses that fulfill the communication and analytical thinking requirement shall include oral communications, written



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communications, critical reasoning, mathematics, logic, statistics, and computer languages and programming.

5. **Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology:** A minimum of 3 units. Courses in health and physical education promote lifelong understanding of the basic human need for development and maintenance of good personal health and fitness. To satisfy the general education requirement in health education, a course shall help the student develop knowledge of personal health through the examination of health-related social problems, potential preventative strategies, and mediating actions. A physical education course shall establish a foundation for regular life-long physical activity and provide opportunities for a student to develop competencies in activities that promote movement, reduce disease risk, and improve overall quality of life.
6. **Mathematics Competency:** A minimum of 3 units. A course used to satisfy the Mathematics Competency requirement may be double counted as meeting the Communication and Analytical Thinking requirement.

Competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at or above the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra, determined locally. The competency requirement may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in mathematics taught in or on behalf of other departments and disciplines, and which, as determined by the local governing board, require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for Intermediate Algebra.

English Competency: A minimum of 3 units. A course used to satisfy the English Competency requirement may be double counted as meeting the English Composition requirement.

Competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of the course typically known as Freshman Composition (either Freshman Composition or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course, determined locally. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in Area 4a

7. **Culture, Diversity, and Equity Requirement:** A minimum of 3 units. A course used to satisfy the culture, diversity, and equity requirement may be double counted as meeting any applicable general education requirement.



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Effective fall 2021, the culture, diversity, and equity requirement is met by taking a course listed in the catalog and approved by the Curriculum Committee. These relevant courses provide for an understanding and sensitivity to an array of cultures and identities as well as historical and lived experiences.

Elements of the review process shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- The alignment of the course outcome to the general education outcome of the proposed area
- The rigor and comprehensive nature of the course as a lower-division introduction to the discipline
- Applicability of the course for fulfilling California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth) or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) for transfer.

A student has three options for completing the general education requirement: 1) complete the general education pattern noted above, 2) complete the CSU GE Breadth transfer requirements, or 3) complete the CSU/UC IGETC transfer requirements.