

Proposed Associate Degree Regulatory Revisions
(Comparison to Existing Regulations)

§ 55060. District Policy.

~~The governing board of each community college district shall adopt policy consistent with the provisions of this article. The policy shall be published in the college catalog under appropriate headings, and filed with the Chancellor's Office as required by section 51004.~~

~~§ 55061. Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education.~~

(a) ~~The District~~ governing ~~board of a community college district~~~~boards~~ shall adopt ~~and maintain~~ a policy which states ~~its~~~~their goals for offering associate degrees and their~~ specific philosophy on ~~General Education~~~~general education~~. In developing this policy governing boards shall consider the following policy of the Board of Governors:

~~The awarding of an Associate Degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize~~~~provides~~ a ~~successful attempt on the part of the college to lead~~~~framework within which~~ students ~~through complete~~ patterns of learning experiences designed to develop ~~certain~~ capabilities and insights. ~~to support their academic and career goals.~~ Among these ~~capabilities and insights~~ are ~~competencies that are germane to all aspects of higher education and comprise a "general education" curriculum, such as~~ the ability to think ~~critically~~ and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; ~~to use mathematics~~ ~~apply quantitative reasoning~~; ~~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~~; ~~and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.~~ ~~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~~~~Furthermore, general education introduces~~ students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction of colleges that those who receive their degrees must ~~possess in common~~~~certain basic~~~~have mastered~~ principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. ~~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 better self-understanding.~~

~~In establishing or modifying a~~ general education program, ~~ways shall be sought to~~ ~~should~~ create coherence and integration among the separate requirements. ~~It is also desirable that general education programs and~~ involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

(b) ~~The District~~ governing ~~board of a community college district~~~~boards~~ shall ~~also~~ establish criteria to determine which courses may be used ~~in implementing~~~~to implement~~ its ~~philosophy on~~~~goals for~~ the associate degree and ~~its philosophy of~~ general education.

(c) The

§55061. General Education Areas of Study

The associate degree requires a minimum of 18 semester units (27 quarter units) of general education coursework in the areas described in this section.

(a) Natural Sciences. Minimum of 3 semester units (4 quarter units). Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. This category includes introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

(b) Social and Behavioral Sciences. Minimum of 3 semester units (4 quarter units). Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies, and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category includes introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

(c) Humanities. Minimum of 3 semester units (4 quarter units). Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop the student's awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages, and in different cultures, respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. This includes courses in introductory or integrative courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion and related disciplines.

(d) Language and Rationality. Minimum of 6 semester units (8 quarter units). Courses in language and rationality develop 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. This includes courses in both English Composition, and Communication and Analytical Thinking as follows:

(1) English Composition. Minimum of 3 semester units (4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement include both expository and argumentative writing, and may be taught in disciplines including, but not limited to, English, `` and English as a Second Language.

(2) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Minimum of 3 semester units (4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include, but are not limited to, oral communication, mathematics, and quantitative reasoning courses such as logic, statistics, computer languages, programming, and related disciplines.

(e) Districts may establish additional general education requirements not inconsistent with this subchapter 1.

§55062. Associate Degree Approval.

California community colleges are authorized to grant associate in arts and associate in science degrees. Associate degrees approved by district governing board of a community college district shall, on a regular basis, review the policy and criteria established pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 55062. Types of Courses Appropriate to the Associate Degree.

The criteria established by the governing board of a community college district to implement its philosophy on the associate degree shall permit only courses that boards must conform to the standards specified in section 55002(a) or section 55270, and that fall into the following categories to be offered as degree-applicable credit courses requirements:

- (a) All Completion of at least 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of degree applicable courses, which include:
 - (1) all transferable lower division courses; accepted toward
 - (2) non-transferable the baccalaureate degree by the California State University or University of California or designed to be offered for transfer following types:
- (b) Courses A) courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in non-baccalaureate career technical fields; including
- (c) English B) composition or reading, and mathematics courses not more than one level below the first transfer level;
- (b) Satisfactory completion of at least 18 semester units (27 quarter units) of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.
 - (1) A "major" is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some course. Each student may count only one such course below work from outside of the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer level for credit toward the associate degree, except preparation must be designed to meet specific lower division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.
 - (2) An "area of emphasis" is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple, related academic disciplines, which provides the student with an academic pathway that reading courses which also satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a) are not subject to this limit. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses which teach composition or reading skills are not considered to be English composition or reading courses for purposes of this subdivision is broader than a specific major, but more focused than general education.
- (d) All mathematics courses above and including Elementary Algebra.
- (e) Credit courses in English and mathematics taught in or on behalf of other departments and which, as determined by the district governing board-
- (c) Completion of at least 18 semester units (27 quarter units) of general education.

(d) In addition to completing a major or area of emphasis and a pattern of general education, the governing board of a community college shall also require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for the courses specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) above.

§ 55063. Minimum Requirements for the Associate Degree.

The governing board of a community college district shall confer the associate degree upon a student who has demonstrated that students demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics, and who has satisfactorily completed at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of degree-applicable credit course work (as defined in section 55002(a)) which falls into the categories described in section 55062. A college may also accept toward satisfaction of this requirement courses that were not completed at a California community college that would reasonably be expected to meet or exceed the standards of section 55002(a).

Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2019 term or any term thereafter, competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a , and quantitative reasoning, and satisfactory grade in an completion of a course in ethnic studies, as follows:

(1) Satisfactory completion of a course in writing English course at or above the level of the course typically known as college Freshman Composition (either. This requirement may also be met by satisfactory completion of a writing course at a level at least equivalent to the course typically known as College Freshman Composition, or taught in another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) department or discipline, or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of thea specified writing English course, determined locally. Satisfactory completion. The equivalence of an writing English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this coursework, and the methods of demonstrating comparable competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(i) of this section written expression are determined by the district.

Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2019 term or any term thereafter, competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course(2) Satisfactory completion of a quantitative reasoning 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). This requirement may also be met by satisfactory completion of a quantitative reasoning course at a level at least equivalent to the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra taught in another department or discipline, or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of a specified quantitative reasoning mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra, determined locally. Satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at or above the level of Intermediate Algebra shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(ii) of this section. The equivalence of quantitative reasoning coursework, and the method of demonstrating comparable competency in quantitative reasoning are determined by the district.

The competency requirements for written expression and mathematics may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in English and 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 Freshman Composition and Intermediate Algebra respectively.(3)

Requirements for demonstrating competency in reading shall be locally determined.

The required 60

~~(e) Satisfactory completion of a baccalaureate level course in ethnic studies of at least 3 semester or 90 quarter units of course work must be fulfilled in a curriculum accepted toward (4 quarter units). This requirement may be satisfied by completing a course in ethnic studies taught in, or on behalf of, other departments and disciplines.~~

~~(f) For the degree by a college within purposes of this article 6, "completion" means the district (as shown in its catalog). It must include at least 18 semester receipt of credit in a course; and "satisfactory completion" means earning a grade of "P" on a pass-no pass basis, or 27 quarter units in general education and at least 18 semester a grade of "C" or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis as prescribed in this section. Of the total required units, better.~~

§55063. Student Completion of Associate Degree Requirements.

~~(a) District governing boards shall confer the associate degree upon a student who has met all associate degree requirements and the following conditions:~~

~~(1) completion of at least 12 semester or (18 quarter units must be completed) in residence at the college degree granting the degree. Exceptions to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by college, unless the governing board when it determines that an excuses this requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship would be placed on the student.;~~

~~(a) Requirements for a major or area of emphasis.~~

~~(1) At least 18 semester or 27 quarter units of study must be taken in a single discipline or related disciplines, as listed in the community colleges "Taxonomy of Programs," or in an area of emphasis involving lower division coursework which prepares students for a field of study or for a specific major at the University of California or the California State University.~~

~~(2) Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, satisfactory completion of each course counted toward the unit major or area of emphasis requirement of this subdivision must be completed with a grade of "C" or better, or a "P" if the course is taken on a "pass-no pass" basis.; and~~

~~(b) General Education Requirements.~~

~~(1) Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester or 27 quarter units of general education coursework which includes a minimum of three semester or four quarter units in each of the areas specified in paragraphs (A), (B) and (C) and the same minimum in each part of paragraph (D). The remainder of the unit requirement is also to be selected from among these four divisions of learning or as determined by local option:~~

~~(A) Natural Sciences. 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.

(B) Social and Behavioral Sciences. 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.

(C) Humanities. 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.

(D) Language and Rationality. 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. Such courses include:

(i) English Composition. Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to include both expository and argumentative writing. Such courses may be taught in disciplines such as, but not limited to, English and English as a Second Language.

(ii) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement including, but not limited to oral communication, mathematics, and quantitative reasoning such as logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.

(2) Ethnic Studies will be offered in at least one of the areas required by subdivision (1).

(c) While a course might satisfy (3) completion with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, colleges shall compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements.

(b) Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements.

(c) Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major or area of emphasis, and additional requirements stated in section 55062, when courses are locally approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted for more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. A course may be used to satisfy

~~both a general education requirement and a major or area of emphasis requirement. Whether it may be counted again for a different degree requirement is a matter for each college to determine. area even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a general education requirement for the associate degree and to partially satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California State University or University of California, if such the course is accepted by that system to satisfy a general education requirement. segment for this purpose.~~

~~§ 55064. Acceptance of Noncredit (d) Courses.~~

~~The governing board of each community college district shall establish procedures by which a student Below Transfer Level. Students may petition to have completion of a noncredit count only one English composition or reading course counted below transfer level for credit toward satisfaction of the associate degree. Transferable reading courses that meet the requirements for an associate degree. The petition shall be granted if the instructor of the noncredit course certifies that the student has achieved competence in the of section 55062, subdivision (d)(1), are not subject matter at a level and with academic rigor equivalent to that required for a degree-applicable credit course. to this limit. This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2009. After that date, a student may nevertheless (d) Students may seek to receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through completion of a noncredit course in accord with a district's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning, adopted pursuant to section 55050.~~