

**Academic Affairs**

**BP 4025 PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
AND GENERAL EDUCATION**

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061;  
Accreditation Standard II.A.3

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

The awarding of an associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability 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, 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 are the general education breadth requirements. General education has comprehensive learning outcomes for the students who complete it, including the following:

- An understanding of the basic content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge: areas include the humanities and fine arts, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and career and technical education.
- A capability to be a productive individual and lifelong learner: skills include oral and written communication, information competency, computer literacy, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis/logical thinking, and the ability to acquire knowledge through a variety of means.

- A recognition of what it means to be an ethical human being and effective citizen: qualities include an appreciation of ethical principles; civility and interpersonal skills; respect for cultural diversity; historical and aesthetic sensitivity; and the willingness to assume civic, political, and social responsibilities locally, nationally, and globally.

The Chancellor shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.

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**Date Adopted:** February 18, 2014

*(This is a new policy recommended by the  
Policy and Procedure Service)*