

AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

References: Title 5 Section 55061; ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A
AP 4020 Program, Curriculum, and Course Development

District administrative procedures regarding associate degrees and general education will follow from the philosophy and criteria expressed in BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria of Associate Degree and General Education and from the requirements delineated in pertinent sections of Education Code, Title 5, and Accreditation Standards. Curriculum is approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Board of Trustees, and the Vice President, Academic Affairs is responsible for ensuring compliance.

Associate Degrees

The approval of new associate degrees involves a process to ensure that the degrees are consistent with the District's mission and that they facilitate achievement of Institutional Goals and/or Objectives. The new program approval process also ensures that programs serve a clear student, community, or labor market need and that they are fiscally feasible and sustainable given the district's current economic status. This process includes four initial stages of approval: concept consultation with deans and/or directors, College Council approval, Planning and Budget Committee approval, and Curriculum Committee approval. New associate degrees that are proposed as part of an existing program are referred to the new program approval process if they require extensive or expensive resources. The Curriculum Committee, as a subcommittee of the Academic Senate, ensures that each associate degree includes all criteria related to competencies, general education, and major disciplines. After Curriculum Committee and Board of Trustees approval, degree proposals are submitted to the California Community College Chancellor's Office for review (if required) and charting. The District Academic Senate, either as a body or through its various subcommittees, including the Curriculum Committee, oversees the revision and maintenance of the associate degree requirements and individual associate degrees.

General Education

The philosophy and student learning outcomes of general education coursework are developed, revised, and maintained by the Curriculum Committee and approved by the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees. Courses approved by the Board of Trustees for inclusion in the general education pattern are first evaluated by the Curriculum Committee for alignment with the stated philosophy as well as the student learning outcomes and criteria for general education coursework. This procedure also is followed for the revision of courses that have been previously approved as fulfilling a general education requirement.

The general education student learning outcomes and the requirements for the SLOCCCD associate degrees are printed in the District catalog, which is available for viewing on the District's website and is available in hard copy through the Counseling Department.

This procedure shall be reviewed and updated as needed by the Academic Senate, either as a body or through its various subcommittees, including the Curriculum Committee.

Approved: 10/22/2019