



AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

Reference:

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

General Education (GE) is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the changing world. It reflects the conviction of the Antelope Valley Community College District (AVCCD) that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College educated persons should be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, GE should lead to better self-understanding.

General Education Requirements for the AVCCD associate in arts and associate in science degrees consist of courses or a combination of courses which meet GE philosophy and criteria that will:

1. Provide an introduction to basic concepts, principles, and methodology of study common to a given discipline;
2. Lead to better self-understanding in relationship to the physical environment, culture, economy and society;
3. Provide an opportunity to examine values while proposing solutions for major social problems; and
4. Provide a breadth of knowledge and experiences that contribute to a well-rounded education.

To assure that the Associate Degree provides students with the breadth of coursework needed to meet the philosophy and criteria of general education, coursework in each of the following areas is required in order to obtain an Associate Degree.

- A. Natural science courses present critical thinking and problem-solving methods. These courses also explore the relationship that exists between people and science.
- B. Courses in the social sciences present the principles and knowledge of our personal, social, cultural, economic and political world to help students understand and manage the realities and complexities of modern life.
- C. Courses in the humanities present the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. These courses help students in developing aesthetic understanding and the ability to make value judgments;
- D. Courses in languages and rationality present principles of **written, oral and**



computer languages and mathematics that lead toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation of communications; and analytical thinking:

- E. Courses or a combination of courses in the performing and visual arts and physical education provide both theory and practice which leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of the aesthetic world;
- F. Courses in ethnic studies and multicultural courses across disciplines provide opportunities to raise awareness to diversity in the world community and appreciate human differences.

Note: Courses that emphasize occupational competency do not meet GE objectives; and, no course may be counted as meeting both a GE requirement and a major requirement in any District degree.

(See Associate Degree Requirements in the college catalog)

In addition, the District will ensure that its educational programs are consistent with its institutional mission and in alignment with the needs of the community. Procedures to determine which courses implement this philosophy are developed by the college and are documented in AVC's curriculum handbook.

Also see BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education, AP 4021 Program Discontinuance; and BP/AP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.

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