



BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

References

Title 5 Section 55061;
ACCJC Accreditation Standard 2

College of the Canyons is dedicated to the philosophy that all students will receive the highest quality education possible. Doing so should ensure learning experiences that will enhance students' academic and career opportunities as well as develop a sense of inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and antiracism, civic awareness, and global responsibility. Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

1. 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 critically 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, times, and populations, including those which have been traditionally marginalized; to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to strengthen the capacity for self-awareness, sensitivity to the experience of others, and leadership.
2. In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to prepare to enter the workforce and/or to develop an interest in lifelong learning.
3. 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 colleges 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 must be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live, applying the skills developed through general education curriculum to navigate the world of work in a multicultural and increasingly technological world. In addition, general education should offer many starting points for understanding the world around us, including developing critical thinking skills, which students can then develop through lifelong learning..
4. In establishing or modifying a general education program, the District shall create coherent and integrated educational requirements through contextualized learning opportunities such as project-based learning, internships, and apprenticeships as well as

inter, multi-, and cross-disciplinary approaches as appropriate. General education programs should involve active examination of proposed solutions to world problems.

5. The CEO of the Santa Clarita Community College District shall establish procedures to ensure 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.

Board Approved: 6/11/2025

Next Review Date: Spring 2031