

**AP 4100 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES AND
CERTIFICATES**

References:

Title 5 Sections 55060 et seq.

NOTE: This procedure is **legally required**. Local practice may be inserted. Procedures **must at least address** the following:

- A student must demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics to earn an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree. The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of college work.
- A definition of “college work” that provides that courses acceptable toward the associate degree include those that have been properly approved pursuant to Title 5 Section 55002(a), or, if completed at other than a California community college, would reasonably be expected to meet the standards of that section.
- The work must include at least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in general education and at least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major listed in the Community Colleges “Taxonomy of Programs.”
- The work must include at least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of study in residence; exceptions to the residence requirement can be made by the Board when an injustice or undue hardship would result.
- The general education requirements must include a minimum of work in the natural sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and language and rationality.
- Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward the satisfaction of requirements for an associate degree.

District policies and procedures regarding general education and degree requirements must be published in each college’s catalog and must be filed with the California Community College Chancellor’s Office.

Certificates

Requirements for certificates as defined by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office shall be listed in each college’s catalog.

Content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of the District, meet a demonstrated need, are feasible, and adhere to guidelines on academic achievement.

Certificates for which California Community College Chancellor's Office approval is not sought may be given any name or designation deemed appropriate except for Certificate of Achievement, Certificate of Completion, or Certificate of Competency.

Students who enroll in the District and wish to transfer academic credit for courses taken at other District-approved accredited colleges/universities are required to submit official transcripts.

NOTE: Consider placing the language in current CLPCCD Administrative Rules and Procedures 5242 and 5243 in college catalogs or on pertinent web pages.

❖ **From current CLPCCD Administrative Rules and Procedures 5242 titled Issuance of Occupational Certificates**

~~Each curriculum or course which involves a certificate of achievement or a certificate of completion will be reviewed and a recommendation made for the particular award by the appropriate Citizens' Advisory Committee and the college committee on curriculum.~~

~~To qualify for a certificate of achievement or a certificate of completion, a student shall complete at least 80% of the required program at Chabot or Las Positas College, including the final three semester units of the program.~~

~~All curricula involving a certificate of achievement or a certificate of completion will be established in such a way as to permit a student to continue toward completion of the Associate in Arts or Associate in Sciences Degree without loss of units. Furthermore, where appropriate, students will be encouraged to complete this degree.~~

❖ **From current CLPCCD Administrative Rules and Procedures 5243 titled Special Certification for Coursework Completed**

- ~~1. A form suitable for framing, entitled "Special Certification for Coursework Completed," shall be used.~~
- ~~2. The Division Dean (or other appropriate manager) is to obtain approval from the appropriate dean when a special certification is requested. The dean shall give written authorization indicating program, semester, course and section. The admissions and records office shall be advised of this action and shall retain this information for use when final grades have been submitted.~~
- ~~3. The Division Dean (or other appropriate manager) shall be responsible for obtaining the names of students from the instructor and for having the special certification forms prepared and returned to the instructor(s) for presentation to the students at the last class session, if possible. The presentation shall be made only to those students who successfully complete the course. The office of~~

~~admissions and records shall be provided a list of names of the students for whom certificates were issued. The Division Dean shall advise students that further validation of their coursework may be obtained by requesting transcripts from the office of admissions and records.~~

- ~~4. When the grades are submitted to the Admissions and Records Office at the end of the session, a check shall be made to determine that all students for whom certifications were issued had completed the required coursework. Certificates prepared but not issued shall be turned in with the grade report and shall be returned by the office of Admissions and Records to the Division Dean (or other appropriate manager).~~
- ~~5. For those students in the class that request special certification, a rubber stamp indication shall be affixed to the official grade report validating that special certification was provided upon completing the course.~~

[Also see AP 4102 titled Career/Technical Education Programs and BP/AP 4235 titled Credit by Examination](#)

NOTE: The **red ink** signifies language that is **legally required** and recommended by the Policy and Procedure Service and its legal counsel. The language in **black ink** is from current CLPCCD Administrative Rules and Procedures 5242 titled Issuance of Occupational Certificates issued on March 10, 1996 and current CLPCCD Administrative Rules and Procedures 5243 titled Special Certification for Coursework Completed issued on March 19, 1996. The language in **blue ink** is included for consideration. The **green ink** was added during the administrative review on March 21, 2013. This document was reviewed on April 8, 2013 by Chancellor's Cabinet and on April 9, 2013 by the Chancellor's Council. This document was reviewed by representatives of the Academic Senates on December 12, 2013.

Date Approved:

(This new procedure replaces current Administrative Rules and Procedures 5242 and 5243)

Legal Citations for AP 4100

5 CCR § 55002

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55002

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 6. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHAPTER 6. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
SUBCHAPTER 1. PROGRAMS, COURSES AND CLASSES
ARTICLE 1. PROGRAM, COURSE AND CLASS CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS

§ 55002. Standards and Criteria for Courses.

(a) Degree-Applicable Credit Course. A degree-applicable credit course is a course which has been designated as appropriate to the associate degree in accordance with the requirements of section 55062, and which has been recommended by the college and/or district curriculum committee and approved by the district governing board as a collegiate course meeting the needs of the students.

(1) Curriculum Committee. The college and/or district curriculum committee recommending the course shall be established by the mutual agreement of the college and/or district administration and the academic senate. The committee shall be either a committee of the academic senate or a committee that includes faculty and is otherwise comprised in a way that is mutually agreeable to the college and/or district administration and the academic senate.

(2) Standards for Approval. The college and/or district curriculum committee shall recommend approval of the course for associate degree credit if it meets the following standards:

(A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55023. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.

(B) Units. The course grants units of credit based upon a relationship specified by the governing board between the number of units assigned to the course and the number of lecture and/or laboratory hours or performance criteria specified in the course outline. The course also requires a minimum of three hours of student work per week, including class time for each unit of credit, prorated for short-term, extended term, laboratory and/or activity courses.

(C) Intensity. The course treats subject matter with a scope and intensity that requires students to study independently outside of class time.

(D) Prerequisites and Corequisites. When the college and/or district curriculum committee determines, based on a review of the course outline of record, that a student would be highly unlikely to receive a satisfactory grade unless the student has knowledge or skills not taught in the course, then the course shall require prerequisites or corequisites that are established, reviewed, and applied in accordance with the requirements of this article.

(E) Basic Skills Requirements. If success in the course is dependent upon communication or computation skills, then the course shall require, consistent with the provisions of this article, as prerequisites or corequisites eligibility for enrollment in associate degree credit courses in English and/or mathematics, respectively.

(F) Difficulty. The course work calls for critical thinking and the understanding and application of concepts determined by the curriculum committee to be at college level.

(G) Level. The course requires learning skills and a vocabulary that the curriculum committee deems appropriate for a college course.

(3) Course Outline of Record. The course is described in a course outline of record that shall be maintained in the official college files and made available to each instructor. The course outline of record shall specify the unit value the expected number of contact hours for the course as a whole, the prerequisites, corequisites or advisories on recommended preparation (if any) for the course, the catalog description, objectives, and content in terms of a specific body of knowledge. The course outline shall also specify types or provide examples of required reading and writing assignments, other outside-of-class assignments, instructional methodology, and methods of evaluation for determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students.

(4) Conduct of Course. Each section of the course is to be taught by a qualified instructor in accordance with a set of objectives and with other specifications defined in the course outline of record.

(5) Repetition. Repeated enrollment is allowed only in accordance with provisions of sections 51002, 55040-55043 and 58161.

(b) Nondegree-Applicable Credit Course. A credit course designated by the governing board as not applicable to the associate degree is a course which, at a minimum, is recommended by the

college and/or district curriculum committee (the committee described and established under subdivision (a)(1) of this section) and is approved by the district governing board.

(1) Types of Courses. Nondegree-applicable credit courses are:

(A) nondegree-applicable basic skills courses as defined in subdivision (j) of section 55000;

(B) courses designed to enable students to succeed in degree-applicable credit courses (including, but not limited to, college orientation and guidance courses, and discipline-specific preparatory courses such as biology, history, or electronics) that integrate basic skills instruction throughout and assign grades partly upon the demonstrated mastery of those skills;

(C) precollegiate career technical preparation courses designed to provide foundation skills for students preparing for entry into degree-applicable credit career technical courses or programs;

(D) essential career technical instruction for which meeting the standards of subdivision (a) is neither necessary nor required.

(2) Standards for Approval. The college and/or district curriculum committee shall recommend approval of the course on the basis of the standards which follow.

(A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55023. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.

(B) Units. The course grants units of credit based upon a relationship specified by the governing board between the number of units assigned to the course and the number of lecture and/or laboratory hours or performance criteria specified in the course outline. The course requires a minimum of three hours of student work per week, per unit, including class time and/or demonstrated competency, for each unit of credit, prorated for short-term, extended term, laboratory, and/or activity courses.

(C) Intensity. The course provides instruction in critical thinking and generally treats

subject matter with a scope and intensity that prepares students to study independently outside of class time and includes reading and writing assignments and homework. In particular, the assignments will be sufficiently rigorous that students successfully completing each such course, or sequence of required courses, will have acquired the skills necessary to successfully complete degree-applicable work.

(D) Prerequisites and corequisites. When the college and/or district curriculum committee deems appropriate, the course may require prerequisites or corequisites for the course that are established, reviewed, and applied in accordance with this article.

(3) Course Outline of Record. The course is described in a course outline of record that shall be maintained in the official college files and made available to each instructor. The course outline of record shall specify the unit value, the expected number of contact hours for the course as a whole, the prerequisites, corequisites or advisories on recommended preparation (if any) for the course, the catalog description, objectives, and content in terms of a specific body of knowledge. The course outline shall also specify types or provide examples of required reading and writing assignments, other outside-of-class assignments, instructional methodology, and methods of evaluation for determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students. Taken together, these course specifications shall be such as to typically enable any student who successfully completes all of the assigned work prescribed in the outline of record to successfully meet the course objectives.

(4) Conduct of Course. All sections of the course are to be taught by a qualified instructor in accordance with a set of objectives and with other specifications defined in the course outline of record.

(5) Repetition. Repeated enrollment is allowed only in accordance with provisions of sections 51002, 55040-55043 and 58161.

(c) Noncredit Course. A noncredit course is a course which, at a minimum, is recommended by the college and/or district curriculum committee (the committee described and established under subdivision (a)(1) of this section) and approved by the district governing board as a course meeting the needs of enrolled students.

(1) Standards for Approval. The college and/or district curriculum committee shall recommend approval of the course if the course treats subject matter and uses resource materials, teaching methods, and standards of attendance and achievement that the committee deems appropriate for the enrolled students. In order to be eligible for state apportionment, such courses must be approved by the Chancellor pursuant to article 2 (commencing with section 55150) of subchapter 2 of this chapter and satisfy the requirements of section 58160 and other applicable provisions of chapter 9 (commencing with section 58000) of this division.

(2) Course Outline of Record. The course is described in a course outline of record that shall be maintained in the official college files and made available to each instructor. The course outline of record shall specify the number of contact hours normally required for a student to complete the course, the catalog description, the objectives, contents in terms of a specific body of knowledge, instructional methodology, examples of assignments and/or activities, and methods of evaluation for determining whether the stated objectives have been met.

(3) Conduct of Course. All sections of the course are to be taught by a qualified instructor in accordance with the set of objectives and other specifications defined in the course outline of record.

(4) Repetition. Repeated enrollment is allowed only in accordance with provisions of section 58161.

(d) Community Services Offering. A community services offering must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1) is approved by the district governing board;

(2) is designed for the physical, mental, moral, economic, or civic development of persons enrolled therein;

(3) provides subject matter content, resource materials, and teaching methods which the district governing board deems appropriate for the enrolled students;

(4) is conducted in accordance with a predetermined strategy or plan;

(5) is open to all members of the community willing to pay fees to cover the cost of the offering; and

(6) may not be claimed for apportionment purposes.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Section 70901, Education Code.

5 CCR § 55060

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55060

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 6. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHAPTER 6. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
SUBCHAPTER 1. PROGRAMS, COURSES AND CLASSES
ARTICLE 6. THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

§ 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.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66701, 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

5 CCR § 55061
Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55061

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 6. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHAPTER 6. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
SUBCHAPTER 1. PROGRAMS, COURSES AND CLASSES
ARTICLE 6. THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

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

(a) The governing board of a community college district shall adopt a policy which states its specific philosophy on 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 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, 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. Most importantly, General Education should lead to better self-understanding.

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

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

(c) The 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.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66701, 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

5 CCR § 55062

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55062

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§ 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 conform to the standards specified in section 55002(a) and that fall into the following categories to be offered as degree-applicable credit courses:

(a) All lower division courses accepted toward the baccalaureate degree by the California State University or University of California or designed to be offered for transfer.

(b) Courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in non-baccalaureate career technical fields.

(c) English composition courses not more than one level below the first transfer level composition course, typically known as Freshman Composition. Each student may count only one English composition course below transfer level for credit toward the associate degree. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses which teach composition skills are not considered to be English composition courses for purposes of this subdivision.

(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 local governing board require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for the courses specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) above.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66701, 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

5 CCR § 55063

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55063

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 6. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHAPTER 6. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
SUBCHAPTER 1. PROGRAMS, COURSES AND CLASSES
ARTICLE 6. THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

§ 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 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 2009 term or any term thereafter, competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of the course typically known as Freshman Composition (either Freshman Composition or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to subchapter 6 of this chapter (commencing with section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(i) of this section.

Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to subchapter 6 of this chapter (commencing with section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified

mathematics course. Satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at 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 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 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. Requirements for demonstrating competency in reading shall be locally determined.

The required 60 semester or 90 quarter units of course work must be fulfilled in a curriculum accepted toward the degree by a college within the district (as shown in its catalog). It must include at least 18 semester or 27 quarter units in general education and at least 18 semester or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis as prescribed in this section. Of the total required units, at least 12 semester or 18 quarter units must be completed in residence at the college granting the degree. Exceptions to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by the governing board when it determines that an 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, each course counted toward the unit 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.

(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.

(ii) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, 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 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. 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, if such course

is accepted by that system to satisfy a general education requirement.

(d) For the purpose of this section, "satisfactorily completed" means either credit earned on a "pass-no pass" basis or a grade point average of 2.0 or better in community college credit courses in the curriculum upon which the degree is based.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

5 CCR § 55064

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55064

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
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SUBCHAPTER 1. PROGRAMS, COURSES AND CLASSES
ARTICLE 6. THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

§ 55064. Acceptance of Noncredit Courses.

The governing board of each community college district shall establish procedures by which a student may petition to have completion of a noncredit course counted toward satisfaction of 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 subject matter at a level and with academic rigor equivalent to that required for a degree-applicable credit course.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66701, 70901 and 78405, Education Code.