

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

New and substantively modified degrees and certificates, including required and recommended courses, shall: 1) meet all Education Code and Title 5 requirements as certified by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Instructional Officer, Academic Senate President, and Curriculum Chair and 2) be submitted to the District Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate for their review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Vice President of Academic Services is accountable for moving faculty curriculum recommendations to the Board of Trustees for review and approval.

For the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, a student must demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, in mathematics, and satisfactory completion of a course in Ethnic Studies. The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 semester units of college work. General education courses applicable to associate degrees shall be approved by the District Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate for their review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Vice President of Academic Services is accountable for moving faculty curriculum recommendations to the Board of Trustees for review and approval.

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 in general education and at least 18 semester units in a major listed in the Community Colleges “Taxonomy of Programs.”

The work must include at least 12 semester 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, ethnic studies, 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 the District catalog and must be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

For a certificate of achievement, a student must successfully complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 16 or more semester units of degree-applicable credit coursework. The certificate of achievement shall be designed to demonstrate that the student has completed coursework and developed capabilities relating to career or general education.

Shorter credit programs that lead to a skill certificate may be established by the District.

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

Certificates for which California Community Colleges 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.

The District may obtain approval of a direct assessment competency-based program from the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Reference: Title 5, Sections 55060 et seq.

Adopted: May 12, 2009

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