

**PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND  
GENERAL EDUCATION**

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy. Major requirements educate students in an area of specialization, while breadth requirements help them develop the capacity for independent judgment.

General education breadth requirements emphasize democratic concepts based on the value and dignity of each individual, thus helping students prepare to undertake the responsibilities of citizenship and to participate knowledgeably in the varied experiences of life.

General education breadth requirements are of vital importance in the personal, social, and vocational/professional life of each student:

1. In personal development, breadth requirements help students develop self-awareness, thus increasing understanding of personal potentialities and limitations.
2. In social relationships and in the life of society, breadth requirements help students communicate more effectively, promote better understanding of the communications of others and help develop awareness of societal relationships.
3. In professional development, the breadth requirements help students become more effective in the workplace through more productive communication with fellow workers and through a better understanding of the relationship between the job at hand and the larger world into which it fits.

The Superintendent/President shall establish procedures to assure 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.

See Administrative Procedure 4025

Reference: Title 5, Section 55805; Accreditation Standard II.A.3; GELOs  
Adopted: February 11, 2008  
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