

COLUMBIA COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL EDUCATION

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*Prepared for the Columbia College Academic Senate
Reviewed and Recommended by the Columbia College Curriculum Committee
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Columbia College Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree Requirements and General Education

COLUMBIA COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE AND ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREES AND GENERAL EDUCATION

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The philosophy and criteria for Columbia College regarding the Associate Degrees are discussed in this document. Commonly known as “local degrees,” the Associate of Arts and Associate of Sciences are addressed.

This document includes the following components and is structured accordingly:

- **Section A: Pertinent background and vital context relating to this document, such as district, state and federal policy governing educational code;**
- **Section B: Requirements for a major or area/subject of interest connected to the Associates Degrees in Science or Arts;**
- **Section C: Requirements for General Education Associate Degrees;**

This document **does not** address the following criteria:

- (1). *The Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT’s), known as the Associate of Arts for Transfer (AAT) or the Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) Degrees.*
- (2). *The alternative General Education pathway option for students through the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) for Transfer to the UC or CSU Systems.*

Section A. Pertinent background and vital context relating to this document, such as district, state and federal policy governing educational code

The criteria adheres to the District’s Policy on the Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education, YCCD Board Policy 4025, which is based upon Title 5 § 55060-55062.

Section B. Requirements for a major or area/subject of interest connected to the Associates Degrees in Science or Arts

At Columbia College, students receiving an Associate’s Degree shall complete a minimum of 60 semester units of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.

In addition, students receiving an Associate’s degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis with a grade of C or better as described below:

- (1). At Columbia College, a “major” is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation are designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.

(2). At Columbia College, an “area of emphasis” is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.

Requirements for Awarding of the Associate Degree:

(a). Columbia College shall confer the associate degree upon students who have fulfilled the course requirements of section 55061, and who have met the following conditions of section 55062:

(1). Satisfactory completion of at least 12 semester units in residence within the YCCD College District. Adhering to Board Policy and Procedure 4025, Columbia College permits students to obtain waivers of this requirement in order to alleviate injustice and undue hardship.

(2). Satisfactory completion of each course counted toward the major or area of emphasis requirement with a grade of “C” or better, or of “P” if the course is taken on a “pass-no pass” basis;

- Adhering to Title 5, Section 55062, students can opt to use Pass/No Pass Grading if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Student performance equivalent to A, B, or C work will equate to a Pass (P) grade. A course may be used to satisfy both a general education requirement and a major or area of emphasis requirement, and Pass/No Pass Grading is allowed.

(3). Completion of a minimum 21 semester units general education pattern pursuant to section 55061, or completion of the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University; and

(4). Completion of the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, Columbia College may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major/area of emphasis and general education requirements.

(b). Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other institutionally accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements.

(c). Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major or area of emphasis, and additional requirements stated in section 55061 when courses are locally approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.

(d). Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through YCCD procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.

(e). Students who have been awarded a bachelor’s degree from an institutionally accredited institutions institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the associate degree.

(f). Adhering to Board Policy and Procedure 4025, Columbia College allows students through the CPL Process to petition to have completion of a noncredit course counted toward satisfaction of the requirements for an associate degree.

(g). Students who intend to transfer shall be advised of limitations transfer institutions may place on the transferability of credits, based on institutional accreditation, course modality, and any other relevant factors.

Section C. Requirements for General Education Associate Degrees

Students receiving Associate's degree shall complete at least 21 semester units of general education coursework in the areas described below in reference to our local education pattern referred to as the **Columbia College General Education (CC-GE) Pattern**. General education at Columbia College introduces students to a select broad spectrum of classes to demonstrate the following:

(1). English Composition, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (Minimum 6 units):

At Columbia College, the English Composition, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking area is referred to as **AREA 1: English Communication**

- **English Composition (Minimum 3 units)**

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: 1A: English Composition**

AND

- **Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (Minimum 3 units)**

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: 1B: Critical Thinking and Composition or 1C: Oral Communication**

(2). Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (Minimum 3 units)

At Columbia College, the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning area is referred to as **AREA 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning**

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning**

(3). Arts and Humanities (Minimum 3 units)

At Columbia College, the Arts and Humanities area is referred to as **AREA 3: Arts and Humanities**. Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: 3A: Arts or 3B: Humanities**

(4). Social and Behavioral Sciences (Minimum 3 units)

At Columbia College, the Social and Behavioral Sciences area is referred to as **AREA 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

(5). Natural Sciences (Minimum 3 units)

At Columbia College, the Natural Sciences area is referred to as **AREA 5: Physical and Biological Sciences**

Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: 5A: Physical Science or 5B: Biological Science**

(6). Ethnic Studies (Minimum 3 units)

At Columbia College, the Ethnic Studies area is referred to as **AREA 6: Ethnic Studies**

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

At Columbia College this requirement is met by students taking a class under the **Columbia College General Education Pattern: Area 6: Ethnic Studies**