



ADMINISTRATIVE **PROCEDURE**

4025

DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

Associate Degrees

The programs of the District are consistent with the institutional mission, purposes, demographics and economics of its community.

The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree references the policy of the Board of Governors that the associate degree symbolizes a successful attempt to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insight, including:

- The ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing;
- Use mathematics;
- Understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines;
- Be aware of other cultures and times;
- Achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and
- To develop the capacity for self-understanding.

Each Associate Degree offered by the College shall be published in the College Catalog. The purpose of the degrees and their requirements shall be explained in the catalog. Each degree will contain a pattern of general education and major courses.

Associate degrees shall be submitted through the following procedure:

- Department proposing the degree shall complete all forms required in the approval process;
- The proposal shall be forwarded to the Curriculum Committee;
- If the degree is career/technical in nature, the dean will present it to the regional consortium for approval;
- If approved by the Curriculum Committee, the degree is submitted to the Academic Senate for approval;
- If approved by the Academic Senate the proposal is submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval;
- If approved, the degree will be offered to students and published in the catalog.

- And if approved, the degree will be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office for approval.

General Education

The philosophy and criteria regarding general education references the policy of the Board of Governors that general education should lead to better self-understanding, including:

- General education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world;
- General education introduces the content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge and provides an opportunity for students to develop intellectual skills, information technology facility, affective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

Courses approved by the Curriculum Committee for inclusion into the general education requirements shall be evaluated by the Curriculum Committee as meeting this philosophy as well as the criteria for approval of general education coursework. Course approval follows the same procedures as program approval.

Reference:

**Title 5 Section 55061
ACCJC Accreditation Standard 2**

Administrator: VP Instruction
CPC Approval: February 25, 2011
Board Meeting/Information Item: June 14, 2018
Executive Cabinet Review: October 29, 2024
College Planning Council Review/Approval: November 8, 2024
Board of Trustees/Information Item: December 20, 2024
Next Review: 2026-2027