

The associate degree at MiraCosta College provides a framework within which students complete patterns of learning experiences designed to develop capabilities and insights to support their academic and career goals. Among these capabilities and insights are competencies that comprise a general education curriculum. These competencies include the ability

- to think critically and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing,
- to locate, evaluate, and use needed information effectively,
- to engage with diverse perspectives,
- to use quantitative reasoning,
- 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 competencies, students graduating with an associate degree shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest and career pursuit. Majors or areas of emphasis that provide this depth are composed of a minimum of eighteen (18) units. (See Administrative Procedure 4100: Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.)

The MiraCosta College general education pattern (Plan A) for the associate in arts and associate in science degree includes the completion of three units each in Areas 1A and 1B, and three units each in Areas 2 through 6 for a minimum of 21 units. Courses listed in two different areas (1–6) may be used to satisfy a requirement in one area but not both. A course listed in any area (1–6) may satisfy both a general education and a major or area of emphasis requirement.

The Courses and Programs Committee (CPC) determines which courses can be used to implement the district's goals for the associate degree and philosophy of general education. The CPC ensures all general education courses at MiraCosta College fulfill the universal criteria set forth in Board Policy 4025 as well as the discipline-specific criteria outlined below. The general education course approval process is detailed in the Courses and Programs Committee Handbook.

MiraCosta Community College District

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Periodic Review: 5/18/23

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Title 5, §§55060, 55061

ACCJC Standard 2.1, 2.3

34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 602

CCLC Update: #14, 2/08; #25, 11/14

Steering: CPC / AS

Specific courses within the GE program at MiraCosta College fulfill the following

criteria as related to their area of specialty:

1. Area 1—English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum 6 units), including the following:
 - Area 1A—English Composition (minimum 3 units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include both expository and argumentative writing.
 - Area 1B—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.
2. Area 2—Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum 3 units). 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.
3. Area 3—Arts and Humanities (minimum 3 units). Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. These 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;
 - aesthetic understandings; and,
 - ability 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.

4. Area 4—Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum 3 units). These courses focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They also stimulate critical thinking about the ways 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.

5. Area 5—Natural Sciences (minimum 3 units). These courses examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. They help 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.

6. Area 6—Ethnic Studies (minimum 3 units). 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 Studies, Latino/a/x Studies, La Raza Studies
- Asian American Studies

Students may satisfy the requirements for any MiraCosta College general education area (1-6) through submission of an official transcript that demonstrates the completion of one of the following:

- A course at another California community college approved for the same general education area.
- A course at an institution accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency in a comparable general education area.
- A comparable course at an institution accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

As an alternative to completing the MiraCosta College general education pattern (Plan A), students may satisfy a the generation education requirement for an associate degree at MiraCosta College through completion of the CSU-GE (Plan B) or IGETC (Plan C) certified general education pattern or a bachelor's or an associate degree from an institution accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency. (See Administrative Procedure 4100: Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.)

Students who have completed courses at MiraCosta College prior to the implementation of Plan A in fall 2011 may use that coursework to meet the Plan A category requirements if the course is approved for Plan A in the catalog year under which they are petitioning for the degree.