

# Instructional Services

Oceanside, Building 1000: 760.795.6812

www.miracosta.edu/instruction

Instructional Services is responsible for the administration of the various educational programs offered by MiraCosta College. With the assistance of department chairs, deans, and faculty, the college's instructional programs are proposed, developed, and implemented for the primary purpose of providing opportunities for students to reach their desired educational goals. Such goals include associate degrees, certificates of achievement and proficiency in many career and technical education areas, and diplomas and certificates in the noncredit program for adults seeking to finish basic or high school education.

## Associate Degrees

MiraCosta College offers the following degrees: Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T), and Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T). The awarding of an associate degree at MiraCosta represents more than an accumulation of units. It also symbolizes a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Students who graduate with an associate degree from MiraCosta possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest and career pursuit.

The associate degree is designed to prepare students either for transfer to a four-year college or university or for immediate employment. The academic disciplines as well as the career and technical disciplines for which MiraCosta offers an associate degree are identified on the Associate Degrees & Certificate Programs table (p. 64).

Although the associate degree recognizes the completion of lower-division course requirements, it does not guarantee admission to a four-year college or university.

### Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.) Requirements

Students who wish to earn an associate degree from MiraCosta must meet the following requirements (per MCCC Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 4100).

#### Major & Grades

Students must complete a minimum of 18 units in a chosen major or area of emphasis and complete each course with a "C" or better (or a "P" if the course is taken on a "pass/no pass" basis). Students may use courses to satisfy both a general education and a major requirement.

#### General Education

Students have three general education patterns from which to choose but are strongly encouraged to consult with a MiraCosta counselor for assistance in selecting the general

education pattern that is most appropriate for their educational goal.

- ▶ **Plan A:** Completion of MiraCosta College General Education Requirements (Plan A (p. 57))\*
- ▶ **Plan B:** Completion and certification of California State University General Education (CSU GE) Breadth (Plan B (p. 74))
- ▶ **Plan C:** Completion and certification of University of California/California State University Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC; Plan C (p. 78)).

While a course might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. However, courses may be used to satisfy both a general education and a major requirement.

*\*The Plan A general education requirement may be met by submitting a transcript verifying completion of a bachelor's degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university.*

#### MiraCosta College General Education Outcomes

General education outcomes identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students will be able to demonstrate after completing MiraCosta's general education program.

Outcome	Outcome Description
Effective Communication	Write, speak, read, and otherwise communicate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ accurately within a specified domain</li> <li>▶ to a variety of contexts, audiences, and purposes</li> <li>▶ with clarity of expression</li> <li>▶ logically in both content and organization</li> <li>▶ correctly (e.g., grammar, syntax, punctuation)</li> <li>▶ in a mature style</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Define and analyze problems clearly</li> <li>▶ Think independently, creatively, and logically</li> <li>▶ Reason</li> <li>▶ Apply appropriate problem solving methods</li> <li>▶ Combine evidence to support a theory or argument</li> <li>▶ Analyze and synthesize multiple types of information from multiple perspectives</li> <li>▶ Display skeptical inquiry</li> </ul>

## Global Awareness (and Responsible Citizenship)

- ▶ Display awareness of logical and global issues
- ▶ Value and respect diversity
- ▶ Value and respect multiple perspectives
- ▶ Value his or her place and role in a global community
- ▶ Make informed decisions
- ▶ Recognize the ethical implications of personal behavior
- ▶ Recognize the ethical implications of political, social, and economic institutions
- ▶ Demonstrate good citizenship in the classroom, workplace, and community

## Information Literacy

- ▶ Assess an information need and develop an effective search strategy
- ▶ Locate and gather relevant information resources using appropriate technologies
- ▶ Critically evaluate information and information sources
- ▶ Organize and/or synthesize information
- ▶ Effectively communicate information using appropriate technologies
- ▶ Recognize ethical and legal issues surrounding the use of information
- ▶ Display ethical behavior in the use of information

## Productive Work Habits

- ▶ Display intellectual curiosity
- ▶ Demonstrate the ability to work independently and collaboratively
- ▶ Display strong work ethics and responsibility
- ▶ Participate in activities in the classroom, workplaces, and community
- ▶ Display strong academic and workplace ethics, such as good study habits, time management, organizational skills, and efficient and appropriate use of campus resources

## Aesthetic Literacy and Appreciation

- ▶ Recognize diverse elements of beauty and form
- ▶ Identify and differentiate artistic elements and techniques
- ▶ Recognize the value of artistic expression in visual and performing arts, literature, and language
- ▶ Appraise artistic experiences with informed sensitivity

**Units**

Students must complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable units of credit.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all units attempted at MiraCosta and a combined 2.0 grade point average, including all work transferred to the college that is to be included in the degree evaluation. A grade of "A," "B," "C," or "P" is required for all courses to be counted toward an associate degree major or area of emphasis.

Students may need a higher GPA for admission to a University of California campus or to UC/CSU impacted programs and majors than is required for MiraCosta's associate degree.

**Residency**

Complete a minimum of 12 units in residence at MiraCosta College.

**Competencies**

All students seeking an associate degree must demonstrate competence in reading, written expression, and mathematics. However, achievement of minimum competency does not mean students have met course-work requirements for the associate degree.

*Note: These competencies are met when students complete either the CSU GE-Breadth (Plan B) or IGETC (Plan C) general education pattern or submit an official transcript verifying completion of a bachelor's degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university.*

**Reading:** Reading competency must be demonstrated by completing **one** of the following options:

- ▶ Achieve a qualifying score on the reading component of the MiraCosta College English Assessment that gives a recommendation for READ 100 (p. 54)
- ▶ Present proof of achieving one of the following minimum test scores:
  - ▶ A passing score on the CSU English Placement Exam
  - ▶ A score of 3, 4, or 5 on a College Board Advanced Placement English Examination
  - ▶ A score of 5 or better on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level English Test.
- ▶ Complete one of the following with a minimum grade of "C" or "P": READ 100; ENGL 100, ENGL 201, ENGL 201H, ENGL 202, ENGL 202H; or equivalent.