

The MiraCosta Community College District's associate degree and general education programs are consistent with the college's mission, vision, and core values.

The associate degree at MiraCosta College provides a framework within which students complete patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights to support their academic and career goals. Among these capabilities and insights are skills and competencies that comprise a general education curriculum. In addition, students graduating with an associate degree shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest and career pursuit.

The MiraCosta College general education program introduces students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world by providing opportunities for students to engage with the arts and humanities, sciences, mathematics, and social sciences. It ensures students who receive their degrees have mastered principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines.

All courses designated for general education (GE) at MiraCosta College must fulfill the following universal criteria:

- **Level:** Each GE course is baccalaureate-level and may be introductory or integrative. Integrative courses draw broad connections between multiple perspectives and methodologies and demonstrate relationships within or between disciplines.
- **Rigor:** Each GE course treats subject matter with a level of intellectual intensity that requires independent study.
- **Scope:** Each GE course introduces the student to a wide range of principles, perspectives, and knowledge within the discipline.
- **Autonomy:** Each GE course is a whole unto itself and not primarily part of a sequence of courses; i.e., each course provides exposure to foundations and fundamental tenets of the discipline.

- Breadth: Each GE course provides a generalizing rather than specializing experience within the subject matter of the discipline. It relates knowledge within the discipline to other fields and disciplines, as well as to contemporary society.
- Critical thinking: Each GE course develops the student's aptitude for conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information.
- Communication and literacy: Each GE course provides opportunities for the student to develop and demonstrate both orally and in writing the ability to read, comprehend, and evaluate college-level material.
- Relevancy: Each GE course relies upon current knowledge, technology, and instructional materials to achieve its objectives, as appropriate.

In modifying its general education program, the MiraCosta Community College District will continue to seek coherence and integration among the separate requirements and to establish a general education program that actively involves students in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

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. These procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.