

El Camino College recognizes the importance of educating individuals who will serve the local, state, national, and international communities. The associate degree requirements lead students through a general education pattern designed to encourage the development of broad knowledge in core subjects and the acquisition of sufficient depth in a specific field of knowledge.

The awarding of an associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It recognizes a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the following:

- to think and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
- to use mathematics;
- 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;
- to develop the capacity for self-understanding; and
- to engage in lifelong learning.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest. Each associate degree offered by the college shall contain a pattern of general education and major courses selected to assure the collection of experiences, capabilities, and insights.

Central to an associate degree, general education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction of colleges that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College-educated individuals must be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, general education should lead to better self-understanding. Courses approved for inclusion in the general education requirements shall be evaluated as meeting this philosophy.

In establishing or modifying a general education program, coherence and integration among the separate requirements should be sought. It is also desirable that general education programs involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major society problems.

The Superintendent/President shall, in consultation with the Academic Senate, develop and submit to the Board for approval procedures to assure that courses used to fulfill general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards used in this policy.

El Camino College

Adopted: 7/15/13

Revised: 8/17/20