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**Administrative Procedure**  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

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**AP 4025    Philosophy and Criteria for Bachelor Degree, Associate Degree and General Education**

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061;  
2024 ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A 2

The philosophy and criteria for the associate degree and general education should address the considerations contained in the references listed above. These include, but are not limited to:

- 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 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.

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.



With primary reliance on Academic Senate leadership, the Colleges will engage students, classified professionals, administrators, and relevant external stakeholders in articulating their philosophy of education and criteria for degrees and general education as guided and/or required by:

- California Community Colleges Vision for Success
- District and College missions
- Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees Priorities
- Accreditation bodies
- Legislation

The Colleges will document their processes for:

- Curriculum development and approval
- Approval of general education status
- Approval of baccalaureate degree programs
- Approval of associate degree programs
- Communication and collaboration between the Colleges

Documentation shall include the positions responsible for accomplishing essential tasks and the timeline by which they must be completed within a typical cycle.

Also see BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education, BP/AP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates, and BP/AP 4220 Standards of Scholarship.

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**Approved:** 4/28/23;

**Revised:**