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**Board Policy**  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

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**BP 4025 Philosophy of and Criteria for Associate Degrees and General Education**

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061; and 55090 et seq.;  
2024 ACCJC Accreditation Standard 2

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize 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 ability 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, and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

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 persons must be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most important, general education should lead to better understanding.

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



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The District may offer baccalaureate degrees. The District's philosophy on general education shall extend to the baccalaureate degree, and the District's goals for the baccalaureate shall include addressing unmet local and regional workforce needs.

The Chancellor shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.

~~A democratic society is dependent on the educational attainment of its individual members; therefore, it is important that De Anza and Foothill, as community colleges, offer educational opportunity to all members of the community who demonstrate that they are capable of profiting from such opportunity.~~

~~The Colleges, relying on the Academic Senate and with the full involvement of the Associated Students and the administration, shall develop curriculum and strict academic standards which will challenge all students to strive to their highest capacities.~~

Grounded in the mission of the Foothill-De Anza Community College, the district and its colleges provide access to affordable, quality educational programs and services that develop a broadly educated and socially responsible community that supports an equitable and just future for California and the global community. Every member of the district contributes to a dynamic instructional and learning environment that fosters student engagement, equal opportunity, and innovation in meeting the various educational and career goals of our diverse students. Foothill-De Anza is driven by an equity agenda and core values of integrity, inclusion, care for our students' well-being, and sustainability.

Also see AP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education, AP 4021 Program Discontinuance, and BP/AP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates.

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**Revised:** 3/2/98,

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