

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of the graduation requirements as approved by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees and stated in either the Irvine Valley College or Saddleback College catalog, and filed with the State chancellor's Office, the Board of Trustees will confer the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science Degree per Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 55800-55810.

- I. The South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees shall confer the degree of Associate in Arts or Associate in Science upon a student who has demonstrated competence in reading, written expression and mathematics, and who has satisfactorily completed at least 60 semester units of college work. This course work requirement must be fulfilled in a curriculum accepted toward the degree by either college in the district (as shown in its catalog). It must include at least 18 semester units in general education and at least 18 semester units in a major as prescribed in this section. Of the required units, at least 12 semester units must be completed in residence at the college granting the degree. Exceptions to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees when it determines that an injustice or undue hardship would be placed on the student.
 - A. Major Requirements. At least 18 semester units of study taken in a single discipline or related disciplines, as listed in the California Community Colleges "Taxonomy of Programs" shall be required.
 - B. General Education Requirements. Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester units of general education, including a minimum of three semester units in each of the areas (1), (2), and (3) and the same minimum in each part of (4). The remainder of the unit requirement is also to be selected from among these four divisions of learning:
 1. Natural Sciences. Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

2. Social and Behavioral Sciences. Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.
3. Humanities. Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in the humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop an aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.
4. Language and Rationality. Courses in language that cover the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.
 - a. English Composition. Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of the course typically known as Freshmen Composition (either Freshman Composition or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to the subchapter 6 of this chapter (commencing with Section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this competency requirements and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(i) of this section. The competency requirements for written expression may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in English taught in or on behalf of other departments and which, as determined by the local governing board, require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for Freshman composition. Requirements for demonstrating competency in reading shall be locally determined.

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- b. Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.
 - 5. Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to subchapter 6 of this chapter (commencing with Section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified mathematics course. Satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at the level of Intermediate Algebra shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(ii) of this section. The competency requirements for mathematics may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in mathematics taught in or on behalf of other departments and which, as determined by the local governing board, require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for Intermediate Algebra.
 - C. While a course might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. A course may be used to satisfy both a general education requirement and a major requirement.
 - D. Ethnic studies will be offered in at least one of the required areas as listed in Section I-B.
- II. PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

As specified in Title 5, Section 55805, the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees adopts the following as its philosophy on general education consistent with the policy of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

General education requirements are at the heart of what is broadly acknowledged as the fundamental foundation for higher education. These requirements are ambitious and designed to develop a breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding, insights and skills. They include competencies in reading, critical thinking, writing and basic mathematics. The courses that meet the general education requirements are designed to help students:

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- (a) develop and refine the skills needed to acquire knowledge and communicate effectively;
- (b) employ science as a dynamic method of observation;
- (c) appreciate individuals as members of society or components of society;
- (d) study culture for increased aesthetic enlightenment and appreciation of creative contributions;
- (e) expand their understandings of American institutions and ideals; and
- (f) gain experiences leading to a better self-understanding.

III. TYPES OF COURSES APPROPRIATE TO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE (TITLE 5, SECTION 55805.5)

The criteria established by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees to implement its philosophy on the associate degree shall permit only courses that conform to the standards specified in Section 55002(a) and that fall into the following categories to be offered for associate degree credit:

- A. All lower division courses accepted toward the baccalaureate degree by the California State University or University of California or designed to be offered for transfer.
 - B. Courses that apply to the major in non-baccalaureate occupational fields.
 - C. English courses not more than one level below the first transfer level composition courses.
 - D. All mathematical courses above and including elementary algebra.
- IV. Each college shall review, define and publish its general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements consistent with Title V and this board policy. Any revisions to the general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements shall be subject to approval by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees.