ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Degree Earned

1.1 The degree of Associate in Arts, Associate in Arts for Transfer, Associate in Science, or Associate in Science for Transfer can be earned through any College in the Los Rios Community College District.

1.2 The Associate in Arts degree and the Associate in Science degree may be conferred upon students qualified to transfer to a four-year college or university as well as upon those completing their formal education in a two-year vocational program as outlined in the catalog of any of the Colleges of the District. The Associate in Arts for Transfer degree and the Associate in Science for Transfer degree were created by SB 1440 (2010) to allow students to transfer to the California State University with junior status upon the completion of prescribed requirements.

1.3 In accordance with law and with the rules and regulations of the California Community College Board of Governors and the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees, the requirements for the degree Associate in Arts, Associate in Arts for Transfer, Associate in Science, or Associate in Science for Transfer are defined below.

2.0 Associate in Arts or the Associate in Science Graduation Requirements

2.1 Number of Units

2.1.1 Satisfactory completion of a minimum of sixty (60) units of degree-applicable lower-division credit courses with a "C" (2.0) grade point average, provided that twelve (12) units must be earned in residence at the District.

1.3.1.1 All reference to "units" in this policy is to "semester units."

2.1.2 Units of credit are assigned to courses based on the "Carnegie unit," which assigns one unit of credit for three (3) hours of work by the student per week. Usually this means one (1) hour of lecture or discussion led by the instructor and two (2) hours of outside preparation by the student. In laboratory courses, three (3) hours of work in the laboratory are normally assigned one (1) unit of credit which may include some additional preparation outside of class time.

2.2 Major Field of Study

2.2.1 Satisfactory completion of a minimum of eighteen (18) units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis from those specified in the catalog of each College with a minimum grade of "C" or the equivalent for any class in a major.

2.2.1.1 A "major" is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline.

2.2.1.2 An "area of emphasis" is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing students with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.

2.3 General Education Requirements

2.3.1 Each College of the District will publish in its catalog a specific philosophy of general education. The following will serve as a pattern for the Colleges in the development of their individual philosophy statements.

2.3.1.1 The primary function of education is to transmit from each generation to the next the knowledge and skills requisite to enlarge the comprehension of our place in the universe. Los Rios Colleges are committed to the principle of providing general education which includes: English Composition, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking; Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning; Arts and Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Natural Sciences; Ethnic Studies, and other courses that provide for life-long learning and understanding, and that explore the significance of work, production, consumption and leisure in the lives of individuals. All of these are basic and necessary to participate in and contribute to a balanced life in a democratic society that is diverse in its social, cultural, and educational backgrounds.

2.3.1.2 A comprehensive education serves to develop the creativity, critical thinking, ethical behavior, and self-understanding which are essential to the attainment of personal goals and to participate in a society characterized by increasing global interdependence and by rapid and significant change.

2.3.1.3 Therefore, the purpose of general education is to give breadth to the college experience, enhance the ability to learn, and insure an appropriate level of competency. The general education program thus provides coherence to undergraduate education and affords students the opportunity to develop an integrated overview of the diverse fields of human knowledge.

2.3.2 The courses allowed by the Colleges of the District for the fulfillment of the general education requirements shall be introductory in nature and usually without course prerequisites. The content of the courses should encompass broad fields of knowledge, covering major principles and their

applications to a wide field or fields. The intent should be to provide the students with an understanding and appreciation of a significant body of knowledge and give to the students a basis for evaluating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live.

2.3.3 Students receiving an Associate degree must satisfactorily complete twenty-four (24) units in general education selected from the following areas as indicated:

2.3.3.1 Natural Sciences (three [3] units minimum)

Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms and its natural phenomena, helping the students appreciate and understand the scientific method, and the relationships between science and other human activities. This category includes introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

2.3.3.2 Social and Behavioral Sciences (three [3] units minimum)

2.3.3.3 Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category includes introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines. Arts and Humanities (three [3] units minimum)

Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and develop students' aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. This category includes introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

2.3.3.4 English Composition, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (six [6] units: three [3] units each from (a) and (b))

Courses in English composition, oral communication and critical thinking are those which use and examine principles and guidelines of clear and logical thinking and communication.

Courses in this category should build upon rather than remediate verbal and quantitative skills.

(a) English Composition. Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

(b) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking. Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate level and include oral and critical thinking courses. Critical thinking courses develop an awareness of the relationship of language to logic, resulting in the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas, to reason inductively and deductively, and to identify the assumptions upon which particular conclusions depend

2.3.3.5 Living Skills (three [3] units minimum)

One physical education activity course (with ADAPT, DANCE, FITNS, PACT, SPORT, or TMACT designators) must be taken in this area and a minimum of two (2) units from the other courses included in this category. Adapted physical education courses are available for students with documented physical disabilities. These Adapted courses will fulfill the graduation requirement.

Courses in this area may be selected from a number of different disciplines that help students to acquire skills and knowledge to understand themselves as whole persons (integral to their environment). This category includes the study of courses that develop and maintain personal, social, physical and emotional well-being. It is the intent that this area include such courses as health education, human sexuality, marriage and family, nutrition, and personal adjustment.

2.3.3.5.1 Students with medical excuses may petition to be exempted from the physical activity course requirement when appropriate adapted physical education classes are not offered at the location where the student takes the majority of their course work.

Students not completing a physical activity course on the basis of this exemption shall be required to complete a minimum of three (3) units in other courses in the Living Skills area.

2.3.3.5.2 Students in majors with forty-five (45) units or more of required coursework are exempted from the Living Skills requirement. Each college shall set up a process to apply this exemption.

2.3.3.6 Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (three [3] units minimum)

Courses in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning develop students' abilities to draw conclusions from numerical information, use formal reasoning processes, practice computational skills, and apply mathematical concepts or formal reasoning to solve real-world problems. Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and include mathematics and quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer programming languages, and related disciplines.

2.3.3.7 Ethnic Studies (three [3] units minimum)

Courses in ethnic studies must be baccalaureate level and include courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies or introductory courses which survey the four areas: (1) Black Studies, African American Studies, Africana Studies, (2) Native American Studies, (3) Chicano/a/x, Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies, and (4) Asian American Studies.

2.3.4 While a course might satisfy more than one (1) general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. Courses which are a part of the major requirement and meet the intent of these general education guidelines may be used to satisfy both requirements.

2.3.5 Each College shall set up a process that will involve the review of courses submitted to meet the objectives and criteria of general education.

2.3.6 Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the Associate in Arts or the Associate in Science degree. Degrees from accredited institutions outside of the United States will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Degrees or courses from non-accredited institutions will not be considered.

2.3.7 Students who have completed the requirements for the Cal-GETC lower-division general education pattern will have satisfied the general education requirements for the Associate in Arts or the Associate in Science degree.

3.0 Credit by Examination

3.1 Any specific course requirement may be satisfied by the procedures established for credit by examination.

4.0 Transfer Graduation Requirements (SB 1440):

4.1 For curricula approved pursuant to SB 1440 (2010) by the Board of Trustees (approved curriculum), the graduation requirements for the Associate in Arts for Transfer and Associate in Science for Transfer degrees shall consist entirely of the following requirements which also satisfy all basic skills competency requirements:

4.1.1 Successful completion of sixty (60) semester units eligible for transfer to the California State University, which shall include satisfaction of the following two (2) requirements:

4.1.1.1 Completion of one (1) or the following General Education Patterns:

4.1.1.1.1 The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), effective for students enrolled prior to Fall 2025; or

4.1.1.1.2 The California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements, effective for students enrolled prior to Fall 2025; or

4.1.1.1.3 The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC), effective for students enrolled on or after Fall 2025.

4.1.1.2 Completion of at least eighteen (18) semester units in a major or area of emphasis identified in the approved curriculum

4.1.2 A minimum grade point average of 2.0.

5.0 Courses Specified

5.1 Each College within the District shall specify in its College catalog the courses that may be taken by a student in each of the required areas listed above. Requirements satisfied at one College will be accepted by any other College within the District.

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Policy Revised: 12/6/72; 4/17/74; 1/28/81; 4/21/82; 1/19/83; 2/1/84; 7/27/88; 3/18/92; 3/1/00; 11/5/03; 6/18/08; 3/14/12; 9/9/15; 5/10/17; 12/18/24
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