
Kern Community College District
Board Policy
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Degree and General Education

Reference:

Title 5 Section 55061:
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

Note: This policy is legally required.

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

The awarding of an Associate degree and, where a college has been approved to offer a Baccalaureate degree, is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of each respective college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability to think and 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, students shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

Central to an Associate degree, and in those cases, also a Baccalaureate 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 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 establishment of, or modification to, a general education program, methods shall be implemented to create coherence and integration among the separate requirements. It is also desirable that general education programs actively involve students in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major societal issues.

The District Chancellor or designee shall establish procedures to assure that courses applied to meet general education—Associate degree, and/or Baccalaureate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.