
AP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees & Certificates

Reference:

Title 5, Sections 55060 et seq.; 55270 et seq.; and 55151 et seq.;
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook

- 1.0 The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code Section 78213.
 - 1.1 The courses must include at least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.
 - 1.2 A "major" is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation must be designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.
 - 1.3 An "area of emphasis" is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.
 - 1.4 The courses must include at least 22 semester units or 28-31.5 quarter units of general education. General education must include a minimum of work in (1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking, (2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, (3) Arts and Humanities, (4) Social and Behavioral Sciences, (5) Natural Sciences, and (6) Ethnic Studies.
- 2.0 The District will award an associate degree to students who fulfill the coursework requirements described above or completed the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University and who met the following conditions:
 - 2.1 The student satisfactorily completed at least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of study in residence. The Board of Trustees may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.
 - 2.2 The student satisfactorily completed each course counted toward the major or area of emphasis requirement with a grade of "C" or better, or of "P" if the course is taken on a "pass-no pass" basis.
 - 2.3 The student completed the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If a student accumulates units beyond those required for the degree that lower the student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, the District may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point

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average fulfill all major or area of emphasis and general education requirements.

- 2.4 Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other institutionally accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements. A course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.
 - 2.5 Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.
 - 2.6 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 degree.
 - 2.7 Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward the satisfaction of requirements for an associate degree.
 - 2.8 Students who intend to transfer shall be advised of limitations transfer institutions may place on the transferability of credits, based on institutional accreditation, course modality, and any other relevant factors.
- 3.0 For the Bachelor's degree, a student must demonstrate competency in critical thinking through writing, oral communication, or computation.
- 3.1 Students must satisfactorily complete requirements for relevant Associate degree (60 semester units or 90 quarter units of college work) or equivalent.
 - 3.2 Students must satisfactorily complete at least 40 upper division semester units or equivalent including the major and general education courses.
 - 3.3 Students must satisfactorily complete a total degree units of at least 120 semester units or equivalent.
 - 3.4 Students must satisfactorily complete 37 units of IGETC lower division general education coursework or 39 units CSU GE Breadth lower division general education coursework, or previously awarded baccalaureate degree; a minimum of 9 units of Upper Division General Education course work is required.
 - 3.5 Students must satisfactorily complete at least 24 semester units or equivalent of upper division course work in residence; exceptions to the residence requirement can be made by the Board of Trustees or its designee when an injustice or undue hardship would result.
- 4.0 District policies and procedures regarding general education and degree requirements must be published in the college catalog and must be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

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- 5.0 For a certificate of achievement, a student must successfully complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 16 or more semester units or 24 or more quarter units of degree-applicable credit coursework. The certificate of achievement shall be designed to demonstrate that the student has completed coursework and developed capabilities relating to career or general education.
- 5.1 Shorter credit programs that lead to a certificate may be established by the District.
- 5.2 Content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of North Orange County Community College District, meet a demonstrated need, are feasible, and adhere to guidelines on academic achievement.
- 5.3 Certificates for which California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office approval is not sought may be given any name or designation deemed appropriate except for certificate of achievement, certificate of completion, or certificate of competency.
- 5.4 For a certificate of completion or competency, a student must complete a noncredit educational program of eligible courses or demonstrate a set of competencies to prepare for a career path and degree-applicable or non-degree-applicable courses.
- 5.5 For an adult high school diploma, a student must complete 160 high school credits with 20 residency credits completed at North Orange Continuing Education. High school credits may be granted for previous equivalent courses.
- 6.0 The District may obtain approval of a direct assessment competency-based program from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

See Board Policy 4100, Graduation Requirements for Degrees & Certificates.

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