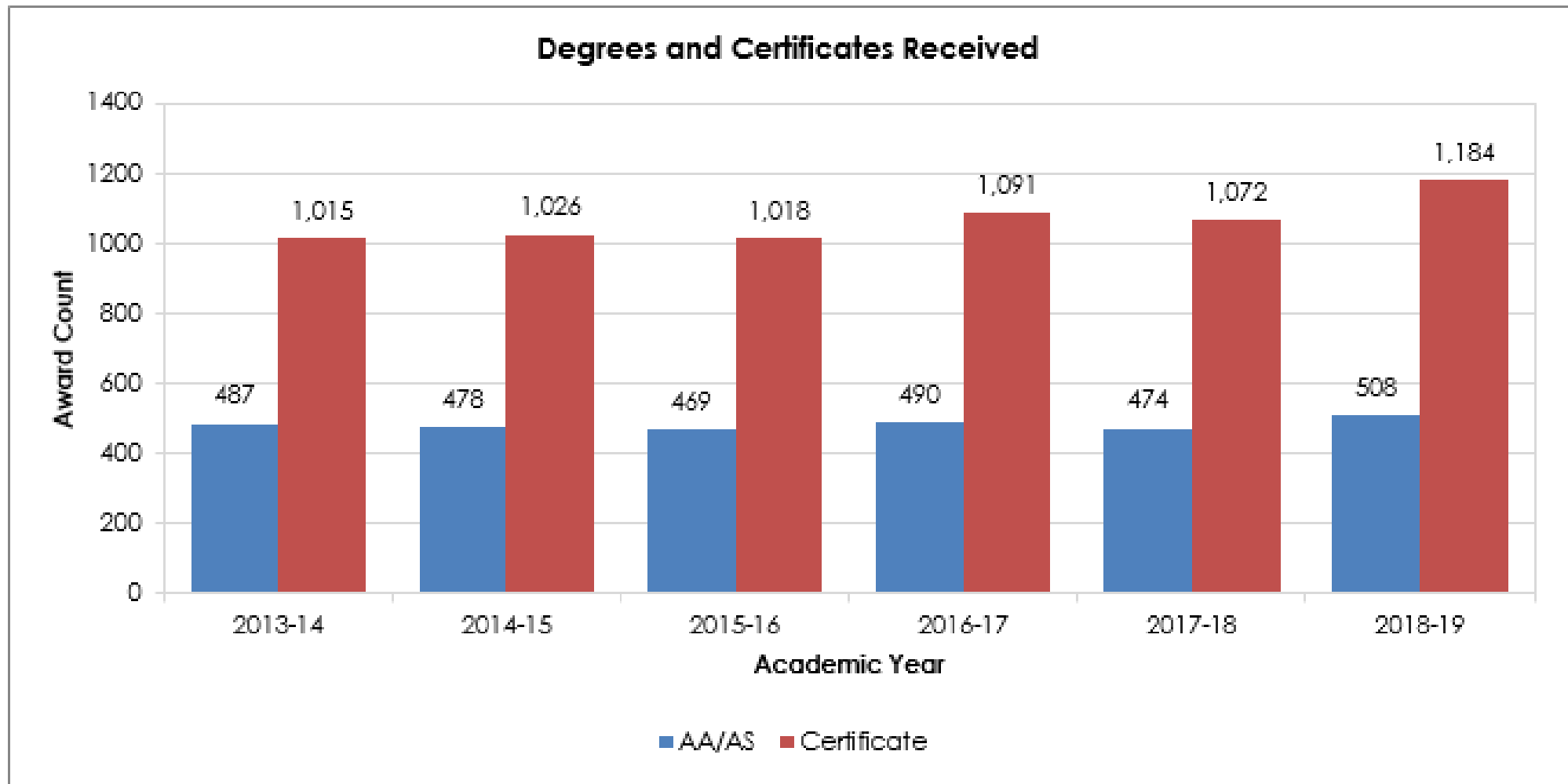
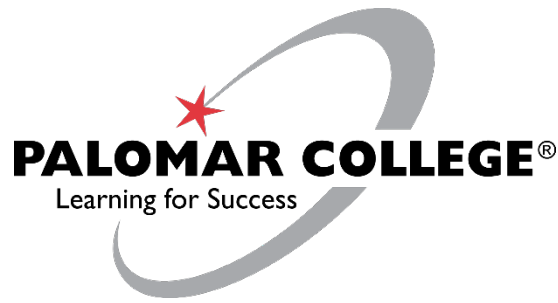


University Studies

10 programs representing close to 23% of all program awards

Business	Culture & Society	Education	Fine & Performing Arts	Health & Fitness
Humanities	Mathematics and Science	Media & Communication	Social Sciences	World Languages





Area of Emphasis

- 2009 – Title 5 changed to void all Liberal Studies AA degrees
- Area of Emphasis degrees

AOE vs. Major

Title 5 55063:

A **major** must consist of a minimum of 18 semester units of required courses or restricted electives and must serve to prepare a student for employment or transfer in a specific area of study

Examples:

- Associate of Arts in Psychology
- Associate of Science in Landscape Architecture

Title 5 55063:

An **area of emphasis** is courses that are considered to be in “related disciplines” that share commonalities under a broader scope of related subjects or topics

Example:

- Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts - Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences (might include sociology, psychology, Mexican-American studies, and history courses)

“Related Disciplines”

Courses can be included together in an area of emphasis if they are either:

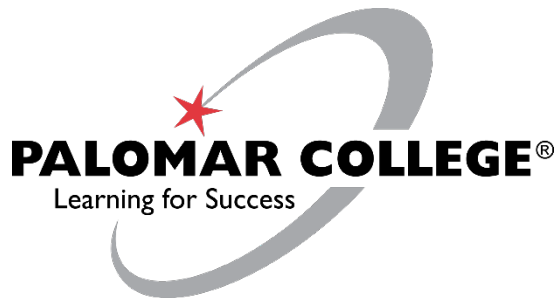
- courses in the same GE area*, or
- courses defined by a local process to be related
 - Curriculum committee may define criteria for “related disciplines” and document in its local process and in narrative/supporting docs sent to the Chancellor’s Office.

*Note: Courses in the same GE area does not necessarily guarantee that courses are related in content! Courses in the same GE area can be considered a starting point for a discussion about patterns of courses and the meaning of area of emphasis for the students.

Determining Related Courses

For traditional or “local” associate degrees, local curriculum committees with purview and responsibility for approving programs must review an AOE degree to ensure that courses in the program either:

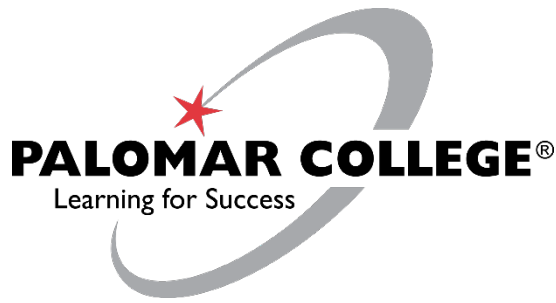
- fall within the same GE areas defined by [title 5 §55063](#), or
- meet locally defined and documented criteria



General Education Areas

- Title 5 55063 defines general education areas:
 - Natural Science
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Humanities
 - Language and Rationality

Curriculum committee decides which courses are placed into GE pattern following outcomes defined by Title 5



Justification

Local AOE degrees are streamlined and auto approved, but Chancellor's Office will conduct periodic reviews.

Beginning November/December 2019 colleges may follow simplified rules for submission based on program requirements of the AOE degree:

1. Restricted electives only (no core requirements), identical to a local or transfer GE area
2. All other types

These changes will be included in the fall certification memo from the Chancellor's Office.

Supporting Documentation

When the Chancellor’s Office conducts periodic reviews, they will look to ensure that the college can document and support the rationale they give for creating the AOE degree.

For local degrees, supporting documentation is defined by the goal(s) of the program, as described in the narrative. Include supporting documentation for the goal type(s) as outlined in the [PCAHA \(6th ed\)](#), in section 4 entitled Local Degrees: AA and AS. For example:

- If a college justifies an AOE degree by saying it prepares students for employment or allows them to earn higher wages, they may provide LMI data. Since the program goal for the AOE degrees is local, providing LMI data is a suggestion; it is not REQUIRED.
- If the degree title, description, or narrative mentions or implies transfer (ex: “University Studies”), the college must provide transfer documentation as outlined in PCAHA (6th ed p.82)
- If the degree meets a unique local need, the college should be able to provide some evidence of that, such as letters of support, survey data, etc.

Curriculum Committee Role

- Ask tough questions: What is the purpose? Is the rationale focused on students (vs SCFF/completion)? Are program goals clear to students?
- Require documentation in local review/approval process
- Counseling to put students on right path for their goals
- Regular SLO/PLO assessment and program review