

**INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

**AP 4025 PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
AND GENERAL EDUCATION**

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061  
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

District procedures regarding Associate Degrees and General Education will follow from the philosophy and criteria expressed in BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria of Associate Degree and General Education and from the requirements delineated in pertinent sections of the Education Code, Title 5, and Accreditation Standards.

The associate degree at Palomar College consists of a minimum of 60 semester units that include 18 units of general education in addition to fulfilling the district requirement in these areas: ethnic studies, mathematics, health and fitness, and American history and institutions/California government. The associate degree is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in communication; computation; creative, critical and analytical thinking; and community, cultural diversity, global consciousness and responsibility. In addition, students graduating with an associate degree shall possess sufficient depth by completing at least 18 semester units in an associate degree major listed in the college catalog. Of the total required units, at least 12 semester units must be completed in residence at the college.

The General Education requirements are designed to ensure that students meet the following General Education Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing.
- Reason and solve quantitative problems from a wide array of authentic contexts and everyday life situations.
- Think critically when reading and processing information; approach issues with an awareness of one's own assumptions, values, and biases; and present sound arguments supported by evidence.
- Develop a critical consciousness of the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, ability, and marginalized identities in relation to power structures. Find and use sound information and work with others to problem-solve, address current and future societal issues, and improve community life.
- Recognize ethical dilemmas, and consider integrity, honesty, and the welfare of others in the ethical decision-making process.
- Apply foundational methods of inquiry of diverse disciplines.
- Integrate and apply learning toward self-development, community service, civic engagement, employment, and engagement through the arts.

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*(Replaces all previous versions of BP 4025.)*

**Associate Degree Requirements**

- 60-degree applicable semester units.
- At least 18 semester units of study must be taken in a defined major or in an area of emphasis involving lower division coursework which prepares students for a field of study or for a specific major at the University of California or the California State University. These majors along with the general education and district requirements are listed in the Palomar College catalog.

**District requirements to include:**

- **American History and Institutions/California Government:**

American History courses will include a coverage of at least one hundred years of history focusing on the diverse peoples and experiences of those who lived in the geographic boundaries of the United States and its territories. These experiences can be interpreted through the filter of multiple lenses, such as diplomatic, ethnic, intellectual, political, institutional, economic, legal, technological, military, and social histories. Early American History courses shall include discussions of the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; the second half of American History shall include the evolution of political rights to new constituent groups and a discussion of California Government and Institutions.

- **Mathematics:**

Students will be able to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. Students will be able to use quantitative analysis, calculation, and criticize quantitative arguments in confronting information.

- **Health and Fitness:**

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding that the dimensions of wellness are interrelated: Physical, Interpersonal, Intellectual, Mental, Spiritual, Environmental, Cultural, Occupational, Financial. This requirement is designed to promote personal responsibility in overall health, chronic disease prevention and lifelong wellness. Courses that satisfy the health and fitness competency require students to apply health and fitness principles ideal for improving cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, balance, alignment and posture ideal for improving overall wellness, reducing risk factors for chronic disease, and improving quality of life.

- **Ethnic Studies:**

Courses in ethnic studies are interdisciplinary and include studies of race and ethnicity, as understood through the perspectives of underrepresented racial and Indigenous groups in the United States. Students will draw upon many disciplines and areas of thought to comprehend the sociocultural, intellectual, and historical experiences that inform the construction of racial, gender, and cultural identities.

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Students will question the origin and continuity of race and racism and understand systems of power and domination, activism, and resistance from Black, Indigenous, Mexican/Latinx, and Asian communities.

**General Education requirements to include:**

- **Area A: Language and Rationality.**

Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student 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.

- **Area B: Natural Sciences.**

Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life 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.

- **Area C: 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 throughout 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 aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments.

- **Area D: Social and Behavioral Sciences.**

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To fulfill the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the method 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.

- **Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development.**

Courses in lifelong learning and self-development are those which focus on lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Faculty Senate and Instructional Services

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