
**Kern Community College
District Administrative Procedure
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs**

AP 4025 **Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education**

Accreditation Related

References:

Title 5 Section 55061:
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

Note: This procedure is legally required.

The philosophy and criteria for the associate degree and general education should address the considerations contained in the references listed above. These include, but are not limited to:

- The programs of the College are consistent with the institutional mission, purposes, demographics and economics of its community.
- The philosophy and criteria regarding the associate degree references the policy of the Board of Governors that the associate degree symbolizes a successful attempt to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insight, including:
 - The ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively orally and writing;
 - Use mathematics;
 - Understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines;
 - Be aware of other cultures and times; and
 - Achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

The philosophy and criteria regarding general education references the policy of the Board of Governors that general education should lead to better self-understanding, including:

- General education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world.
- General education introduces the content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge and provides an opportunity for students to develop intellectual skills, information technology facility, affective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

**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.