

Graduation with an Associate Degree Requirements

The California State Board of Education has authorized the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees to confer the Associate in Arts degree and the Associate in Science degree upon students receiving the recommendation of Cerro Coso Community College faculty. The Associate in Arts degree (AA) is awarded primarily in the liberal arts areas and is intended for students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. The Associate in Science degree (AS) is awarded in well-defined programs in science, technical, and vocational fields of study.

A candidate for either degree must complete the requirements outlined below (1 through 6) and must file a petition at the beginning of the semester in which all requirements will be completed. An alternate plan is to complete the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or CSU General Education Certification and a minimum of 60 transferable units.

1. **Total Units:** Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 60 associate degree semester units. Units applied to meet graduation requirements cannot include pre-collegiate basic skills courses. These courses are not degree applicable. See Course Numbering System on page 107 for more information.
2. **Scholarship:** A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 ("C" average) in all courses required for the degree.
3. **Residence:** At least 12 of the 60 semester units must be completed at Cerro Coso Community College.
4. **Major:** Satisfactory completion of at least 18 semester units in a major program of study. Course work used to satisfy general education requirements can also be used to satisfy major field requirements. All major courses must be completed with a "C" or better.
5. **Minimum Proficiencies for Graduation:** All associate degree students must meet required levels of proficiency standards in the areas of writing, reading, and mathematics for graduation from Cerro Coso Community College.
6. **General Education:** Complete the General Education pattern.

General Education

The awarding of an Associate Degree at Cerro Coso Community College is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is intended to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability to think and to 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.

Central to an Associate Degree, general education reflects the conviction of Cerro Coso Community College that those who receive their degrees share certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both 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. General education should lead to better self-understanding and involve students in actively examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Cerro Coso local general education pattern, students will be able to:

Natural Sciences:

- Effectively communicate scientific results, including graphically, verbally, and in writing.
- Demonstrate competency of the Scientific Method, including the experimental and empirical methodologies characteristic of science and the modern methods and tools used in scientific inquiry.

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

- Describe the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences.
- Evaluate the operation of societies and social sub-groups.

Humanities:

- Describe how people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation.
- Evaluate the significance of artistic and cultural constructions.

Language and Rationality:

- Use clear and precise language to express logical thought.
- Use a complex symbol system to solve problems.

Information Competency:

- Explain the fundamentals of the research process and documentation style.
- Clearly identify types of information needed to address a research problem and evaluate the credibility of sources.

Diversity:

- Describe and analyze the effects of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, disability, and/or religion on human interactions.

Health and Wellness:

- Analyze and apply the principles of health and wellness.

Multiple Majors

Students may be awarded more than one degree in different majors provided that the requirements of all degree programs have been completed. Students who complete the requirements for multiple majors and degrees must apply and qualify for graduation for all programs within the same academic term.

Additional Associate Degrees

Students who hold one Associate degree may qualify for another degree under the conditions that they:

- Complete all current graduation general education requirements, either through acceptance of previous college credits or by additional course work, and
- Complete all required major field courses in a recognized general major or occupational/career program as outlined in this catalog.

When students return to Cerro Coso Community College for an additional degree, they must follow requirements in the catalog for the year in which they return, even if they are continuously enrolled.

Transfer**General Education Options to Transfer**

Universities and colleges prescribe their standards of eligibility for transfer. Students expecting to transfer to a four-year institution should carefully check entrance requirements. Cerro Coso Community College students who maintain high scholarship and who complete the required pattern of courses may expect to make a satisfactory transfer to the institution of their choice and achieve junior standing. Students planning to eventually transfer to a four-year institution should make an appointment with a college counselor or educational advisor at the earliest possible date to plan an appropriate course of study.

Associate Degrees for Transfer

California Community Colleges are now offering associate degrees for transfer to the CSU. These may include Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. California Community College students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission with junior standing somewhere in the CSU system and given priority admission consideration to



GENERAL EDUCATION PATTERNS



Home > Academics > General Education Patterns

GE Pattern Completion

Option A

Option B

Option C

More GE Information

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Central to an Associate Degree, general education reflects the conviction of Cerro Coso Community College that those who receive their degrees share certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both 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. General education should lead to better self-understanding and involve students in actively examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

In order to receive an AA, AS, AA-T, or AS-T, you must complete one of the general education patterns listed below *that is an option for your major*. Note that not every GE pattern is an option for every major. AA-Ts and AS-Ts cannot be completed with Option A. The particular GE options for each major are listed on the major's information page on the college website and in the catalog.

If you're planning to get an Associate Degree or transfer to a four-year institution, make an appointment with a [counselor](#) today to develop an educational plan that best meets *your* goals and needs.

Patterns

Option A: Cerro Coso Local GE

- An option for all Cerro Coso associate degrees. Not an option for AA-Ts or AS-Ts.
- Typically used by students who are not intending to transfer to a four-year university.
- See a [counselor](#) to discuss the GE option that meets your goals and needs.

CCCC – LOCAL GE PATTERN

Option B: CSU Breadth

- An option for all Cerro Coso associate degrees, including AA-Ts and AS-Ts.
- Typically used by students who know they are transferring to a Cal State University
- See a [counselor](#) to discuss the GE option that meets your goals and needs.

CSU GE CERTIFICATION

Option C: IGETC

- An option for all Cerro Coso associate degrees, including AA-Ts or AS-Ts. (except the Spanish AA-T).
- Must be used by students transferring to a University of California
- Can be used by students who are intending to transfer to a Cal State University
- See a [counselor](#) to discuss the GE option that meets your goals and needs.

IGETC CERTIFICATION