

5.20 Guidelines to Implement Associate Degree, Certificate of Completion, and Certificate of Achievement Requirements

Students enrolling after July 1, 1991, must fulfill the Associate Degree General Education requirements specified in the 1991-93 or subsequent catalogs.

Students' catalog rights are based on continuous enrollment in any of the Peralta Colleges, excluding summer session. Students' catalog rights include:

1. The regulations in effect at the time the student entered the college, provided the student has been in continuous attendance until the Degree/Certificate is awarded,*
OR
2. The regulations current at the time the student re-enters the major program and remains in continuous attendance until the Degree/Certificate is awarded,*
OR
3. The regulations current at the time the student files and receives the Degree/Certificate.*

Note: The withdrawal symbol (W) constitutes enrollment.

*All students, regardless of the date of entering any one of the Peralta Colleges, must fulfill the General Education requirements specified in the 1991-93 or subsequent catalogs for the Associate Degree.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:**1. 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 should 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. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

2. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course should help the student develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It should 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. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

3. 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 should 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. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.

4. 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.

- a. English Composition. Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall include both expository and argumentative writing.
- b. Mathematics. Minimum level of elementary algebra.
- c. Computer Literacy. A broad understanding of computer concepts.
- d. Oral or Written Communication, or Literature. Requirement shall include written communication, oral communication, literature, or selected English As A Second Language courses.
- e. COA only: Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines. To satisfy the Communication and Analytical Thinking area, courses taken in Mathematics shall be at the Elementary Algebra level or higher.

5. ETHNIC STUDIES

Ethnic Studies is an intensive and scholarly study of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American experiences in the United States involving an examination of these cultures and the history, social, economic, and political influences on them.

While a course might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. Only Ethnic Studies courses can be counted for more than one purpose. A course may be used to satisfy both a general education requirement and a major requirement. Students may use the same course to meet a general education requirement for the Associate Degree and to partially satisfy a general education requirement at the California State Universities and Colleges in accordance with the provisions of Section 40405 of Title 5.

Summary of General Education Requirements by Units:

A minimum of 3 semester units is required in all areas except computer literacy (Area 4.c.) for which a minimum of 1 semester unit is required.

		<u>Semester Units</u>
1.	Natural Sciences	3
2.	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
3.	Humanities	3
4.	Language and Rationality	
	a. English Composition	3-4
	b. Mathematics	3-4
	c. Computer Literacy	1
	d. Oral or Written Communication, or Literature	3
	e. (COA): Communication and Analytical Thinking	3*
5.	Ethnic Studies	(3)**
Total (Laney, Merritt, Vista):		19-21
*Total (Alameda only):		22-24

**Ethnic Studies will be offered in at least one of the required areas (may be counted in both Ethnic Studies and one other required area).

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

To award a Certificate of Completion as a major in any of the Peralta Colleges, the College shall certify that the following requirements have been met:

- a. Minimum of 18 semester units in the major.
- b. Completion of a specified program of courses with a "C" grade or better in each course.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

To award a Certificate of Achievement in any of the Peralta Colleges, the College shall certify that the following requirements have been met:

- a. 6-17.5 semester units
- b. Completion of specified courses with a "C" grade or better in each course.

CERTIFICATE OF SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

To award a Certificate of Skills in any of the Peralta Colleges, the College shall certify that the following requirements have been met:

- a. Up to and including 5.5 semester units
- b. Completion of specified courses with a "C" grade or better in each course.