

## California Community College General Education

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is seeking feedback on a proposed general education pattern for the associate degree. Please read the history and rationale and then provide comments here [add link]. All feedback is requested by September 30, 2022. There will be a series of webinars for discussion and questions.

### History and Rationale

Title 5 §53200 places the responsibility of recommendations regarding policy development and implementation matters on degree and certificate requirements with the academic senate.

In July of 2021, the Board of Governors approved the ethnic studies requirement for the associate degree. Since the approved Title 5 regulations §55063 have not been chaptered rendering them not easy to find, they are included below for your reference.

In 2021-22, the California Community Colleges Curriculum Committee (5C) drafted a revision to the language of the Title 5 regulations for the associate degree (§§55060-55064). However, the specific requirements for general education within an associate degree have not undergone a thorough or holistic review and update in over 20 years. With recent legislation such as AB 705 (Irwin, 2017), AB 927 (Medina, 2021), and AB 928 (Berman, 2021) and based on conversations at the ASCCC 2022 Curriculum Institute, it is clear that the time has come to examine and update the California Community College General Education Requirements in order to align general education requirements for local associate degrees and community college baccalaureate degrees with the (AB 928-required) singular lower division general education pathway.

In 2021-22, as required by AB 928, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) proposed the following singular lower division general education pathway for transfer to both the CSU and UC systems. Vetting on the proposed pathway, titled CalGETC is taking place among each system during the fall 2022 terms. Feedback will be brought back to ICAS for ICAS to make a final determination of the CalGETC pathway by May 2023. Current general education patterns for transfer, either IGETC and CSU GE Breadth, are expected to be replaced by CalGETC, and implementation guidance for CalGETC will likely be based on current IGETC requirements, potentially limiting the breadth of courses approved within each area.

### Proposed CalGETC pathway

CalGETC Area	Subject	Courses/Units
1 – English Communication	English Composition Critical Thinking and Composition Oral Communication	1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units)
2	Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	1 course (3 units)
3 – Arts and Humanities	Arts Humanities	1 course (3 units) 1 course (3 units)
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences	2 courses (6 units)



	<i>Life Long Learning and Self Development</i>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Not required in current title 5 regulations</i>  <i>CCCs could require it for local associate and baccalaureate degrees</i>
6	<i>Language other than English (LOTE)</i>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Not required in current title 5 regulations</i>
7	Ethnic Studies	3 semester/4 quarter units*	Title 5 § 55063(d)(3)
<b>Total Units</b>		21 semester/28 quarter units	

\* indicates transfer-level course required  
+ indicates college-level course required

### California Community College Baccalaureate Degree General Education

In addition, due to the passage of AB 927 (Medina, 2021) that expands baccalaureate programs in the California Community College system and in anticipation of this growth, the new Chancellor's Office Baccalaureate Advisory Committee is reviewing the general education requirements for the California Community College baccalaureate degree based on efforts initiated by current baccalaureate-granting community colleges and [ASCCC Resolution 9.03 \(Spring 2022\)](#). The current general education requirements are outlined in the [2016 Baccalaureate Program Handbook](#), with students being required to complete either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth) lower division patterns as determined locally.

Further, the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) requires 36 lower division semester units of general education (CSU GE Breadth or IGETC). The proposed CalGETC pathway with the addition of 2 or 3 semester units of Life Long Learning and Self Development would meet the ACCJC lower division requirements for general education, aligning all general education for community college students.

### Current Regulations on California Community College Associate Degree requirements

Approved by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges at the July 12, 2021 Board of Governors meeting: [Title 5 § 55063](#) are included below:

(c) **General Education Requirements.** A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of general education coursework must be completed in the areas described in this subdivision (c), or as otherwise determined by the degree-granting college.

(1) Natural Sciences. Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. Such courses help students appreciate and understand the scientific method, and understand the relationships between science and other human activities. This category includes introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines. A minimum of three semester or four quarter units must be completed in this area.

(2) Social and Behavioral Sciences. Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society. Such courses develop awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies, and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category includes introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines. A minimum of three semester or four quarter units must be completed in this area.

(3) Humanities. Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages, and in different cultures, respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion. A minimum of three semester or four quarter units must be completed in this area.

(4) Language and Rationality. Courses in language and rationality develop 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. This includes courses in both English Composition, and Communication and Analytical Thinking as follows:

(A) English Composition. Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement include both expository and argumentative writing, and may be taught in disciplines including, but not limited to, English and English as a Second Language. A minimum of three semester or four quarter units must be completed in this area.

(B) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include, but are not limited to, oral communication, mathematics, and quantitative reasoning courses such as logic, statistics, computer languages, programming, and related disciplines. A minimum of three semester or four quarter units must be completed in this area.

(d) **Additional Requirements.** The associate degree also requires demonstrated competence in reading, written expression, and mathematics, and satisfactory completion of a course in ethnic studies, as follows:

(1) Satisfactory completion of a course in English at the level of the course typically known as Freshman Composition. This requirement may also be met by satisfactory completion of an English course taught in another department or discipline that requires entrance skills at the level equivalent to those for Freshman Composition, or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of a specified English course. The equivalence of English coursework, and the methods of demonstrating comparable competency in written expression and reading is determined by the college/district.

(2) Satisfactory completion of a course in mathematics at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at or above the same level, with the same rigor, and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally). This requirement may also be met by satisfactory completion of

a mathematics course taught in another department or discipline that requires entrance skills at a level equivalent to Intermediate Algebra, or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra. The equivalence of mathematics coursework, and the method of demonstrating comparable competency in mathematics is determined by the college/district.

(3) Satisfactory completion of a transfer-level course (minimum of three semester units or four quarter units) in ethnic studies. This requirement may be satisfied by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a course in ethnic studies taught in or on behalf of other departments and disciplines.

(e) A course may satisfy more than one general education requirement, but course completion may be counted only once toward satisfying the 18 semester unit or 27 quarter unit general education requirement. A course may also satisfy both a general education requirement and a major or area of emphasis requirement, and course completion may be counted toward both requirements, depending upon college/district policy. Students may use the same course to meet a general education requirement for the associate degree, and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California, if such course is accepted by that system to satisfy a general education requirement.