

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**BOARD POLICY**  
Chapter 4  
Academic Affairs

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

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061  
AACJC Accreditation Standard II.A (formerly II.A.3)

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of the college 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.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

Central to an Associate 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 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. Most important, general education should lead to better understanding.

In the establishing or modifying a general education program, ways shall be sought to create coherence and integration among the separate requirements. It is also desirable that general education programs involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major society problems.

The Chancellor shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.

**Adopted: July 21, 2014**  
**References Updated: May 18, 2015**

**Reviewed: May 7, 2018**