

## ARTICLE II

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

6200. AUTHORIZATION. The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges has authorized the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees to confer the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science and Certificates of Achievement.

5 C.C.R. section 55806

Adopted 01-19-83

6201. ASSOCIATE DEGREE. The awarding of an Associate Degree symbolizes a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights and the achievement of students in attaining those goals. 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 should possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest.

5 C.C.R. section 55806

Adopted 01-19-83

6201.10 Unit Requirement. 60-64 units of course credit in a selected curriculum. Upon recommendation from the college Academic Senate, the Chancellor can waive the 64 unit limit for specific high unit programs. One credit hour of community college work is approximately three hours of recitation, study, or laboratory work per week throughout a term of 16 weeks.

Adopted 01-19-83  
Amended 03-11-09

6201.11 Scholarship Requirement. A "C" (2.0) grade average or better in all work attempted in the curriculum upon which the degree is based.

Adopted 01-19-83

6201.12

Competency Requirement. Students entering prior to Fall 2009 must demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics. This requirement may be met by achieving a grade of "C" or better in appropriate courses, recommended by the District Academic Senate, and approved by the Chancellor or by achieving a passing score on an examination or examinations recommended by the District Academic Senate and approved by the Chancellor.

Effective for all students entering on or after the Fall 2009 semester, competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in English 101, or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor as recommended by the District Academic Senate and approved by the Chancellor. Competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in Mathematics 125 (Intermediate Algebra), or another mathematics course at the same level and rigor, or higher, and with elementary algebra or higher as a prerequisite, as recommended by the District Academic Senate and approved by the Chancellor.

The competency requirements in written expression or mathematics may also be met by completing an assessment, conducted pursuant to Title 5, CCR, section 55500 and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of English 101 or Mathematics 125 respectively. That is, students may either place into English or mathematics courses above level of English 101 or Mathematics 125, or they may achieve a satisfactory score on a competency exam or other approved exam as recommended by the District Academic Senate and approved by the Chancellor.

The competency requirements may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses with English and mathematics content (but taught in subjects other than English and mathematics), which require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for English 101 and Mathematics 125, respectively, and are taught at the same level and with the same rigor. The District Academic Senate shall recommend such courses to the Chancellor for approval.

Adopted 01-19-83  
Amended 07-25-84  
Amended 08-15-84  
Amended 03-11-09

6201.13 College Degree and Certificate Requirements.

Degree Requirements:

- a. Students must complete no fewer than 12 units at the college conferring the degree.
- b. When a student has attended multiple colleges within the LACCD, the degree shall be conferred by the college where the student has taken the majority of units in the major.
- c. Exceptions to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by the governing board when it determines that an injustice or undue hardship would be placed on the student.

Certificate Requirements:

- a. Certificates shall be awarded by the college where the majority of the certificate units were taken.

Adopted 09-11-13

6201.14 General Education Requirement.

- a. 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 should be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, General Education should lead to better self-understanding.

It is desirable that, in a general education program, ways 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 social problems.

Adopted 01-19-83  
Amended 07-25-84  
Amended 04-28-04  
Amended 09-07-05  
Amended 03-11-09  
Amended 05-26-10

- b. Developing and implementing a more specific philosophy of General Education is a responsibility of each college, since each must be sensitive to the unique educational needs and learning environment of its students. Each college shall publish such a statement of philosophy. It is recommended that college statements of philosophy reflect the philosophy of general education articulated in subparagraph (1) of this subsection.
- c. The units of General Education will be selected from courses in the following areas, recommended by the college academic senate and college president and approved by the Chancellor, Board of Trustees or its designee. The curricula (called graduation plans) to be accepted toward the degree will be recommended by the college academic senate and college president and approved by the Chancellor, Board of Trustees or its designee.
  - 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.

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- 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 science, a course should help the student develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by 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 humanities, a course should help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people through 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 ability to make value judgments. Such courses should include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy and religion.

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Amended 04-28-04  
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Amended 03-11-09  
Amended 05-26-10

- 4) Language and Rationality. Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student 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 should include both expository and argumentative writing.
- (b) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer language and programming, and related disciplines.
- d. While a course might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. Whether it may be counted again for a different degree requirement is a matter for each college to determine.

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.

- e. Ethnic Studies will be offered in at least one of the required areas.
- f. Students who are majoring in programs of study for which fewer than 36 units are required in the major may complete graduation Plan A.

Students who are majoring in programs of study for which 36 or more units are required in the major may complete graduation Plan B.

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Or students may complete:

Additional graduation plans recommended by the college academic senate and college president and approved by the Board of Trustees or its designee provided that such plans comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

Exceptions to major requirements shall be made by the Chancellor, or his/her designee.

Graduation Plan A.

Major Requirements: At least 18 semester units of study taken in a “major or in an area of emphasis approved by the State Chancellor’s Office.”

Effective for all students admitted for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, each course counted toward the major requirements must be completed with a grade of “C” or better or a “P” if the course is taken on a “pass-no pass” basis.

General Education Requirements: Successful completion of at least 30 semester units of General Education as noted below

- a. Natural Sciences--3 semester units as defined in Section c(1).
- b. Social and Behavioral Sciences--9 semester units in the following pattern:
  - 1) At least 3 units in American Institutions to be met in U.S. History or Political Science, or U.S. Ethnic History or Political Science.

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- 2) At least 3 units in other Social Sciences to be met in Anthropology, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, or other Social Science courses as determined by the Campus Curriculum Committee.
- 3) At least 3 additional units from 1 or 2 above.
- c. Humanities--3 semester units as defined in Section c(3).
- d. Language and Rationality--12 semester units in the following pattern:
  - 1) English Composition--at least 3 semester units as defined in Section c(4).
  - 2) Communication and Analytical Thinking--at least 6 semester units in Math, Logic and Critical Thinking, Speech or Computer Literacy, and/or Languages.
  - 3) At least three additional units from 1) or 2) above.

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 Amended 07-25-84  
 Amended 04-28-04  
 Amended 09-07-05  
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 Amended 05-26-10

- e. Health and Physical Education --3 semester units. This requirement may be met by successful completion of at least 2 units in Health Education and at least 1 unit in a physical activity course chosen from one of the following subjects: Physical Education, Dance Techniques, Dance Specialties, Physical Fitness or Martial Arts, or a combined course in Health Education and Physical Education activity. An activity course is a course with at least 2 standard hours of activity laboratory. The Chancellor will develop policies for exemption. The Health Education requirement may also be met by successful completion of all the major requirements for the Registered Nursing Program.

Graduation Plan B.

Major Requirements: At least 36 semester units of study taken in a “major or in an area of emphasis approved by the State Chancellor’s Office.”

Effective for all students admitted for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, each course counted toward the major requirements must be completed with a grade of “C” or better or a “P” if the course is taken on a “pass-no pass” basis.

General Education Requirements: Successful completion of at least 18 semester units in general education as noted below:

- a. Natural Sciences--3 semester units as defined in Section c(1).
- b. Social and Behavioral Sciences--3 semester units

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Students must successfully complete an appropriate course or courses in American Institutions and U.S. History.

- c. Humanities--3 semester units as defined in Section c(3).
- d. Language and Rationality--6 semester units in the following pattern:
  - 1) Three semester units in English Composition.
  - 2) Three semester units in Communication and Analytical Thinking.
- e. Health and Physical Education --3 semester units. This requirement may be met by successful completion of at least 2 units in Health Education and at least 1 unit in a physical activity course chosen from one of the following disciplines: Physical Education, Dance Techniques, Dance Specialties, Physical Fitness or Martial Arts, or a combined course in Health Education and Physical Education activity. An activity course is a course with at least 2 standard hours of activity laboratory. The Chancellor will determine categories for exemption.

Adopted 01-19-83  
Amended 07-25-84  
Amended 04-28-04  
Amended 09-07-05  
Amended 03-11-09  
Amended 05-26-10

6201.15 Effective Date. These requirements become effective July 1, 2004.

Adopted 01-19-83  
Amended 07-25-84  
Amended 04-28-04

6201.16 Graduation Requirements for Associate Degree in Nursing.  
To obtain an associate degree in nursing, students who have baccalaureate or higher degrees from a United States regionally accredited institution of higher education are only required to complete the course work that is unique and exclusively required for completion of the registered nursing program, including prerequisites and nursing course work. These students are not to be required to complete any other courses required by the college for an associate degree.

Adopted 07-28-10

6201.17 Double-Counting Of Coursework.

A course may only be counted once for General education purposes. However, a course may be used to simultaneously satisfy both a General Education requirement and a major/area of emphasis requirement. There is no limit on the number of courses that may be used simultaneously in this manner.

Students may also simultaneously apply the same course toward satisfaction of Plan A or B Associate Degree General Education requirements, CSU GE Breadth Certification requirements and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) requirements.

Adopted 07-11-12

6202. CATALOG RIGHTS. For these purposes, a catalog year is defined as beginning with the fall semester through the subsequent summer. A student remaining in continuous attendance in the Los Angeles Community College District may elect to satisfy the degree, certificate or graduation requirements in effect at the college from which the student will either earn his/her degree, certificate or graduate:

1. at the time the student began such attendance at the college, or
2. at the time of graduation.

Adopted 11-07-01  
Amended 05-26-10

For the sole purpose of satisfying graduation competency requirements, students entering the Los Angeles Community College District prior to Fall 2009 who remain in continuous attendance within the LACCD may graduate from any LACCD College by satisfying graduation competency by either:

- 1. fulfilling competency requirements in place at the time the student began such attendance within the district, or
- 2. fulfilling competency requirements in place at the time of graduation.

For the purposes of implementing this policy, the college may develop a policy to:

- 1. authorize or require substitutions for discontinued courses; or
- 2. require a student changing his/her major to complete the major requirements in effect at the time of the change;
- 3. allow students to select an intervening catalog in years between time student began continuous attendance and time of graduation.

The college’s policy shall be developed in consultation with the college Academic Senate in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XVIII of the Board Rules – ACADEMIC SENATE AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHARED GOVERNANCE POLICY, and published in all college catalogs under appropriate headings.

This policy does not apply to college programs which are governed or regulated by outside government agencies or which require licensure or certification through one of these agencies.

Adopted 11-07-01  
Amended 05-26-10

6203. CONTINUOUS ATTENDANCE. “Continuous attendance” means no more than one semester absence within a school year, excluding Summer Sessions and Winter Intersession.

Students granted a “military withdrawal” under the provisions of Board Rule 6701.10, will be considered to be in “continuous attendance” for their required period of military service.

Adopted 11-07-01

6204.

ADDITIONAL and CONCURRENT ASSOCIATE DEGREES.

Additional Associate Degrees: Students who have previously earned an associate degree from a United States regionally accredited institution will be granted an additional associate degree when the following requirements have been met:

1. Pursuant to catalog rights, described in Board Rule 6202, completion of all current degree requirements – i.e., scholarship, residency, competency, general education and major requirements.
2. Completion of a minimum of six (6) new units in a major requiring 18-35 units or twelve (12) new units in a major following Plan B of General Education requiring 36 or more units. Major course requirements completed in previous degrees awarded can be used again for additional degrees.
3. All courses that count towards the associate degree major or area of emphasis must be satisfactorily completed with a grade of “C” or higher or “P” (pass).
4. There is no limit to the number of additional associate degrees that can be awarded provided that all the above requirements have been met.
5. Completion of any additional requirements, including new units, as determined by the college through collegial consultation with the college Academic Senate in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XVII of the Board Rules – Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees Shared Governance Policy. Concurrent degrees: Concurrent degrees are degrees awarded in the same semester. Students may petition and be awarded concurrent associate degrees in different majors if the following criteria are met:
  1. Pursuant to catalog rights, described in Board Rule 6202, completion of all current degree requirements: scholarship, residency, competency, general education and major requirements.
  2. There is no maximum number of concurrent degrees that a student may be awarded.

Adopted 09-07-05  
Revised 07-28-10

3. If a course is a major requirement for each concurrent degree, it may be applied toward satisfaction of each major degree requirement.
4. If an Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degree can be awarded in the same major, only one degree will be granted as selected by the student.
5. Completion of the General Education requirements for one associate degree will fulfill the general education requirements for concurrent degrees, if the same general education pattern applies to the additional degree. If each degree requires the completion of different general education patterns, the general education pattern of each degree must be fulfilled. Courses may be applied toward the general education requirements for each concurrent degree.
6. All courses that count towards the associate degree major or area of emphasis must be satisfactorily completed with a grade of "C" or higher or "P" (pass).
7. The LACCD does not offer double majors.

Adopted 09-07-05  
Revised 07-28-10