

BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education

At Monterey Peninsula College courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following criteria:

A. General Education 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 critically 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 students shall possess sufficient depth of knowledge in a selected field to contribute to a lifetime of interest in that field.

Central to an Associate degree, general education is designed to introduce students to the variety of ways in which people comprehend the modern world. Monterey Peninsula College's general education curriculum reflects the conviction that students who receive Associate degrees shall possess in common knowledge of 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 natural world, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, general education shall lead students to a better understanding of their world.

MPC shall assist students by creating coherence and integration among the requirements of the separate disciplines so that students recognize the interrelationships among social, political, cultural and economic institutions both within and between global societies. Participation in general education programs shall provide students with opportunities to critically examine the values and beliefs inherent in proposed solutions to major societal problems.

At Monterey Peninsula College, the institution's General Education Outcomes specify the ways students will demonstrate knowledge and abilities gained while completing the General Education program. The General Education Outcomes shall be detailed in the MPC catalog and made available on the MPC college website.

B. General Education Course Designation Procedures and Requirements

The [CEO] 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 MPC Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate involvement. The General Education Requirements shall be published in the MPC catalog, where the college shall maintain a current listing of all specific degree requirements, and shall also be available on the MPC college website.

A. General Education Areas:

Area A1: English Composition

Area A2: Communication and Analytical Thinking

Area B: Natural Science

Area C: Humanities

Area D: Social Science

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self Development
through E1: Wellness & E2: Intro to Careers

Area F: Intercultural Studies

Approved at AAAG 3/5/14

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