



References: Title 5 Section 55061; 55063
ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A (formerly II.A.3)
WHCCD Administrative Procedures 4100 and 4107

The West Hills Community College District's programs are consistent with the mission, vision, and core values of the colleges.

The associate degree is awarded to students who have successfully demonstrated that they have developed intellectual skills, information technology facility, affective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity. In addition to these accomplishments, students graduating with an associate degree shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest and career pursuit. Majors or areas of emphasis that provide this depth are composed of a minimum of 18 units. Students completing this program demonstrate the following:

- The ability to think critically and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
- Broad understanding of mathematics, science, social science, humanities, and the arts;
- Critical thinking skills for problem solving;
- Awareness of other cultures and times;
- Achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and
- Develop the capacity for self-understanding, social awareness and responsibility as a participating member of society.

General education introduces the content and methodology of major areas of knowledge. Its purpose is to encourage students to select a broad spectrum of classes. Students completing this program are able to demonstrate the following:

- General education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world.
- General education introduces the content and methodology of the major areas of knowledge and provides an opportunity for students to develop intellectual skills, information technology facility, affective and creative capabilities, social attitudes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester units of general education coursework which includes a minimum of three (3) semester units in each of the following areas:

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 shall be designed to 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 could include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, 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 shall be designed to develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to 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 could include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, 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 shall be designed to 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, religion, and related disciplines.

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. Such courses include:

- a. English Composition – Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to 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 languages and programming, and related disciplines

5. Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Courses in Lifelong Learning and Self-Development are designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.

Ethnic and Gender Studies will be offered in at least one of the areas required. Courses in ethnic and gender studies examine general issues of diversity, equity, ethnocentricity, and/or cultural background and relationships to problems facing contemporary society, especially those resulting from colonialism, including racism, discrimination, and cultural conflict. Attention is paid to critical thinking skills which allow students to address cultural, racial, and/or gender issues in a sensitive and responsible manner and to evaluate their own attitudes and the attitude of others.