

AP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates

Reference: ***Title 5 Sections 55060 et seq. and 55270 et. seq.***

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Updated: ~~December 12, 2023~~

In compliance with Title 5 regulations, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (District) Chancellor shall ensure that procedures for graduation requirements for degrees and certificates shall address, but may not be limited to, the following components

Coursework for Associate Degrees:

~~For the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, a student must demonstrate competency in reading, in written expression, mathematics, and satisfactory completion of a course in ethnic studies by maintaining a 2.0 average in subjects attempted. The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 semester units of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.~~

~~For the Associate Degree for Transfer in Arts or Associate Degree for Transfer in Science, a student must meet the requirements outlined in Senate Bill 1440 and the college catalog.~~

~~▪ A definition of “college work” that provides that courses acceptable toward the associate degree include those that have been properly approved pursuant to Title 5 Section 55002(a), or, if completed at other than a California community college, would reasonably be expected to meet the standards of that section.~~

~~The work course must include at least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in general education and at least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major listed in the community college’s “Taxonomy of Programs.” of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.~~

~~A “major” is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation must be designed to meet specific lower division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.~~

~~An “area of emphasis” is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.~~

~~▪ The work must include at least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of study in residence; exceptions to the residence requirement can be made by the District Governing Board to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.~~

~~The general education requirements shall include a minimum of work in the natural~~

~~sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and language and rationality. The courses must include at least 21 semester units of general education. General education must include a minimum of work in (1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking, (2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, (3) Arts and Humanities, (4) Social and Behavioral Sciences, (5) Natural Sciences, and (6) Ethnic Studies.~~

Other Conditions for Awarding Associate Degrees

~~The District will award an associate degree to students who fulfill the coursework requirements described above or completed the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University and who met the following conditions:~~

~~The student satisfactorily completed at least 12 semester units of study in residence. The Board may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.~~

~~The student satisfactorily completed each course counted toward the major or area of emphasis requirement with a grade of "C" or better, or of "P" if the course is taken on a "pass-no pass" basis.~~

~~The student completed the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If a student accumulates units beyond those required for the degree that lower the student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, the District may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major or area of emphasis and general education requirements.~~

~~Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other institutionally accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements. A course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.~~

~~Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.~~

~~Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the associate degree.~~

~~Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward the satisfaction of requirements for an associate degree.~~

~~*—Ethnic Studies shall be offered.~~

~~Students who intend to transfer shall be advised of limitations transfer institutions~~

may place on the transferability of credits, based on institutional accreditation, course modality, and any other relevant factors.

~~District policies and procedures regarding general education and degree requirements shall be published in the Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College catalogs and on the District's website. Additionally, the District policies and procedures shall be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.~~

Certificates of Achievement and Other Credit Programs

~~* For a certificate of achievement, a student must successfully complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 16 or more semester units of degree-applicable credit coursework. The certificate of achievement shall be designed to demonstrate that the student has completed coursework and developed capabilities relating to career or general education.~~

~~* Shorter credit programs that lead to a certificate shall be established by the District.~~

~~* Content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College** the District, and meet a demonstrated need, are feasible, and adhere to guidelines on academic achievement.~~

~~* Certificates for which California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office approval is not sought may be given any name or designation deemed appropriate except for certificate of achievement, certificate of completion, or certificate of competency.~~

~~The District may obtain approval of a direct assessment competency-based program from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.~~

In compliance with Title 5 regulations, Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges shall ensure that the requirements and conditions to obtain a degree or certificate have been met. The Graduation Requirements for programs are published in the college catalogs.

Associate Degrees

To obtain an Associate degree, students must accomplish the following:

- Complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable semester units, lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.
- The courses must include a minimum of 18 semester units of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis and general education.
- A "major" is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation must be designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.
- An "area of emphasis" is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused

than general education.

- The courses must include at least 21 semester units of general education. General education must include a minimum of work in (1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking, (2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, (3) Arts and Humanities, (4) Social and Behavioral Sciences, (5) Natural Sciences, and (6) Ethnic Studies.
- The District will award an associate degree to students who fulfill the coursework requirements described above or complete the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University and who met the following conditions:
 - A minimum of 12 semester units must be completed in residence within the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District, regardless of catalog year. Courses completed via credit for prior learning, including credit by examination, do not qualify for the 12-unit residence requirement. The Governing Board may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.
 - Complete all courses in the major or area of emphasis with a grade of “C” or better, or “P” if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis.
 - Complete the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the associate degree lower a student’s cumulative grade point average below 2.0, then the student may request to have their grade point average computed solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major/area of emphasis and general education requirements.
- Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other institutionally accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements.
- Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education and a major or area of emphasis, when courses are locally approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas.
- Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose.
- Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district’s procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.
- Students who have been awarded a bachelor’s degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the local general education course requirements for the Associate degree.
- Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward the satisfaction of requirements for an associate degree.
- Students who intend to transfer shall be advised of limitations transfer institutions may place on the transferability of credits, based on institutional accreditation, course modality, and any other relevant factors.
- The general education requirement can be satisfied through completion of the local general education pattern or completion of the requirements for an approved

intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or California State University.-

Associate Degrees for Transfer

To obtain an associate degree for transfer, students must accomplish the following:

- Completion of 60 semester units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
 - The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), the California State University GE-Breadth Requirements (CSU GE-Breadth), or California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).
 - A minimum of 18 semester units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the curriculum committee. Courses completed at other institutions accredited by recognized accrediting agency will be reviewed for placement on the associate degrees for transfer based on existing C-ID numbers and/or course comparability to the transfer model curriculum template.
- A minimum of 12 semester units must be completed in residence within the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District, regardless of catalog year. Courses completed via credit for prior learning, including credit by examination, do not qualify for the 12-unit residence requirement. The Governing Board may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.
- Complete all courses in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable grade point average of 2.0.

Baccalaureate Degrees

To obtain a baccalaureate degree, a student must accomplish the following:

- Satisfactorily complete at least 120 degree-applicable semester units, of which 40 semester units must be in upper-division coursework, including units in the major and in general education. Students must complete a minimum of 36 semester units of general education divided as follows:
 - A minimum of 27 semester units lower division general education in accordance with Title 5 Section 55061 and Title 5 Section 55062, 27 semester units; and
 - A minimum of 9 upper division general education in accordance with Title 5 Section 55091, upper division general education courses must come from at least two disciplines outside of the major, one of which must have an emphasis in communication, oral communication, or computation.

Certificates

To obtain a certificate, students must accomplish the following:

State approved Certificate of Achievement **and Other Credit Programs**

- Complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 16 or more semester units of degree applicable credit coursework. The certificate of achievement shall be designed to demonstrate that the student has completed coursework and developed capabilities relating to career or general education.
- Obtain a "C" or "P" or better in each course counted toward the certificate.
- Complete the last course required for the certificate at the awarding college.

Locally approved Certificate

- Complete a district-approved program of study consisting of fewer than 16 semester units.
- Obtain a “C” or “P” or better in each course counted toward the certificate.
- Complete the last course required for the certificate at the awarding college.

Shorter credit programs that lead to a certificate may be established by the District.

Content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, meet a demonstrated need, are feasible, and adhere to guidelines on academic achievement.

Certificates for which California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approval is not sought may be given any name or designation deemed appropriate, except for a certificate of achievement, certificate of completion, or certificate of competency.

The District may obtain approval of a direct assessment competency-based program from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.