

Graduation Requirements

Associate Degree

Definition of Associate Degree

The associate degree leads 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; to find, evaluate, use, and communicate information in various formats; 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. An associate of arts degree is granted in a discipline in which behavioral sciences, fine arts, human movement, humanities, public affairs, or social sciences are integral within the academic area. An associate of science degree is granted in a discipline in which scientific thought and investigation are integral within the academic area or where there is emphasis on the application of mathematics, science, or technology.

Philosophy for Associate Degree and General Education

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4025

The College recognizes the importance of educating individuals who will serve the local, state, national, and international communities. The associate degree requirements lead students through a general education pattern designed to encourage the development of broad knowledge in core subjects and the acquisition of sufficient depth in a specific field of knowledge. The awarding of an associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It recognizes 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 following:

- 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
- To develop the capacity for self-understanding
- To engage in lifelong learning

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

Each associate degree offered by the College shall contain a pattern of general education and major courses selected to assure the collection of experiences, capabilities, and insights. 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 the College that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique and shared by the various disciplines. College-educated individuals must 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. Courses approved for inclusion in the general education requirements shall be evaluated as meeting this philosophy.

General Education Criteria for Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees

1. Natural Sciences: A minimum of 3 units.

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 would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines that emphasize experimental methodology, the testing of hypotheses, and the power of systematic questioning, rather than only the recall of facts. Courses that focus on personal, practical, or applied aspects are not suitable for this category.

2. Social and Behavioral Sciences: A minimum of 3 units.

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences promote an appreciation and understanding of how members of diverse societies operate or have operated as individuals and social groups. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall develop an awareness of methods of inquiry and stimulate critical thinking about the ways in which people act and interact within social and cultural contexts. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses such as child development, cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, family and consumer studies, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

3. Humanities: A minimum of 3 units

Courses in the humanities are those that promote an appreciation of the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in humanities, a course shall develop the student's awareness of the ways that people throughout the ages have artistically and culturally responded to themselves and the world around them and shall develop the student's aesthetic understanding and ability to make value judgments. This category would include introductory

or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.

4. Language and Rationality: A minimum of 6 units including one course in English Composition and one course from Communication/Analytical Thinking.

1. Courses in language and rationality are those that develop for the student the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation.
2. English Composition courses that fulfill the written composition requirement shall focus primarily on both expository and argumentative writing.
3. Communication and Analytical Thinking courses that fulfill the communication and analytical thinking requirement shall include oral communications, written communications, critical reasoning, mathematics, logic, statistics, and computer languages and programming.

5. Health and Physical Education: A minimum of 3 units.

Courses in health and physical education promote lifelong understanding of the basic human need for development and maintenance of good personal health and fitness. To satisfy the general education requirement in health education, a course shall help the student develop knowledge of personal health through the examination of health-related social problems, potential preventative strategies, and mediating actions. A physical education course shall establish a foundation for regular life-long physical activity and provide opportunities for a student to develop competencies in activities that promote movement, reduce disease risk, and improve overall quality of life.

6. Mathematics Competency: A minimum of 3 units.

A course used to satisfy the Mathematics Competency requirement may be double counted as meeting the Communication and Analytical Thinking requirement.

Competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at or above the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at or above the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra, determined locally. The competency requirement may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in mathematics taught in or on behalf of other departments and disciplines, and which, as determined by the local governing board, require entrance skills at a level equivalent to those necessary for Intermediate Algebra.

English Competency: A minimum of 3 units. A course used to satisfy the English Competency requirement may be double counted as meeting the English Composition requirement. Competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level

of the course typically known as Freshman Composition (either Freshman Composition or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) or by demonstrating competency that is comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course, determined locally. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in Area 4a.

7. Culture, Diversity, and Equity Requirement: A minimum of 3 units.

A course used to satisfy the culture, diversity, and equity requirement may be double counted as meeting any applicable general education requirement.

Effective fall 2021, the culture, diversity, and equity requirement is met by taking a course listed in the catalog and approved by the Curriculum Committee. These relevant courses provide for an understanding and sensitivity to an array of cultures and identities as well as historical and lived experiences.

Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT)

California Community Colleges offer associate degrees for transfer (ADT) to the CSU. These include Associate of Arts (AA-T) or Associate of Science (AS-T) transfer degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. California Community College students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are given priority admission consideration to a CSU campus or to a program that is deemed similar to their community college major. This priority does not guarantee admission to specific majors or campuses. If the AA-T or AS-T is deemed a similar degree by the CSU, students will be able to complete their remaining 120 units for the baccalaureate degree within 60 semester units. To view the most current list of Compton College ADT visit adegreewithaguarantee.com/en-us/Find-Colleges. To find out which specific CSU campuses accept each transfer degree, visit the CSU Transfer Model Curriculum at www2.calstate.edu/apply/transfer/Pages/associate-degree-for-transfer-major-and-campus-search.aspx. Students are encouraged to meet with a counselor to review their options for transfer and to develop an educational plan that best meets their goals and needs.

Graduation

To receive an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree from Compton College, a student must complete at least 60 units in degree applicable college courses, which must include general education requirements and coursework in an approved transfer major or associate degree program. Coursework toward the degree must be completed with a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher at Compton College and in work completed at all colleges. Students must also complete at least 12 semester units of study in residence within requirements for either the general education and/or major. A notation of "Graduation with Honors" is earned with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Students must file an Intent to Graduate Form in the evaluations area, located in the Admissions Office, by the deadline date published in the schedule of classes.

Evaluation of Completion of Requirements

Students who want to graduate from Compton College with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree must file an Intent to Graduate form, which is evaluated according to the following conditions:

- 1. Catalog requirement** – Degree requirements are derived from the catalog in effect at the time the student entered Compton College or from the current catalog, following the Catalog Rights guidelines (described below). Each catalog is in effect during the academic year for which it was published (fall semester through the summer term).
- 2. Residency requirement** – Students must complete at least 12 semester units of study in residence within requirements for either the general education and/or major at Compton College.
- 3. Unit requirement** – Sixty (60) degree applicable units are required for the associate degree, including appropriate general education and major requirements.
- 4. General Education requirement** – Coursework toward the degree must be completed with a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher in work at Compton College and in work completed at all colleges.
- 5. English Competency requirement** – A minimum grade of “C” in a freshman composition course.
- 6. Mathematics Competency requirement** – A minimum grade of “C” is required in this area.
- 7. Major requirement** – A minimum grade of “C” in all courses toward the major.

Double Major

Students may receive a double major upon completion of the major requirements for the second major.

Second Degree

Students may receive both an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree upon the completion of the specific general education and major requirements for each degree as stated in the catalog. Students qualifying for more than one A.A. or A.S. degree will have all degrees posted on their transcripts; however, they will only receive one diploma for an achieved A.A. degree and one diploma for an achieved A.S. degree. (References: Sections 55002(a) and 55060 et seq.; Board Policies 4100.1.

General Information

Some courses listed in the associate degree requirements may not transfer to a four-year college or university. Please refer to the course notations listed in the curriculum section of this catalog. All degrees require a total of 60 units with no fewer than 18 units in the major and appropriate general education courses as indicated on the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree patterns that follow.