# BP 4025 PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR DEGREES AND GENERAL EDUCATION

**References:**

Title 5 Section 55061 and 55090 et seq;
ACCJC Accreditation Standard 2

Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the following philosophy.

The awarding of an associate degree represents more than an accumulation of units. It is a symbol of 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 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, and sense of, self-understanding.

In addition to these accomplishments, the student should possess a depth of knowledge in a chosen field.

Central to an associate degree, the General Education program at Santa Barbara City College outlines a core curriculum that provides an opportunity for students to explore elements of the intellectual and ethical traditions to which they belong. The faculty believes that this common core is of general and lasting intellectual significance and that it will establish a foundation for the lifelong process of intellectual inquiry and the integration of knowledge, skills, attitudes and experiences.

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 important, General Education should lead to better self-understanding.

The General Education program has several major objectives:

- To cultivate the intellectual processes of learning and to examine methods for acquiring, integrating and applying knowledge.

- To help students understand the conditions and forces that shape their lives and thus help them cope with a complex and changing world.
- To explore elements of our common human nature and to assist students in applying critical and informed judgments to the cultural achievements of their own and other cultures.

The associate degree and general education philosophies form the foundation for the District's Institutional Student Learning Outcomes.

In the establishing or modifying a general education program, ways shall 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 society problems.

The District may offer baccalaureate degrees. The District's philosophy on general education shall extend to the baccalaureate degree, and the District's goals for the baccalaureate shall include addressing unmet local and regional workforce needs.

The Superintendent/President shall, in consultation with the Academic Senate, develop procedures that reflect the institution's associate degree and general education philosophies.

Also see BP 1200 Mission

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