

Fullerton College Associate Degree Requirements (as of Fall 2025)

Fullerton College's Associate Degree involves the completion of

- 8 courses in the following 7 areas,
- with a minimum of 22 semester units of general education in the areas described below,
- along with other graduation requirements for the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science Degree.

As an alternative, students may complete the Cal-GETC transfer pattern for general education, along with other graduation requirements for the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science Degree.

Area 1: English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (6+ units)

1A: English Composition (3+ units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

1B: Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (3+ units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3+ units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

Area 3: Arts and Humanities (3+ units)

Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses* in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences (3+ units)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses* in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

Area 5: Natural Sciences (3+ units)

Courses in the natural sciences examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena, helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses* in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other scientific disciplines.

Area 6: Ethnic Studies (3+ units)

Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses* in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

*"Integrative baccalaureate-level courses" draw broad connections between multiple perspectives and methodologies and demonstrate relationships within or between disciplines.

Area 7: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (1+ unit)

This is a local requirement.

Students will select one course: one Physical Activity course (or its equivalent), or one course chosen from the previous (2019-2025) Associate Degree pattern's "Area E, Lifelong Learning and Self-Development."

To be approved for Area 7, courses shall focus on the development of skills, abilities and dispositions. This requirement is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings. Content may include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as implications of death and dying or avenues for lifelong learning.

The descriptions of areas 1-6 were taken directly from the November 2023 Title 5 revisions.

The description of area 7 was adapted from the Fullerton College Handbook (Fall 2022 revision).

The following contains the text of the Title 5 sections revised in November 2023:

§55060. Philosophy and Criteria for the Associate Degree and General Education.

(a) District governing boards shall adopt and maintain a policy that states their goals for offering associate degrees and their specific philosophy on general education. In developing this policy, governing boards shall consider the following policy of the Board of Governors:

The Associate Degree provides a framework within which students complete patterns of learning experiences designed to develop capabilities and insights to support their academic and career goals. Among these capabilities and insights are competencies that are germane to all aspects of higher education and comprise a "general education" curriculum, such as the ability to think critically and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing, to use quantitative reasoning, 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.

Furthermore, general education introduces students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction of colleges that those who receive their degrees must have mastered principles, concepts, and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. A general education program should create coherence and integration among the separate requirements and involve students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

(b) District governing boards shall establish criteria to determine which courses may be used to implement their goals for the associate degree and their philosophy of general education.

Note: Authority cited: Section 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

CONDITIONS FOR AWARDING THE DEGREE (TITLE 5 REVISIONS MADE NOVEMBER 2023)

District governing boards shall confer the associate degree upon students who have fulfilled the course requirements of section 55061, and who have met the following conditions:

Satisfactory completion of at least 12 semester (18 quarter units) in residence within the college district. Governing boards shall adopt policies that permit students to obtain waivers of this requirement in order to alleviate injustice and undue hardship.

Satisfactory completion of 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.

Completion of a minimum 21 semester units general education pattern pursuant to section

55061, or completion of the requirements for an approved intersegmental lower-division general education pattern used for transfer to the University of California or the California State University.

Completion of 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 degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, colleges may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirement, 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, a major or area of emphasis, and additional requirements stated in section 55061 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 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.

The governing board of each community college district shall establish procedures by which a student may petition to have completion of a noncredit course counted toward satisfaction of the 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.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Section 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901 and 70902, Education Code.