

HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BP 4025 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree, Baccalaureate Degree, and General Education

References: Title 5 Section 55061; Accreditation Standard II.A and II.A.9

The Governing Board of Hartnell Community College District adopts this policy as its philosophy on general education.

The awarding of an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize 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 self-understanding.

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

Central to a 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 colleges that those who receive their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College educated persons 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.

In 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 social problems.

The Superintendent/President shall establish criteria and procedures to assure that courses used to meet general education and degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The procedures shall provide for appropriate Academic Senate involvement.

Coursework proposed for baccalaureate degrees will fulfill the requirements of Education Code Article 6, Section 40500 et seq. and the California Community College Chancellor's guidelines for Baccalaureate Degrees.

See Administrative Procedures 4025 and 4020

Approved by Board of Trustees: July 7, 2015; June 21, 2022