

APR 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates

Administrative Regulation to Board Policy BP 4100 – Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates

References: Education Code Section 70902
Title 5 Sections 55060 et seq.

For the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, a student must demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics. The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 semester units of college work. 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 must include at least 18 semester units in general education and at least 18 semester units in a major listed in the Community Colleges “Taxonomy of Programs.”

The work must include at least 12 semester units of study in residence; exceptions to the residence requirement can be made by the Board when an injustice or undue hardship would result.

The general education requirements must include a minimum of work in the natural sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, humanities, language and rationality and multicultural/gender studies.

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

Ethnic studies must be offered.

District policies and administrative regulations regarding general education and degree requirements must be published in the college catalog and must be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

For a certificate of achievement, a student must successfully complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 18 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 may be established by the District.

Content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of the Napa Valley 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 certificate of achievement, certificate of completion, or certificate of competency.

GENERAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

General education, an integrated program of courses, is the foundation of the Associate Degree. General education courses introduce students to the achievements, the methods of inquiry and the major principles and concepts in the humanities, the social sciences, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Graduates possess in common a foundation of knowledge for understanding their physical environment, culture and society and the skills of inquiry, reflection, and expression for personal growth and lifelong learning.

Area A: Natural Sciences - Courses which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. The course should 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.

Area B: Social and Behavioral Sciences - Courses which focus on people as members of society. The course should help the student develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It should stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate.

Area C: Humanities - Courses which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. The course should help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments.

Area D: Language and Rationality - Courses which develop for the student the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation of communication.

English Composition - Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement include both expository and argumentative writing.

Communication and Analytical Thinking - Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming, and related disciplines.

Area E: Multicultural/Gender Studies - Courses in multicultural/gender studies introduce students to multiple perspectives on contemporary social life. To satisfy the general education requirement in multicultural/gender studies, a course shall be designed for the analysis of the contributions or perspectives of people belonging to multiple social groups including, but not limited to, groups based on age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability. The analysis of the contributions or perspectives of these groups is to be explicit, not implicit, in the course of study. The course must present an analysis of culture as well as gender, and at least three specific social groups must be examined. This category will include introductory courses in a variety of disciplines.

REQUIREMENTS

The following are the minimum requirements to be filled for graduation with the Associate of Arts and/or an Associate of Science degree from Napa Valley College:

1. **Unit Requirement** – 60 semester units in courses numbered between 90 and 399. Units from other colleges may be used if they are determined acceptable by the Admissions and Records Office.
2. **Scholarship Requirement** - Cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 or better with a “C” or better in all classes in the major.
3. **Residence Requirement** – Completion of 12 semester units at NVC and attendance at NVC during the semester prior to graduation or 30 semester units completed at NVC.
4. **P.E./DANS/Health Requirement** – 3.0 semester units of physical education, dance classes or HELH 106. Exemptions: a) health occupations majors; b) veterans with six months service (form DD214 must be on file in the Admissions and Records Office); or c) **Police Academy graduates**.
5. **Competency Requirements** – Competency in reading, writing, mathematics: completion with a grade of “c” or better; in courses from Area (d) “Language and Rationality” of NVC General Education pattern.

Students who have already earned a Bachelor degree or higher from an accredited university are exempted from the General Education, **American History and Institutions**, and P.E./DANS/Health requirements.

Petition for Graduation: All Candidates for graduation must file a petition in the Admissions and Records Office in the semester prior to the semester in which graduation is anticipated.

1. **General Education:** Completion of 18-21 semester units; one course of at least three units in each area. A course cannot be used to satisfy more than one area except in the case of Area E for the A.S. Degree
2. **American History and Institutions (A.A. degree only)** - Students must select one course from History 120, 121, 150 or 152 and one course from Political Science 120 or 121. The courses chosen to satisfy this requirement cannot be used to satisfy General Education Area C: Social and Behavior Sciences. Complete one course from History 120, 121, 150 or 152 and one course from Political Science 120 or 121
3. **PE/Health Ed:** Choice of 3 units of PE and Dance courses or complete HELH 106.
Exemptions: 1) Students majoring in Health Occupation; 2) Veterans with six months service receive unit credit for P.E. and HELH 106. 3) Completion of the Police Academy
4. **Completing a Major A.S. Degree** – Refer to Course Announcements for a description of courses required to complete the major. For each program, major and general education

courses are outlined in a suggested sequence. Both counselors and program coordinators can advise students to ensure that all requirements for the A.S. Degree are being met.

Mutual Agreement 09/19/2017

Approved 09/19/2017