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4 **PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GE**  
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6 Courses that are designated to fulfill the general education and depth requirements shall meet the  
7 following philosophy:  
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9 The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an  
10 accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of  
11 the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences  
12 designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the  
13 ability to think and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in  
14 writing; to use mathematics, to understand the modes of inquiry of the major  
15 disciplines; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights  
16 gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems, and to develop  
17 the capacity for self-understanding.

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

20 Central to an Associate degree, general education is designed to introduce  
21 students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the  
22 modern world. It reflects the conviction of colleges that those who receive  
23 their degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts  
24 and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines.  
25 College educated persons must be able to use this knowledge when  
26 evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the  
27 society in which they live. Most important, general education should lead to  
28 better self-understanding.

29 In establishing or modifying a general education program, ways shall be  
30 sought to create coherence and integration among the separate  
31 requirements. It is also desirable that general education programs involve  
32 students actively in examining values inherent in proposed solutions to major  
33 society problems.

34 The Chancellor is responsible for establishing procedures to assure that courses used to meet  
35 general education and associate degree requirements meet the standards in this policy. The  
36 procedures shall provide for Academic Senate involvement following the guidelines of Title 5.

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41 Reference:  
42 Title 5, Section 55061; Accreditation Standard II.A.3  
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44 APPROVED: 5/13/04  
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