

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees shall confer the degree of Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T), or Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) upon a student who has demonstrated competence in reading, written expression and mathematics, and who has satisfactorily completed at least 60 semester units of college work. The course work including major requirements and general education requirements must be fulfilled with curriculum that is accepted toward the degree by either college in the district (as shown in its' catalog). It must include at least 18 semester units in general education and at least 18 semester units in a major as prescribed in this section. Of the required units, at least 12 semester units must be completed in residence at the college granting the degree. Exceptions to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees when it determines that an injustice or undue hardship would be placed on the student.

I. PHILOSOPHY AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND GENERAL EDUCATION

As specified in Title 5, Section 55061, the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees adopts the following as its philosophy on general education consistent with the policy of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

General education requirements are at the heart of what is broadly acknowledged as the fundamental foundation for higher education. These requirements are ambitious and designed to develop a breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding, insights and skills. They include competencies in reading, critical thinking, writing and basic mathematics. The courses that meet the general education requirements are designed to help students:

- A. Develop and refine the skills needed to acquire knowledge and communicate effectively;
- B. Employ science as a dynamic method of observation;
- C. Appreciate individuals as members of society or components of society;
- D. Study culture for increased aesthetic enlightenment and appreciation of creative contributions;
- E. Expand their understandings of American institutions and ideals; and
- F. Gain experiences leading to a better self-understanding.

II. TYPES OF COURSES APPROPRIATE TO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE (Title 5, Section 55805.5)

The criteria established by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees to implement its philosophy on the associate degree shall permit only courses that conform to the standards specified in Section 55002(a) and that fall into the following categories to be offered for associate degree credit:

- A. All lower division courses accepted toward the baccalaureate degree by the California State University or University of California or designed to be offered for transfer.
- B. Courses that apply to the major in non-baccalaureate occupational fields.
- C. English courses including, at the level of, or above the first transfer level composition courses.
- D. Mathematics courses including, at the level of, or above intermediate algebra.

III. Each college shall review, define and publish its general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements consistent with Title 5 and this administrative regulation. Any revisions to the general education philosophy statement and graduation requirements shall be subject to approval by the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees.

References:

Title 5, California Code of Regulations 55060, 55500, 55061, 55805, 55002(a)