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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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