

**CHAPTER 6: Educational Program  
BOARD POLICY NO. 6.10 (BP 4025)**

**BOARD POLICY  
San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 6.10 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education  
**Revision Date:** 4/12  
**Policy References:** Title 5 Section 55061; ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A

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1. An Associate Degree represents more than an accumulation of units. It is awarded to a student who successfully completes learning experiences designed to develop specific abilities and insights as well as to prepare for transfer and employment. Among these are the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to use mathematics; to understand the modes of inquiry and knowledge including the humanities and fine arts, kinesiology, the natural sciences, and the social sciences; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to consider ethical problems and develop the capacity for self-understanding.
2. Within an Associate Degree, the student will complete a major course of study.
3. Central to an Associate Degree, General Education is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. It reflects the conviction that those who receive a degree 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.
4. The Academic Senate shall establish procedures to assure that courses used to meet General Education and Associate Degree requirements meet the standards in this policy.