

Minimum Requirements for A.A. or A.S. Degree

I. The following guidelines are those for Modesto Junior College local requirements which are not affected by new state regulations.

A. GUIDANCE

The guidance courses shall be designed to serve one of the following two objectives: 1.) to introduce the student to the vocation and academic opportunities available at MJC; and 2.) to provide individual conferences and group experiences which facilitate the process of self-assessment, encouraging the student to consider his/her needs, values, motives, interests, and potentialities, especially as they relate to his/her educational and career objectives.

B. ACTIVITIES

The activities courses shall be designed to aid the student in enhancing creative, physical, artistic, and leadership endeavors. Activities courses shall provide a maximum of direct student involvement in the visual or performing arts, physical education, or leadership development.

II. With the repeal of Title 5, Section 55806, the new guidelines are those listed in Title 5, Section 55063, Minimum Requirements for the Associate Degree.

The governing board of a community college district shall confer the associate degree upon a student who has demonstrated competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics, and who has satisfactorily completed at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of degree-applicable credit course work (as defined in section 55002(a)) which falls into the categories described in section 55062. A college may also accept toward satisfaction of this requirement courses that were not completed at a California community college that would reasonably be expected to meet or exceed the standards of section 55002(a).

Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Summer 2009* term or any term thereafter, competence in written expression shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of the course typically known as Freshman Composition (either Freshman Composition or another English course at the same level and with the same rigor, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to subchapter 6 of the chapter (commencing with section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirement set forth in subdivision 9b)(1)(D)(i) of this section.

Effective for all students admitted to a community college for the Fall 2009 term or any term thereafter, competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) or by completing an assessment conducted pursuant to subchapter 6 of this chapter (commencing with section 55500) and achieving a score determined to be comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified

mathematics course. Satisfactory completion of a mathematics course at the level of Intermediate Algebra shall satisfy both this competency requirement and the coursework requirements set forth in subdivision (b)(1)(D)(ii) of this section.

The competency requirements for written expression and mathematics may also be met by obtaining a satisfactory grade in courses in English and mathematics taught in or on behalf of other departments and which, as determined by the local governing board, require entrance skills at a level equivalent of those necessary for Freshman Composition and Intermediate Algebra respectively. Requirements for demonstrating competency in reading shall be locally determined.

The required 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of coursework must be fulfilled in a curriculum accepted toward the degree by a college within the district (as shown in its catalog). It must include at least 18 semester or 27 quarter units in general education and at least 18 semester or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis as prescribed in this section. Of the total required units, at least 12 semester or 18 quarter units must be completed in residence at the college granting the degree. Exception to residence requirements for the associate degree may be made by the governing board when it determines that an injustice or undue hardship would be placed on the student.

(a) Requirements for a major or area of emphasis

(1) At least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of study must be taken in a single discipline or related disciplines, as listed in the community colleges; "Taxonomy of Programs," or in an area of emphasis involving lower division coursework which prepares students for a field of study or for a specific major at the University of California or the California State University.

(b) General Education Requirements

(1) Students receiving an associate degree shall complete a minimum of 18 semester or 27 quarter units of general education coursework which includes a minimum of three semester or four quarter units in each of the areas specified in paragraphs (A), (B) and (C) and the same minimum in each part of paragraph (D). The remainder of the unit requirement is also to be selected from among these four divisions of learning or as determined by local option. The Modesto Junior College local option is identified as paragraph (E), HEALTH EDUCATION.

(A) NATURAL SCIENCES

Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course shall be designed to 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. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

(B) SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to 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. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

(C) HUMANITIES

Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirements in the humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and 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. Such courses could include introductory or integrative course in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.

(D) LANGUAGE AND RATIONALITY

Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student the principles and application of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbols system the student uses. Such courses include the following:

(i) English Composition

Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to include both expository and argumentative writing.

(ii) 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.

(E) HEALTH EDUCATION

The health education courses shall be designed to facilitate understanding of the physiological, social and psychological aspect of the human being. The goals of the course include the following four aspects: 1.) to offer the student a comprehensive approach of the study of the integrated physiological and psychological human being; 2.) to provide introductory information for a number of specialized curriculum areas; 3.) to provide information to equip human beings for lifelong understanding and development of self; 4.) to identify the impact of daily decisions in life and health.

Courses fulfilling this requirement must include a minimum of ten topics from the categories listed below, with at least two topics from each category. One topic may not be counted in more than one category.

PHYSIOLOGICAL

Aging/Death
Birth Control
Childbirth
Diseases
Environmental Concerns
Folk Medicine
Growth and Development
Handicap
Heredity

Hygiene
Maturation
Nutrition
Prenatal Development
Recreation/Exercise
Sex
Stress
Substance Abuse

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Aging
Communication
Interpersonal Relationships
Loving
Personality
Psychological Adjustment

Psychotherapy
Relaxation
Self Awareness
Sexuality
Stress
Suicide

SOCIAL

Accident
Birth Control
Death
Divorce
Dysfunction
Financial Management
Interpersonal Relationships
Marriage
Medical Care

Medical Professions
Parenting
Puberty
Retirement
Sex Roles
Sexual Relationships
Stress
Violence

(2) Ethnic Studies will be offered in at least one of the areas required by subdivision (1).

(c) While a course might satisfy more than one general education requirement, it may not be counted more than once for these purposes. A course may be used to satisfy both a general education requirement and a major or area of emphasis requirement. Whether it may be counted again for a different degree requirement is a matter for each college to determine. Students may use the same course to meet a general education requirement for the associate degree and to partially satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University, if such course is accepted by that system to satisfy a general education requirement.

(d) For the purpose of this section, “satisfactorily completed” means either credit earned on a “pass-no pass” basis or a grade point average of 2.0 or better in community college credit courses in the curriculum upon which the degree is based.