

Graduation Requirements

Associate in Arts (AA)

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts degree requires 60-64 semester credits for the program of study. The degree includes the following components:

I. General Education: Arizona General Education Curriculum for Arts (AGEC-A)

MCCCD Additional Requirements

II. General Electives

Purpose of the Degree

The Associate in Arts degree is designed for students planning to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors in the Liberal Arts or programs of study other than business or science. Generally, the degree will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements.

In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCCD Associate in Arts will apply to university graduation requirements of the university major for which the Associate in Arts is designed. Information regarding the articulation of the Associate in Arts with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed via the following website: www.aztransfer.com

Academic Policies that Govern the Associate in Arts Degree

- Completion of the Associate in Arts or the AGECE-A provides for exemption from Arizona public university admission requirements for Arizona residents who have a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 on a 4.0=A scale and a minimum 2.5 on a 4.0=A scale for non-residents.
- The graduation policies within the general catalog must be satisfied for completion of the Associate in Arts degree.
- A minimum of 60 semester credits in courses numbered 100 and above to be completed with a grade of "C" or better; Credit units transferred from outside of the district need to be at a grade of "C" or better. A grade of "C" equals 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale or equivalent. On an exception basis, P-grades may be allowed in the AGECE for credit transferred if documentation collected by the community college indicates that the P-grade issued was the only option for the student and the P-grade is a "C" or better. The P-grade exception does not apply to credits awarded by AGECE granting/receiving institutions;
- Credit received through prior learning assessment or credit by evaluation is transferable within the Maricopa Community Colleges but is not necessarily transferable to other colleges and universities. No more than 20 semester credit hours may be applied toward AGECE.
- The General Education Requirements for AGECE-A may be completed in 35 semester credits with the following stipulations
 - o Courses can satisfy a Core Area and one or two Awareness Areas simultaneously
 - o A courses cannot be used to satisfy more than one Core Area
- General Education Courses can satisfy multiple areas within the degree simultaneously (AGECE-A Core Area, AGECE Awareness Area, MCCCD Additional Requirements, or lower-division courses applicable to the major).
- Effective Fall 2000, the course evaluation and/or general education designation as listed in the Arizona Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) within the Arizona Course Applicability System (AZCAS), is valid for the term in which the student is awarded credit on the transcript. A course evaluation and/or general education designation may be subject to change. Students do have the option to petition for general education evaluations and/or general education designations upon transfer.
- Courses completed at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges to meet AGECE-A requirements must be listed in the Course Equivalency Guide within the Arizona Course Applicability System as an equivalent course, departmental elective credit (XXXXDEC), or general elective credit (Elective) at all Arizona public universities. The course's evaluation and/or general education designation is valid for the term in which the student is awarded credit on the transcript. See the list titled MCCCD Courses That Can Be used to Satisfy MCCCD AGECE-A, AGECE-B, and/or AGECE-S for specific course information via the following website: www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/

- Courses completed at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges to meet the General Electives requirement must be listed in the Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) within the Arizona Course Applicability System (AZCAS) as an equivalent course, departmental elective credit (XXXDEC), or general elective credit (Elective) at all Arizona public universities. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an advisor.
- Courses transferred from another regionally accredited institution to one of the Maricopa Community Colleges will be evaluated by the college for inclusion in the AGEC-A or Associate in Arts Degree.
- Courses and their modular equivalents will satisfy AGEC-A and Associate in Arts requirements.
- If a course is cross-referenced with one or more other courses, then only one of the cross-referenced courses will be accepted to meet requirements.

Degree Requirements

The 60-64 semester credits required for the Associate in Arts follow. See the list titled [MCCCD Courses That Can Be used to Satisfy MCCCD AGEC-A, AGEC-B, and/or AGEC-S](#) for specific course information via the following website: www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/. This list identifies the courses in alpha-order by prefix as well as the Core Areas and Awareness Areas where the course will apply. For purposes of clarifying requirements in the Mathematics and Natural Sciences areas on the list and the AGEC requirements, an A, B, and/or S character may follow the [MA], [SQ], [SG] general education designations and refers to the specific AGEC.

I. MCCCD General Education

The MCCCD General Education includes two areas: MCCCD AGEC-A and MCCCD Additional Requirements.

MCCCD AGEC-A

1. Core Areas - 35 (credits)

- First-Year Composition (FYC) - 6**
- Literacy and Critical Inquiry [L] - 3**
- Mathematical Studies [MA/CS] - 6**

To complete the Mathematical Studies requirement, select one course to satisfy Mathematics [MA] A and a second course from Computer/Statistics/Quantitative Applications [CS].

1) Mathematics [MA] A (3 credits)

Note: requires a course in college mathematics (MAT142) or college algebra (MAT 150, MAT 151, MAT152) or pre calculus (MAT 187) or any other mathematics course designated with the MA general education value and for which college algebra is a pre-requisite.

AND

2) Computer/Statistics/Quantitative Applications [CS] (3 credits)

d. Humanities and Fine Arts [HU] - 6

Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline for a total of six semester credits.

e. Social and Behavioral Sciences [SB] - 6

Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline for a total of six semester credits.

f. Natural Sciences [SQ/SG] - 8

To complete the Natural Sciences requirement: Select four (4) semester credits of [SQ] and four (4) semester credits of [SG] for a total of eight (8) semester credits, **OR** eight (8) semester credits of [SQ]. Students **cannot** take eight (8) semester credits of [SG] to meet the Natural Sciences requirement.

The lecture course(s) selected for Natural Sciences must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory course. The lecture and corresponding laboratory course(s) may carry separate credit. Students should consult with an advisor for appropriate course selection. Students should also access the AZ Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) within the AZ Course Applicability System (AZCAS) for information on equivalencies.

2. Awareness Areas:

Students must satisfy two Awareness Areas: Cultural Diversity in the United States [C] and either Global Awareness [G] or Historical Awareness [H]. However, it is not necessary for students to exceed thirty-five semester credits to

complete the Awareness Areas because courses can satisfy a Core Area and one or two Awareness Areas simultaneously. Therefore no additional semester credits are required to satisfy the two Awareness Areas.

Cultural Diversity in the United States [C] **AND**
Global Awareness [G] **OR**
Historical Awareness [H]

3. MCCCDC Additional Requirements 0-6

Students must satisfy Oral Communication and Critical Reading areas. However, it is not necessary for students to exceed the thirty-five semester credits required in order to complete the MCCCDC Additional Requirements because courses can satisfy a Core Area and MCCCDC Additional Requirements simultaneously. Therefore no additional semester credits are required to satisfy Oral Communication and Critical Reading.

a. Oral Communication

A total of three (3) semester credits is required for Oral Communication. However, if students select a communication course that satisfies both the Oral Communication area and an area within the Core, then the Oral Communication requirement has been satisfied and additional electives may be taken.

Select from the following options:

COM100 [SB] (3 credits) **OR**
COM100AA & COM100AB & COM100AC [SB]
(3 credits) **OR**
COM110 [SB] (3 credits) **OR**
COM110AA & COM110AB & COM110AC [SB]
(3 credits) **OR**
COM225 [L] (3 credits) **OR**
COM230 [SB] (3 credits)

b. Critical Reading

A total of three (3) semester credits is required for the Critical Reading area. However, if students complete CRE 101 and apply it to AGEC-A Core Requirements or if the students demonstrate proficiency through assessment, then the Critical Reading requirement has been satisfied and additional electives may be taken.

CRE101 [L] **OR**
equivalent as indicated by assessment

II. General Electives

Select courses to complete a minimum of 60 semester credits but no more than a total of 64 semester credits.

For students who have decided on a major that articulates with the AA, but who are undecided on the university to which they will transfer, courses satisfying the General Electives area should be selected from the list of Common Courses, Arizona Transfer Pathway Guides, and/or University Transfer Guides in order for the courses to apply in the major upon transfer.

The list of Common Courses for each major is included in the Arizona Transfer Pathway Guides. University Transfer Guides are also available for the Arizona public universities. These guides, both statewide and institutional, are accessible on the following web site: www.aztransfer.com/

Students must select MCCCDC courses that are acceptable as an equivalent course, departmental elective credit (XXXXDEC), or general elective credit (Elective) at all Arizona public universities according to the Arizona CEG within the AZCAS. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an advisor.

For some majors, students must demonstrate 4th semester proficiency at the 202 course level to satisfy the Non-English Language Requirements. Students should consult the Arizona Transfer Pathway Guides and/or the University Transfer Guides to determine this requirement for the major at the university to which they intend to transfer. If required, it is recommended that students choose Maricopa courses as electives to meet this requirement as part of the Associate in Arts degree.

Students who are undecided on a major or university should consult an advisor. Not all majors have common courses, so it is recommended that students consult with an advisor for a list of common courses or assistance with selecting appropriate electives.

Associate in Arts Total Credits: 60-64