

Graduation & General Education



Certificates and Degrees

Students have many different goals in mind when they enroll at Bakersfield College. Some plan to earn a certificate to enhance their job skills while others want to earn an associate degree and/or transfer to a four-year university. Bakersfield College offers the following certificate and degree programs:

- Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees can be used to obtain necessary skills for a range of possible careers, or they may be used to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Associate in Arts/Associate in Science for Transfer degrees (AA-T, AS-T). Students will earn an associate degree as well as being transfer-ready.
- Certificates of Achievement are awarded to students who complete formal instructional programs of at least 18 units designed to prepare them for a specific field or endeavor.
- Job Skills Certificates are awarded upon the satisfactory completion of coursework (less than 18 units) in a specific area of study.

Students who plan to seek immediate employment rather than to transfer usually choose to meet the Bakersfield College General Education Requirements.

Graduation with an Associate Degree

The awarding of an associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It symbolizes a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights: the ability to think and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to solve problems and to use mathematics; to understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to develop the capability for self-understanding. In addition to these accomplishments, the student shall possess sufficient depth in some field of knowledge to contribute to lifetime interest. (Title 5)

The associate degree shall be conferred by the Board of Trustees of the Kern Community College District upon a Bakersfield College student who has satisfactorily completed the requirements. These requirements are consistent with those prescribed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Board of Trustees of the Kern Community College District.

Associate in Arts/Sciences Degrees for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T)

California Community Colleges are now offering associate degrees for transfer to the California State University. These may include Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a California State University major and baccalaureate degree. California Community College students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission with junior standing somewhere in the California State University system and given priority admission consideration to their local California State University campus or to a program that is deemed similar to their community college major. This priority does not guarantee admission to specific majors or campuses.

Students who have been awarded an AA-T or AS-T are able to complete their remaining requirements for the 120-unit baccalaureate degree within 60 semester or 90 quarter units.

To view the most current list of Bakersfield College Associate Degrees for Transfer and to find out which California State University campuses accept each degree, please visit the A Degree with a Guarantee website at www.adegreewithaguarantee.com. Current and prospective community college students should meet with an advisor to review their options for transfer and to develop an educational plan that best meets their goals and needs.

Applying for Graduation

Students must complete candidacy for graduation requests early in the semester in which they plan to graduate. Applications are available under Other Forms on the Admissions and Records tab in the student portal at inside.bakersfieldcollege.edu. Students should

bring the completed application form and a DegreeWorks Student View Worksheet to Window 7 of the Office of Admissions and Records. The worksheet and completed graduation request are due as follows:

- To graduate in December, forms are due by November 1
- To graduate in May, forms are due by April 1
- To graduate in August, forms are due by July 1.

The Office of Admissions and Records notifies students who do not qualify as soon as possible after the application is received but no later than the end of the graduation semester. Students who do not receive such notification should assume that they will graduate if they satisfactorily complete the courses they are registered for in their final semester. Students who qualify will receive their diplomas in the mail approximately eight weeks after the end of the semester. Duplicate diplomas can only be issued upon written request and upon payment of a replacement fee.

Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement ceremonies are held once each year in May. Students who complete their degree requirements during the fall, summer, or spring prior to the ceremony or who will complete them in the following summer are eligible to participate. Students planning to complete during the following summer must:

- file a candidacy request between April 1 and May 1
- need only one course or less than five units for completion
- submit documentation of registration for the required course(s)

General Requirements

1. Educational Planning
Completion of a designated course and a student education plan within the first 15 units at Bakersfield College. Choose from the following:
 - Agriculture: AGRI B1
 - Allied Health: NURS B100
 - Applied Science and Technology: INDT B10
 - FACE: FDSV B50
 - Physical Science: ARCH B1; ENGR B47
 - Student Development: STDV B1, B2, B3, B4, B6
2. Minimum of 60 degree applicable units, with at least a 2.0 grade point average.
3. At least 12 of the 60 units must be completed with Bakersfield College.
4. Completion of the required courses with a minimum grade of 'C' of a designated major.
5. Competency Requirements:
 - Composition: completion of English B1A with a minimum grade of 'C.'
 - Mathematics: Two years of high school algebra or MATH B70 with a minimum grade of 'C'; or an equivalent score on the Placement/Assessment.
 - Reading: a satisfactory score on the Bakersfield College Placement/Assessment or a satisfactory grade in ACDV B50.
6. Completion of a General Education Pattern: Choose 1: Bakersfield College General Education Specific Requirements, or California State University General Education Breadth, or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). (See General Education Requirements)

7. Completion of one course with a minimum grade of 'C' meeting the Multicultural Requirement

Multicultural Requirement

Multicultural study promotes awareness of and sensitivity to diverse beliefs and practices in contemporary society. Bakersfield College requires students to take courses that are inclusive of multicultural perspectives found in American and global society. This requirement may be satisfied through studying the distinctive cultures of the United States or the world, including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, class, political systems, religions, or human geography.

American Cultural and Ethnic Groups

This requirement includes courses that lead to an understanding of ethnic groups and cultures in American society. Courses will focus on themes that address the theoretical or analytical issues relevant to understanding race, culture, and ethnicity. This exploration can be accomplished through the study of, but not limited to: African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Chicano/Latino Americans, and European Americans from integrative and comparative viewpoints as they relate to the larger context of American history, society, and culture.

World Cultures

Students may develop a multicultural perspective through a study of world cultures and their relationship to America in a global society. The study of the history, society, or culture of a foreign country and its relationship to America can demonstrate the interdependence of all nations in a global political, economic and social infrastructure.

Courses meeting this requirement should not be based solely on Western Civilization.

Multiple Degrees

An associate in arts or associate in science degree will be awarded to those already possessing an associate or higher degree if:

1. All requirements in a different major from that of previous associate or higher degree are satisfied; and
2. All general education requirements in effect when beginning the new degree program are satisfied; and
3. The student is enrolled at Bakersfield College during the semester in which the degree requirements are completed.

General Education

The General Education Program at Bakersfield College includes those courses required of all students, regardless of major or career goals, for the associate degree or for transfer to some four-year institutions. The program is intended to be more than a requirement; it can be an exciting, dynamic, and essential part of a student's education.

The General Education Program has been designed to address the needs of men and women of all ages, abilities, ethnic identities, life styles, and goals. Through general education, the college seeks to foster knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will empower students to shape the direction of their lives and their environment. Its goal is to encourage students to strive for the highest quality of life, both at leisure and at work, for themselves, their families, and the larger community.

Recognizing the certainty of change, the college, through the General Education Program, hopes to prepare students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Specifically, the program will assist them to develop and acquire the following:

- **Global Consciousness:** an awareness of the complexity and diversity of the world, with its interplay of environmental, social, cultural, political, and economic forces, and an understanding of the unique role that each person plays in the system of relationships which extends from family to the international community.
- **Communication Skills:** the ability to convey ideas, values, feelings, and knowledge accurately and effectively through written, oral, aesthetic, and technological media across personal, cultural, and national boundaries.
- **Adaptability:** the willingness and confidence to accept and respond creatively to change, and the ability to analyze, think critically, solve problems, and resolve personal and interpersonal conflicts.
- **Responsibility:** A respect for ethics, citizenship, and leadership, and a commitment to personal health and emotional growth which enable one to participate in life rather than react to it.
- **Knowledge:** the body of information, reflecting both quantitative and qualitative reasoning, in the arts, sciences, and technology, their modes of inquiry and expression, their interrelationships, and the methods of accessing information in all areas of study.

The general education program thus seeks to assist students to succeed in the present and to inspire them to approach the future with a commitment to life-long learning.

Because certain basic competencies are necessary for an educated person, the General Education Program specifically requires competency testing (or course alternatives) in reading, written expression, and mathematics.

Institutional Level Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of an associate degree, a student will:

- I. Pursue knowledge and evaluate its consequences
 - A. Think critically, abstractly, logically, and algorithmically to evaluate and solve problems.
 - B. Integrate new information to formulate principles and theories and display openness to different opinions.
 - C. Share the desire for intellectual creativity and acquisition of knowledge.
- II. Communicate clearly and effectively in both written and oral forms.
- III. Demonstrate knowledge and abilities in a chosen area of study.
 - A. Demonstrate an understanding of resources and procedures of a field and the ability to use them.
 - B. Demonstrate the ability to use current technology to acquire, organize, and analyze information appropriately.
 - C. Possess a core of knowledge and skills in a chosen field.
- IV. Appreciate civic responsibilities.
 - A. Reflect upon the cultural and ethical dimensions of life.
 - B. Contribute to society as an actively engaged citizen.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

A.1. Oral Communication

1. Form and present informative persuasive messages.
2. Demonstrate competence in both active and emphatic listening.
3. Present oral messages to appropriate audiences and adhere to conventions of message delivery.
4. Manage personal communication apprehension and anxiety.

A.2. Written Communication

1. Identify the controlling idea and the main points of college-level expository and argumentative essays.
2. Evaluate expository and argumentative essays through the application of critical thinking techniques.
3. Write logical and coherent expository and argumentative essays, summaries, and paraphrases using correctly the standard conventions of written English.

B.1. Natural Sciences

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of natural phenomena and recognize the processes that explain them.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of scientific methodologies when solving a problem.

B.2. Mathematics and Logic (Analytic Thinking)

1. Apply formal systems of reasoning in solving problems or analyzing arguments.

C.1. Introduction to the Arts

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the ways in which arts, literature, philosophy or foreign languages reflect historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, as well as aesthetic tastes.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize, describe and/or produce various components of an art form or language either visually and/or auditorily.

C.2. Introduction to the Humanities

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the ways in which arts, literature, philosophy or foreign languages reflect historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, as well as aesthetic tastes.

D.1. Foundations in the Behavioral Sciences

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods, and core concepts of the behavioral sciences.
2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical, and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non-Western peoples.

D.2. Foundations in the Social Sciences

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods, and core concepts of the social sciences.

2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical, and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non-Western peoples.

D.3. American (U.S.) Institutions

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives, theories, methods, and core concepts of the social sciences.
2. Explain the major problems and issues in the disciplines in their contemporary, historical, and geographical contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the contributions and perspectives of women, ethnic and other minorities, and Western and non-Western peoples.

E. Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development

1. Critically examine the development of the individual as an integrated physiological, psychological, spiritual, and social being.
2. Identify, describe and explain the interactions of the internal and external influences and effects in human development and behavior over the course of the human life span.

Bakersfield College General Education Pattern

A. Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking (6 units)

Courses in language and rationality are those which develop the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression, and critical evaluation and communication. Take 3 units in A.1 and 3 units in A.2.

A.1. Oral Communication (3 units) COMM B1, B4, B8

A.2. Written Communication (3 units) ENGL B1A, B2, B3

B. Physical Universe and Life Forms (6 units)

Courses in the natural sciences are those that examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. Further, courses in the natural sciences help develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method. Courses in the natural sciences, math and logic help students apply logical, qualitative and quantitative reasoning in solving problems or analyzing arguments. Take 3 units in B.1 and 3 units in B.2.

B.1. Natural Sciences (3 units)

- **Life Sciences:**
 - ANSC B1
 - ANTH B1
 - BIOL B3A, B11, B16, B18, B32, B33
 - CRPS B1, B10
 - FORE B2
 - PSYC B1B
 - SOIL B1

- **Physical Sciences:**
 - ASTR B1, B2, B3
 - CHEM B1A, B2A, B11, B18
 - ERSC B10; B10L
 - GEOG B1, B1L, B3
 - GEOL B10, B10L, B11, B11L
 - PHSC B12
 - PHYS B2A, B4A

B.2. Mathematics and Logic Analytical Thinking (3 units)

- COMM B5
- MATH B1A, B1B, B2, B4A, B6A, B6B, B6C, B22, B23, B70
- PHIL B7, B9
- PSYC B5, B6

C. Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Language (3 units)

Courses in the Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Language are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. The courses help 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. Art and language study may consist of historical or stylistic survey courses, courses involving speaking (signing) and understanding a language, hands-on creation or re-creation of examples of visual or performing arts, and/or courses which develop specific skills necessary for engaging in visual or performing arts.

C.1. Arts

- ART B1, B2, B4, B5, B10, B16, B17, B20, B24, B35, B36, B37*
- MUSC B2, B4AB, B5AB, B6AB, B9AB, B10A, B12A, B13A, B14A, B17A, B21A, B21B, B22, B23, B24*, B27
- ORNH B36
- SPAN B1
- THEA B1, B2A, B2B, B12A, B20, B27, B31, B32

C.2. Humanities

- ASL B1, B2, B3, B4, B7
- COMM B21
- ENGL B1B, B5A, B5B, B10, B20A*, B21*, B24, B27, B38, B30A, B30B, B33
- JAPN B1, B2, B3
- PHIL B6a, B10, B12, B18, B37*
- SPAN B1, B2, B3, B4, B35

D. Social, Political, Legal and Economic Institution and Behavior, Historical Background (9 units for AA; 6 units for AS)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as individuals and as members of society. The courses will help develop an understanding of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. For an Associate in Arts degree, choose six units from D.1 and/or D.2 and 3 units from D.3. For an Associate in Science degree, take 3 units from either D.1 or D.2 and three units from D.3.

D.1. Foundations in the Behavioral Sciences

- **CHDV** B21
- **COMM** B6*
- **PSYC** B1A, B20 (SOCI B20), B33, B40
- **SOCI** B20 (PSYC B20)

D.2. Foundation in the Social Sciences

- **AGRI** B1
- **AGBS** B2
- **ANTH** B2*,B3, B5*
- **BSAD** B20
- **COMM** B7
- **CRIM** B1, B5
- **ECON** B1, B2
- **GEOG** B2*
- **HIST** B1, B2*, B4A*, B4B*, B15, B17A*, B17B*, B18*, B20A*, B20B*, B25*, B30A*, B33*, B36*
- **JRNL** B1*
- **POLS** B1*, B2*, B3*, B12*, B16
- **PSYC** B20 (SOCI B20)
- **SOCI** B1*, B2, B20 (PSYC B20), B28*, B36*, B45*

D.3. American (U.S. Institutions)

- **HIST** B17A*,B17B*, B18*, B20A*, B30B*, B36*
- **POLS** B1*, B12*

E. Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development (4 units)

Courses in this area will prepare students for lifelong integrated physiological and psychological development. Take 3 units from one of the following courses:

- **COMM** B2
- **HLED** B1
- **NUTR** B10
- **MEDS** B35, or completion of an approved Allied Health Program
- **PHED** B36
- **PSYC** B1A, B30, B33
- **STDV** B6

No more than one unit of activity/skills course work may be used to satisfy the Area E requirement. Take 1 unit from the following PHED courses:

- **PHED** B2SB, B3ADP, B6A, B6BB, B6BLB, B6FCX, B6G, B6JD (DANC B6JD), B6SC, B6T, B6V, B6WT, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B16, B17, B20, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27, B28, B29, B32, B33

**Course satisfies the Multicultural Requirement.*

Multicultural Requirement

Bakersfield College requires students to take courses that are inclusive of multicultural perspectives found in American and global society. This requirement may be satisfied through studying either American ethnic groups or world cultures.

Note: Students must complete at least one class identified with an (*) to satisfy the Multicultural Requirement for graduation.

The following courses satisfy both a Bakersfield College General Education category and the Multicultural Requirement:

- **ANTH** B2, B5

- **ART** B37
- **COMM** B6
- **ENGL** B20A , B21
- **GEOG** B2
- **HIST** B2, B4A, B4B, B17A, B17B, B18, B20A, B20B, B25, B30A, B30B, B33, B36
- **JRNL** B1
- **MUSC** B24
- **PHIL** B37
- **POLS** B1, B2, B3, B12
- **SOCI** B1, B28, B36, B45

The following non-general education courses also satisfy the Multicultural Requirement:

- **ASL** B6
- **CHDV** B32