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**Administrative Procedure**  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

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## **AP 4100 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES**

### **References:**

Title 5 Sections 55060 et seq., 55063(e)(3) et seq., and 55270 et seq.

### **Responsibilities**

The Vice President, Academic Affairs, shall administer these regulations in conjunction with the Dean of Enrollment Services or designee.

### **Definitions**

College work includes those courses acceptable toward the associate degree that have been properly approved pursuant to Title 5 Section 55002(a), or, if completed at other than a California community college, would reasonably be expected to meet the standards of that section.

### **Curriculum Committee**

The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, herein referred to as the Curriculum Committee, is the primary recommending body on curriculum and instruction. It is a standing committee of the Academic Senate. The Curriculum Committee establishes procedures to determine degree and certificate requirements. The procedures shall assure that graduation requirements are published in the District's catalog and included in other resources that are convenient for students and will be filed with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

### **Associate in Arts, Associate in Science Requirements**

For the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree, a student must demonstrate competence in reading, in written expression, and in mathematics.

A student may be eligible for an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree when the following requirements are met:

1. The student must satisfactorily complete at least 60 degree-applicable semester units.
2. Students must successfully complete at least 50% of the program of study requirements with at least 12 semester units of study overall in residence; exceptions to the residence requirement can be made by the Degree Appeal Committee in consultation or recommendation to the Associate Degree/General Education (ADGE) Subcommittee when an injustice or

undue hardship would result.

3. The general education requirements completed must include a minimum of coursework in English composition, communication and analytical thinking, the natural sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the arts and humanities.
4. The coursework must include at least 18 semester units in general education and successful completion of the program of study courses, which must be at least 18 semester units in a major listed in the Community Colleges "Taxonomy of Programs."
5. Ethnic studies must be offered.

### **General Education Reciprocity for the Associate Degrees**

#### **Plan A** General Education and Graduation Proficiency Requirements

Any student with an associate's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college is exempt from the Plan A general education and graduation proficiency requirements. A student is exempt from graduation proficiency requirements should LBCC verify that the student's earned associate degree meets current graduation requirements in English and mathematics.

Any student with a bachelor's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university is exempt from the Plan A general education and graduation proficiency requirements.

Any student with an international baccalaureate degree that has been evaluated by Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI) specifically for Long Beach City College, and is deemed equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree, is exempt from the Plan A general education and graduation proficiency requirements.

Credit is granted for fulfillment of LBCC degree requirements. However, when a student transfers to another college or university, the receiving institution routinely re-evaluates courses in accordance with its own internal policies. Thus, units remain intact and do not transfer as Long Beach City College courses.

#### **Plan B** General Education and Graduation Proficiency Requirements

Any student with a bachelor's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited university is exempt from the Plan B general education requirements.

Credit is granted for fulfillment of LBCC degree requirements. However, when a student transfers to another college or university, the receiving institution routinely re-evaluates courses in accordance with its own internal policies. Thus, units remain intact and do not transfer as Long Beach City College courses.

The Ethnic Studies graduation requirement, as delineated in California Education Code Section 89032 for the California State University, shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student, or a student who has completed an ethnic studies course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

### **Certificate of Achievement Requirements**

A student may be eligible for a Certificate of Achievement when the following requirements are met:

- A. For a certificate of achievement, a student must successfully complete a course of study or curriculum that consists of 16 or more semester units of degree-applicable credit coursework. The certificate of achievement shall be designed to demonstrate that the student has completed coursework and developed capabilities relating to career or general education.
- B. Course content and assessment standards for certificates shall ensure that certificate programs are consistent with the mission of Long Beach Community College District, meet a demonstrated need, are feasible, and adhere to guidelines on academic achievement.
- C. Credit programs of fewer than 16 units that lead to a certificate may be established by the District.
- D. Certificates for which the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office approval is not sought may be given any name or designation deemed appropriate except for certificate of achievement, certificate of completion, or certificate of competency.

### **Acceptance of Transfer Credit from Other Colleges, Universities, and Institutions**

#### **Institutions Within the United States**

Transfer credit, if otherwise appropriate, shall only be accepted from colleges and universities which have been properly accredited by one of the regional Associations of Schools and Colleges.

The acceptable accrediting associations are the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; Higher Learning Commission (formerly the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; New England Association of Schools and Colleges; Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

#### **United States Military Institutions**

Acceptance of transfer credit for education completed during military service will be in accordance with the associate/baccalaureate credit recommendations contained in "A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services" published by the American Council on Education (ACE). Students must submit documentation of educational experiences during military service. Acceptable documents include but are

not limited to: AARTS or SMART Transcript; DD-214; DD-295; NAV/PERS 1070/604; DD-2586; National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 22E; Coast Guard Institute; and the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).

### **Foreign Institutions**

Acceptance of transfer credit from foreign schools shall be subject to the student obtaining, at his/her/their own expense, a transcript evaluation from a Credentials Evaluation Service as designated by the Director of Admissions and Records.

### **Acceptable Credit**

- A. Only lower division credit will generally be accepted. An upper division course will only be accepted if the specific course is substantially the same as the corresponding course at Long Beach City College.
- B. Second party credits will not be accepted. Example: School A, whose credits the District would normally accept, has itself accepted credits from School B. Long Beach City College will not accept credits from School B through School A, but only directly from School B if otherwise acceptable.
- C. Credits from other schools which are equivalent to one or more of the District's course offerings, or which may be used in lieu of one or more of the District's course offerings, may be applied to the degree and certificate requirements as if the coursework were taken at LBCC. If not equivalent, transfer credits may only be used for elective credit toward the District's degree and/or certificates.
- D. Where equivalency of transfer credits is questionable, the Records Office shall solicit the assistance of the Articulation Office and the appropriate Instructional Dean or Department Head in determining whether or not a transfer credit is equivalent to the District's coursework.
- E. Credit for six units, three in Physical Education and three in Health Education, may be granted to any student who provides proper documentation of at least one year of active duty service in the armed forces of the United States.
- F. No credit will be granted for seminars or other instruction conducted by private or public agencies even though the academic level can be shown to be equal to the District's. Students in these situations may apply for credit by examination if offered by the department.

### **General Education Certification**

Credits from other institutions that are regionally accredited may be used toward lower division general education requirements for the California State University breadth and the University of California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) for General Education (GE) Certification. Courses used for this purpose are those that are currently approved by the CSU and/or UC system for general education credit.

Subject area placement for the CSU is determined based on where the credit was used for general education from the institution in which the course was completed.

Subject area placement for the UC is determined based on how, and if, the course was used at any community college in California.

### **Catalog Rights**

At the beginning of each academic year, the LBCC Catalog is updated with the most current information including graduation and course requirements for degrees and certificates.

Providing a student maintains continuous enrollment, a student may follow the catalog requirements that were:

- (1) in effect at the time they began taking classes at LBCC, or
- (2) in effect for subsequent years during their continuous enrollment, or
- (3) in effect at the intended term of graduation.

- A. New Students: Students who enroll in the summer/winter term will establish catalog rights the subsequent term (fall/spring), effective Fall 2023.
- B. Continuing students who break enrollment and have taken a course with any of the following grades and/or non-evaluative symbols entered on an LBCC transcript: A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, W, EW, MW, RD, or I in a summer term, will establish catalog rights the subsequent fall term, effective Fall 2023.
- C. Continuing students who break enrollment and have taken a course with any of the following grades and/or non-evaluative symbols entered on an LBCC transcript: A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, W, EW, MW, RD, or I in a winter term, will establish catalog rights the subsequent spring term, effective Fall 2023.
- D. After initially enrolling at LBCC, continuous enrollment is defined as enrollment in at least one course per academic year (fall, winter, spring, summer) at LBCC or any other regionally accredited higher education institution. If there is a break in enrollment for more than one academic year, the student will be held to the requirements listed in the LBCC catalog at the time of re-enrollment. Any of the following grades and/or non-evaluative symbols entered on an LBCC transcript constitutes continuous enrollment: A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, W, EW, MW, RD, or I., effective Fall 2023.
- E. Students have the consecutive academic year (fall, winter, spring, summer) after requirements are completed to apply for a degree/certificate, or catalog rights will be forfeited, and the student will be held to the requirements listed in the catalog at the time of application. Student appeals to this procedure may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Degree Appeal committee, effective Fall 2023.
- F. If a student is granted academic renewal for any of the terms during the academic year (fall, winter, spring, summer), that term will be counted as meeting continuous enrollment, effective Fall 2023.

Also see BP/AP 2510 Participation in Local Decision-Making, BP 4100 Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates, BP/AP 4101 Independent Study, BP/AP 4102 Career and Technical Education, BP/AP 4103 Work Experience, BP/AP 4104 Contract Education, and BP/AP 4105 Distance Education.

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**Approved:** April 17, 1997 (AR 4019); May 6, 2006 (AR 4023)

**Revised:** November 16, 2010 (AR 4019); June 12, 2012 (AR 4019); November 17, 2021; June 21, 2023; July 17, 2024