The Chancellor's Office supports ASCCC Resolution 9.06, approved in Spring 2008, which provided guidelines for classifying disciplines into AA or AS degrees as follows:

- Associate of Science (AS) are strongly recommended for any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field and CTE programs
- Associate of Arts (AA) are strongly recommended for all other disciplines
- Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) must be used for any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field and CTE programs
- Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) must be used for all other disciplines

B. General Associate Degree Standards

The general standards for the Associate degree are set forth in title 5, section 55063 which specifies the following requirements:

- At least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units defining a major or area of emphasis and aligned with the TOP Code identified for the degree
- At least 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of GE
- At least 60 total semester units or 90 quarter units

The 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in the major or area of emphasis can be in a single discipline or related disciplines, or it can be in an area of emphasis, defined as a more general grouping of lower division course work that prepares students for a field of study or specific major at a CSU or UC. The standards for GE are further defined in title 5, section 55061. The remaining units may be used for local graduation requirements or electives, as permitted for the degree type.

C. Standards for Writing and Computation Competency

All students awarded a degree must demonstrate competence in writing by obtaining a satisfactory grade in an English course at the level of Freshman Composition or by achieving a score on an assessment comparable to satisfactory completion of the specified English course. Satisfactory completion of an English course at the level of Freshman Composition or higher satisfies both this competency requirement and the English Composition GE coursework requirement.

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DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND TRANSFER PLANNING

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

The associate degree is a certification of the student's satisfactory completion of a program of study with a specific major or area of specialization. The associate degree is normally completed in two years and may be compared with the baccalaureate degree which is normally completed in four years.

Associate degrees are commonly conferred by community colleges. They are usually of two types, the associate in arts and the associate in science. The distinction between the associate in arts and the associate in science degrees lies in the majors. If the major is in the fields of engineering, physical or biological science, or occupational curricula, the degree conferred is usually the associate in science. Otherwise the associate in arts degree is conferred.

Ordinarily associate degrees have one of two major purposes. Either the program of study prepares the individual for transfer to a four-year college or university, or the program of study is intended to prepare the student for immediate employment.

The requirements for the associate degree include the specific courses in the major and what is called a general education or breadth requirement. The specific details concerning both the major and the general education requirements are described in Associate Degree Requirements on page 27.