

Academic Affairs

Sent to Maria C./Cara K. 7-9-2026
Sara Malmquist-West—red 8/12/2026

AP 4100 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES**References:**

Title 5 Sections 55060 et seq., 55090 et seq., and 55270 et seq.

Coursework for Associates Degrees**Associates of Arts (A.A.)**

The Associate of Arts (A.A.) Degree or Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree will be awarded to any student upon satisfactory completion of all of the following requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of sixty (60) semester units of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213:

A. Complete a minimum of 18 semester units of focused study in the major, and

B. Complete a minimum of 22 semester units of General Education by completing either

(a) College of Marin's 22-unit General Education or

(b) the 34-unit California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).

Students with catalog rights prior to Fall 2025 may follow one of the previous general education patterns (CSU GE Breadth or IGETC). Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the associate degree.

2. Each course required for the major or area of emphasis must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher, "CR" or "P" if the course is taken on a "pass/no-pass" basis (Title 5 Section 5063 (a) (2)).

3. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher in all degree-applicable coursework.

4. A minimum of 12 degree-applicable units must be completed at the College of Marin.

A "major" is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation must be designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.

An "area of emphasis" is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.

College of Marin's General Education includes a minimum of 22 semester units or 31.5 quarter units of general education coursework in the following areas (1A) English Composition, (1B) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking, (2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, (3) Arts and Humanities, (4) Social and Behavioral Sciences, (5) Natural Sciences, and (6) Ethnic Studies, and (7) Health and Personal Growth. Areas 1A, 1B

and 2 must be completed with a “C” or higher, “CR” or “P” if the course is taken on a “pass/no-pass” basis. Courses with C- or D grades may be applied to areas 3-7 if the overall GPA for degree-applicable units is above 2.0.

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

The Associates in Arts or Associates in Science for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T) Degree, will be awarded to any student upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of sixty (60) lower-division CSU-transferable semester units including:
 - A. Complete required units in the major, and
 - B. Complete the 34-unit California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC). Students with catalog rights prior to Fall 2025 may follow one of the previous general education patterns (CSU GE Breadth or IGETC).
2. Each course required for Cal-GETC and the major or area of emphasis must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher, “CR” or “P” if the course is taken on a “pass/no-pass” basis (Title 5 Section 5063 (a) (2)).
3. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher in all CSU-transferable coursework.
4. A minimum of 12 degree-applicable units must be completed at the College of Marin.

Other Conditions for Awarding Associate Degrees

Residency & GPA

The district will award an associate degree to students who fulfill the coursework requirements described above. The student must complete at least 12 semester units in residence at the College of Marin. The Board may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate injustice or undue hardship.

The student must complete the requirements for the associate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If a student accumulates units beyond those required for the degree that lower the student’s cumulative grade point average below 2.0, the District may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major or area of emphasis and general education requirements. Courses that meet or exceed the standards of the California Community Colleges completed at other institutionally accredited institutions shall be counted toward associate degree unit requirements.

Double-Counting Units

Students must complete a minimum of 22 semester units in general education and at least 18 semester units in an approved major as described in the college catalog to be awarded an associate degree. For general education, students may use COM’s local GE pattern or Cal-GETC. A course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas. Students may use the same course to meet a local general education requirement and to satisfy a general education requirement at the California State University or the University of California if that segment accepts the course for this purpose. Courses in the major can double count as general education courses.

Degree-Applicable Units

College of Marin courses numbered 0-99 do not apply toward the 60 units required for graduation, even though they may be listed as part of a vocational program major. A definition of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning may not be more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.

~~Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)~~

~~Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district's procedures for awarding Credit for Prior Learning. Students who intend to transfer shall be advised of limitations transfer institutions may place on the transferability of credits, based on institutional accreditation, course modality, and any other relevant factors. Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward the satisfaction of requirements for an associate degree.~~

Coursework for Baccalaureate Degrees

The student must satisfactorily complete at least 120 semester units or 180 quarter units of degree-applicable credit courses.

The courses must include at least 40 semester or 60 quarter units or equivalent of total upper-division coursework, including units in the major and in general education. The courses must include a minimum of nine semester or 13.5 quarter units of upper division general education courses.

“Upper division courses” require the application of lower division knowledge and the demonstration of critical thinking through writing, oral communication, or computation.

Upper division coursework may encompass research elements, workforce training, apprenticeships, internships, and may require practicum or capstone projects. Upper division courses may have one or more lower or upper division prerequisites.

A “major” is defined above.

General education courses must come from at least two disciplines outside of the major, one of which must have an emphasis in written communication, oral communication, or computation.

A lower division course may meet an upper division course requirement but may not be counted toward the required minimum number of upper division units.

Other Conditions for Awarding Baccalaureate Degrees

The District will award a baccalaureate degree to students who fulfill the coursework requirements described above and who meet the following conditions:

The student satisfactorily completed each course designated as an upper-division major requirement with a minimum grade of “C”, or “P” if taken on a “pass-no pass” basis.

The student satisfactorily completed at least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of upper-division coursework in residence. The Board may excuse the residence requirement to alleviate undue hardship.

The student completed the requirements for the baccalaureate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the degree lower a student's cumulative GPA below 2.0, the District may compute the GPA based solely on courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major and general education requirements.

The District will count courses completed within another California higher education segment, or at an institutionally accredited institution meeting District standards of rigor, toward baccalaureate degree unit requirements.

Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major, and additional requirements, if locally approved to do so. A course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if approved in multiple areas.

Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through the District's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning.

Students who have already been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

Students who have completed the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) shall be deemed to have fulfilled the lower-division general education requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

Students may petition to have noncredit courses counted toward satisfaction of baccalaureate degree requirements.

Certificate of Achievement and Other Credit Programs

A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

1. Successful completion of a course of study or curriculum that consists of 18 or more semester units of degree-applicable credit coursework as described in the college catalog.
2. All students entering Fall 2009 or any term thereafter must complete each course applied towards the major and/or area of emphasis with a grade of "C" or higher, "CR" or "P" if the course is taken on a "pass/no-pass" basis (Title 5 Section 5063(a) (2)).
3. Courses numbered 0-99 are non-degree applicable but may be used for a Certificate when listed as a major requirement.

Skills Certificates

Requirements for skills certificates are less than 18 units and are listed in the college catalog. Students should check with the director or department chair for the process to receive completed certificates.

Catalog Rights

The college catalog specifies the requirements to earn a degree or certificate in a given academic year. The requirements in a specific academic year's catalog are the student's contract (catalog rights) with the college and that catalog defines what the student must complete to earn a degree or certificate. Catalog rights are established based on the students' first term of enrollment in an academic year which starts with fall, continues through spring, and concludes with summer.

Students may follow the catalog requirements that were in effect for the academic year when their attendance began at College of Marin or follow the catalog requirements in effect during any subsequent year of attendance provided that they maintained continuous enrollment. Continuous enrollment is defined as being enrolled in at least one credit course per academic year (Fall, Spring, or Summer) and receiving an A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I, DW, EW, FW, or W at College of Marin or any other campus within the California community college or university systems (CSU/UC). If there is a break in enrollment for more than two consecutive semesters (excluding summer), the student will be held to the new requirements listed in the catalog at the time of re-enrollment. Absence from a summer session is not considered a break in enrollment. In extenuating circumstances, a student may submit a request for an exception to the Dean of Enrollment Services for consideration.

Students completing a degree may choose a general education pattern under one academic year and major program requirements from a different academic year. The academic year(s) chosen must be declared on the application for the degree.

Former students who completed their requirements prior to leaving but did not complete an application for a degree or certificate may petition for that degree or certificate. They may choose the catalog requirements in effect at the time of petition, or those in effect at the time of their last enrollment.

The College of Marin reserves the right to change catalog rights or program requirements based upon legal mandates and accreditation standards at any time. State of California and federal law, as well as College of Marin Board Policy, shall take precedence over catalog rights.

Degree Requirements

District policies and procedures regarding requirements for general education, Associate Degrees and Certificate of Achievements are updated and published in the college catalog and filed with the State Chancellor's Office.

Course Substitution/Waiver

Substitution/Waiver for any required course must be approved through student petition. An official transcript and catalog description must accompany the petition. For non-comparable courses, Department Chairs will be consulted to determine course acceptability. Even with an approved waiver, students must complete a minimum of 60 units for graduation, have a minimum of 18 units in the major, 22 units in general education and complete the residency requirement.

Official Transcripts

In order to apply units completed at another institution toward a degree or a Certificate of Achievement,

official transcripts may be mailed or hand-delivered, provided they arrive in an original sealed and stamped envelope from the issuing institution. College of Marin will also accept faxed or e-mailed official transcripts from a district approved secured credentialing service. Official transcripts have an embossed or water seal. Official transcripts, if mailed, should be sent via U.S. Mail to the College of Marin Counseling Department, Kentfield, CA 94904. Transcripts from other colleges received by the College of Marin will not be copied for release to the student.

Transfer Units

1. U.S. Accredited Colleges: Students may only transfer lower division units from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Foreign Colleges: Transcripts from foreign colleges and universities will be accepted only when evaluated by U.C., C.S.U., or an evaluating service recognized by the College of Marin. Lower division credit will be granted when the academic level of the course work is deemed to be comparable to that of classes taught in regionally accredited United States colleges and universities.
3. Upper Division Courses: Upper divisions units may not be used toward an AA or AS degree. Students may, however, submit a petition to the Office of Enrollment Services for a waiver of requirements with relevant upper division work. Even with an approved waiver, students must complete a minimum of 60 units for graduation, have a minimum of 18 units in the major, 22units in general education and complete the residency requirement.

Graduation Applications

The completion of an Application for Graduation/Certificate of Achievement and any relevant official transcripts and petitions must be submitted by the established deadline.

1. Graduation requirements must come from a single catalog. Students, who have maintained their catalog rights, may use that catalog or any subsequent catalog up to and including the current catalog.
2. Students who have been awarded a degree and/or Certificate of Achievement in a major and want to be awarded the AA-T/AS-T degree in that same discipline must complete all requirements for that major to be awarded the degree.
3. A student who receives a Certificate of Achievement may subsequently complete requirements and earn a degree in the same major, since the degree represents a higher level of accomplishment. A Certificate of Achievement in the same major will not be granted after receipt of a degree in the same major. A student, who at the time of applying is eligible for a degree, will not be issued a certificate in the same major.

General Education (GE) Certification for Transfer

Students requesting GE Certification must complete:

1. All courses with a "C" or higher "CR" or "P" for Cal-GETC or IGETC Certification.
2. All courses with a 2.00 grade point average (GPA) or higher with a minimum of 30 units completed with a "C" or higher for CSU Certification.

Outstanding Debt

A Diploma, Certificate of Achievement may not be released until the student has paid all outstanding debts to the college.

Deleted Degrees and Certificate of Achievements

1. Students who have maintained their catalog rights:
 - a. After a degree or Certificate has been deleted, it may still be conferred for 3 years beyond the deleted date if the degree or Certificate of Achievement is not out-of-compliance with Title 5.
 - b. If courses that are part of a deleted degree or Certificate of Achievement have also been phased out, students and counselors should work with the discipline Department Chairs or coordinator to determine suitable/appropriate courses to substitute for requirements that are no longer offered.
2. Students who have not maintained their catalog rights, must follow the college's policy on Catalog Rights.
3. Degrees or Certificates of Achievement that are out-of-compliance with Title 5 cannot be conferred past the deletion date.

The District may obtain approval of a direct assessment competency-based program from the California Community College Chancellor's office.

For additional information pertaining to deleted degrees and Certificates of Achievement, please consult with a College of Marin Counselor.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Student Learning and Success

Date Approved: December 9, 2008

Date Reviewed/Revised: June 18, 2013; June 16, 2015; December 8, 2015; May 17, 2016; March 14, 2023; October 17, 2023; March 11, 2025

Date Revised: April 21, 2026

Date Reviewed/Revised: