



EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

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, compared with the Baccalaureate Degree, which is normally completed in four years. Associate Degrees are commonly conferred by community colleges and are referenced as "local degrees". They are usually of two types, the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science. The distinction between the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees lies in the majors. If the major is in the fields of engineering, physical or biology science, or occupational curricula, the degree conferred is usually the Associate of Science. Otherwise the Associate of 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.

Information on academic honors at graduation is listed on page 14.

Information on associate degree requirements is listed on pages 38-40.

Associate Degrees for Transfer

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Senate Bill 1440, now codified in California Education Code sections 66746-66749) guarantees admission to a California State University (CSU) campus for any community college student who completes an "associate degree for transfer," an established variation of the associate degrees traditionally offered at a California community college. The Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or the Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor's degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing these degrees (AA-T or AS-T) are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major. In order to earn one of these degrees, students must complete a minimum of 60 required semester units of CSU-transferable coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Students transferring to a CSU campus that does accept the AA-T or AS-T will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree (unless the major is a designated "high-unit" major). This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system. Students should consult with a counselor when planning to complete the degree for

more information on university admission and transfer requirements. Information on associate degree for transfer requirements is listed on page 45.

Certificate of Achievement Programs

A Certificate of Achievement (18 or more units or state approved under 18 units) is a verification of achievement in a particular academic or occupational area, and it will be included on the official transcript. Certificate of Achievement programs normally include only those courses which have a direct bearing upon specialized occupational competency since the certificate has the sole objective of immediate employment in a specialized area. For this reason there is no general education requirement in a certificate program. Santiago Canyon College's certificate programs are described in the catalog section on SCC Academic Programs (pages 55-158). To qualify for a Certificate of Achievement, a candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. **Courses:** Courses are designated for the specific certificate.
2. **Grades:** At least a C grade in each course required for the certificate, unless otherwise specified. Credit by Examination may also be used to gain credit for required courses.
3. **Pass/No Pass:** A Pass/No Pass course is acceptable toward the certificate if it is required for the certificate and (a) offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only or (b) if the Pass/No Pass is earned on the basis of credit by examination.
4. **Residency:** Twelve units completed at Santiago Canyon College. (Six of the twelve units required for the certificate must be earned at Santiago Canyon College.)
5. **Petition:** A petition for Certificate of Achievement must be filed by the student by deadline (see Instructional Calendar page 2) with the Admissions and Records Office at Santiago Canyon College.

Certificate of Proficiency Programs

A Certificate of Proficiency is under 18 units and/or is not a State-approved program. This type of certificate is verification of completion in a particular subject matter. A Certificate of Proficiency will NOT be included on the official or unofficial transcript. Certificate programs include only those courses which focus on vocational skills. The sole objective is employment in a specialized area and for this reason there are no general education requirements for a Certificate of Proficiency.

Santiago Canyon College Certificate of Proficiency programs are described in the catalog section on SCC Academic Programs (pages 55-158). To qualify for a Certificate of Proficiency, a candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. **Courses:** Courses are designated for the specific certificate.
2. **Grades:** At least a C grade in each course required for the certificate, unless otherwise specified. Credit by Examination may also be used to gain credit for required courses.
3. **Pass/No Pass:** A Pass/No Pass course is acceptable toward the certificate if it is required for the certificate and (a) offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only or (b) if the Pass/No Pass is earned on the basis of credit by examination.
4. **Residency:** At least 20% of the total units required for the certificate must be earned at Santiago Canyon College.
5. **Petition:** A petition for Certificate of Proficiency must be filed by the student by the deadline (see Instructional Calendar page 2) with the Admissions and Records Office at Santiago Canyon College.

Multiple Associate Degrees and Certificates

A student may earn multiple Associate Degrees and Certificates from Santiago Canyon College.

- For additional degrees and certificates, any course used to meet the prescribed graduation requirements may count toward more than one degree and certificate.
- Courses used to meet the proficiency requirements and general education requirements for the first degree may be used to fulfill these requirements for additional degrees,
- Courses used for one major may be used to meet requirements for additional majors.
- If a break in enrollment occurs, a student must comply with the proficiency, general education, and major requirements in effect at the time the student resumes attendance or those in effect in subsequent years of the student's enrollment.
- Each additional degree and Certificate of Achievement will be posted to the student's academic record and the student will receive diplomas for each degree and Certificate of Achievement earned.