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Graduation

American River College has one graduation ceremony each year, at the end of spring semester in May. August and December graduates, and May candidates, may participate in this commencement exercise. All students who are eligible for the Associate in Arts or Science degree must petition by the deadline dates noted in the official academic calendar. Notification of eligibility to participate in the graduation ceremony is done by mail through the Dean of Enrollment Services office no later than May 1.

Catalog Rights and Graduation Requirements

For purposes of graduation from any of the colleges of the Los Rios District, students who remain in attendance in one regular session (quarter, semester or summer session) in a calendar year at any California community college, or any combination of California community colleges, campuses of the California State University, the University of California, or any accredited institution of higher education, may elect to meet the requirements in effect at the Los Rios college from which the student intends to graduate, in one of three ways:

1. Requirements in effect at the time of admission to a Los Rios college, or
2. Requirements in effect at the time the student originally enrolled in an accredited college or university, or
3. Requirements in effect at the intended date of graduation from a Los Rios college.

Please note:

- A college may authorize or request substitution for discontinued courses.
- Students changing their major field of study may be required to complete those requirements for the major in effect at the point of change.
- For purposes of this section, “attendance” means taking classes in at least one semester, quarter, or summer session in each calendar year. Absence for attendance at another accredited institution shall not be considered an interruption in attendance.

Course Numbering

Under the numbering system which went into effect in 2003, non-transfer and transfer courses are clearly distinguished by specific number ranges (100-299 for non-transfer courses; 300-499 for transfer courses). In most departments, courses are now numbered in prerequisite order (MATH 25, 32, 100, 120, & 300, for example).

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| 1-99 | Basic Skills and Developmental courses are numbered 1-99. They are not acceptable for associate degree or transfer credit. |
| 100-299 | College-level, non-transfer courses are numbered 100-299. They are primarily occupational or technical and meet associate degree requirements such as apprenticeships and fire technology. Some are acceptable for transfer by four-year institutions offering degrees in similar subject matter. Check with your counselor. |
| 300-499 | College-level, transfer courses are numbered 300-499. They meet requirements for associate degrees and are generally accepted for transfer to four-year institutions to meet major, general education, breadth, or elective credit requirements. Check with your counselors regarding transferability of course to the University of California, private colleges, and out-of-state universities. |
| 1000-1999 | Courses at the 1000 level are typically continuing education courses for working professionals who need to update their skills for employment or licensure. The number range 1000-1999 also includes contract education courses offered by the Sacramento Regional Public Safety Training Center and other college units. The 1000 number may also be used for tutoring and other attendance-only courses such as Supervised Tutoring (e.g., HSER 1000 or HCD 1000), and for block scheduling purposes (e.g., Learning Community courses). |

ARC Graduation Requirements 2016-2017

Students may graduate from American River College with the Associate in Arts (A.A.) or the Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree by fulfilling the following five (5) requirements:

1. Satisfactory completion of 60 units of collegiate work with a 'C' (2.0) grade point average in a curriculum that the district accepts toward the degree. At least 12 of the 60 units must be earned at American River College.
2. Major: Complete an A.A. or A.S. Major Program of Study offered at American River College. Courses used to complete requirements for the major must be completed with a grade of 'C' or better.
3. Completion of ARC's general education requirements with a minimum GPA of 2.0 in courses used for general education (21 units minimum) or possession of a Baccalaureate Degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university in the U.S.*
4. All students who wish to receive an A.A. or A.S. degree from American River College must demonstrate competency in writing, reading, and mathematics as listed below.
5. Students are held to the graduation requirements established at the time they begin college as long as they maintain their catalog rights. Refer to ARC catalog for definition of catalog rights.

A. WRITTEN EXPRESSION COMPETENCY is satisfied by the following:

1. Complete with a 'C' or better in one of the following courses: BUS 310; ENGWR 300, 480; ESLW 340.
2. Complete an equivalent college writing course at a regionally accredited college in the U.S. with a grade of 'C' or better.*
3. Possess a BA/BS or higher from a regionally accredited college in the U.S.*

B. READING COMPETENCY is satisfied by one of the following:

1. Complete with a 'C' or better in one of the following courses: ENGRD 310, 312; ENGWR 303; ESLR 340.
2. Completion of a reading course in the Los Rios District at the 200 or 300 level that has been approved for competency by the Board of Trustees with a grade of 'C' or better.
3. Complete with a 'C' or better of an equivalent college level reading course at a regionally accredited college in the U.S.*
4. Possess an AA/AS or higher from a regionally accredited college in the U.S.*
5. Satisfactory completion of one of the following General Education patterns: CSU GE breadth or IGETC.
6. Achieve a satisfactory reading competency score the first time taking a standardized reading test for placement; OR Achieve a qualifying score on a reading competency examination administered by an Assessment Center in the Los Rios District. Only two attempts are permitted district-wide on this test. Tests taken outside the Los Rios District will not be accepted.

C. MATHEMATICS COMPETENCY is satisfied by one of the following:

1. Complete one of the following with a 'C' or better: MATH 110, 120, 124, 125, 129, 133, 300, 310, 311, 320, 325, 330, 336, 340, 342, 350, 351, 355, 356, 370, 400, 401, 402, 410, 420; PHIL 324; PSYC 330; STAT 300, 305.
2. Complete an equivalent course with a 'C' or better at a regionally accredited college in the U.S.*
3. Obtain a satisfactory score on a Los Rios Math Competency Test.
4. Possess a BA/BS or higher from a regionally accredited college in the U.S.*

* See District Policy and Regulations P7241/R7241

ARC General Education Requirements 2016-2017

I. HUMANITIES: One course from the following (3 units minimum):

ART 300, 312, 320, 322, 324, 339, 430, 440; **ARTH** 300, 302, 308, 310, 322#, 333, 334; **ARTNM** 305, 310, 322, 331; **ARTPH** 300, 305, 340; **DEAF** 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 380#; **ECE** 361, 363; **ENGLT** 300, 304, 308#, 310, 311, 320, 321, 327#, 338#, 340, 341, 345, 360, 365, 370, 378, 380, 382, 392, 403, 494; **FASHN** 330; **FREN** 401, 402, 411, 412; **GERM** 401, 402, 411, 412; **HIST** 300*, 302*, 305*, 307*#, 308*#, 364*, 365*, 399*, 480*, 481*; **HUM** 300, 301, 302#, 310, 320#, 326, 330#, 355#, 360, 365; **IDES** 310, 312; **ITAL** 401, 402, 411, 412; **JAPAN** 401, 402; **MUFHL** 300, 308, 310, 311, 315#, 321, 330#, 400; **PHIL** 300, 310, 315, 330, 331, 350, 360; **RUSS** 401, 402; **SILA** 305, 306, 315, 316; **SPAN** 401, 402, 411, 412; **TA** 300, 302, 303, 306#, 310, 312, 314, 315, 318#, 320, 350, 406, 435, 480

II. LANGUAGE & RATIONALITY: Two courses from the following (3 units must be completed from each area):

a) English Composition: One course from the following: (3 units minimum)

BUS 310; **ENGWR** 300, 480; **ESLW** 340

b) Communication & Analytical Thinking: One additional course from the following: (3 units minimum)

ANTH 341*#; **AT** 105; **BUS** 105; **CISA** 305, 315, 320; **CISC** 300*; **CISP** 300, 315, 350, 360, 400, 440, 480; **DEAF** 370; **ENGCW** 400, 430; **ENGED** 305; **ENGRD** 310, 312; **ENGWR** 301, 302, 303, 481, 482; **ESL** 350; **GEOG** 330, 375; **JOUR** 300; **MGMT** 360; **MATH** 120, 124, 125, 129, 133, 300, 310, 320, 325, 330, 336, 340, 342, 350, 355, 356, 370, 400; **PHIL** 320, 324; **PSYC** 330; **SPEECH** 301, 323, 331, 361; **STAT** 300, 305; **WELD** 140

III. LIVING SKILLS: Two courses from the following – One course must be completed in each area (3 units minimum):

a) One Physical Education activity course with one of the following prefixes:

ADAPT, DANCE, FITNS, PACT, TMACT, SPORT

b) Life Development Skills: (Minimum of 2 units from the following)

AT 107; **BIOT** 308; **BUS** 312, 320*; **CISC** 300*; **ECE** 330, 350; **ECON** 320*; **ENGED** 320, 322, 324; **ET** 250; **GERON** 300, 330, 334; **HCD** 160, 310, 318, 330, 331, 336; **HEED** 300, 352; **HIST** 399*; **HSER** 340; **KINES** 300; **LIBR** 310, 318, 325; **NUTRI** 300*, 302*, 305; **PSYC** 340, 342, 354, 356#, 358, 359, 370*, 378, 379, 390, 400, 481; **SOC** 335; **SPEECH** 321; **WELD** 150; all ARC courses numbered 198, 298 & 498

IV. NATURAL SCIENCES: One course from the following (3 units minimum):

ANTH 300, 303, 480; **ASTR** 300, 310, 320, 330, 481; **BIOL** 102, 103, 115, 116, 300, 301, 303, 305, 310, 352, 370, 400, 430, 431, 482; **CHEM** 305, 309, 310, 400; **ENERGY** 303; **ET** 303; **FT** 304; **GEOG** 300, 305, 306, 307, 308, 331; **GEOL** 300, 305, 310, 320, 325, 330, 342, 345; **HEED** 308; **HORT** 300; **NATR** 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 310, 320, 330, 332, 346; **NUTRI** 300*, 302*; **PHYS** 310, 311, 312, 350, 410; **PS** 300; **PSYC** 310

V. SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Two courses – 3 units must be completed in each area:

a) AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS: One course from the following (3 units minimum):

HIST 310, 311, 318, 320#, 321#, 323#, 325#, 327#, 330#, 483, 484; **POLS** 301, 304, 481

b) SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: One additional course from the following (3 units minimum):

ADMJ 300, 302#, 304, 320; **ANTH** 310#, 319, 320, 321, 330#, 333#, 334#, 336#, 341*#, 481#; **BUS** 110, 300, 320*, 330#, 345; **DEAF** 351#, 352, 355#; **ECE** 312, 314, 430#; **ECON** 302, 304, 320; **GEOG** 310#, 320#, 322#; **GERON** 302; **HIST** 300*, 302*, 305*, 307*#, 308*#, 340, 341, 343, 364*, 365*, 367, 373, 374#, 480*, 481*, 494; **HSER** 330#; **IS** 305#, 310#, 312#; **JOUR** 310, 320#; **MGMT** 374; **NATR** 307; **NUTRI** 310#, 481#; **POLS** 302, 310, 320, 330, 332, 342; **PSYC** 300, 305, 320, 361#, 365#, 370*, 372, 373, 374, 383, 415, 480; **SILA** 330#; **SOC** 300, 301, 309, 318, 320#, 325#, 342#, 350, 480; **SOCS** 310, 312

VI. ETHNIC / MULTICULTURAL STUDIES: (3 units minimum):

ADMJ 302#; **ANTH** 310#, 330#, 333#, 334#, 336#, 341#, 481#; **ARTH** 322#; **BIOL** 322; **BUS** 330#; **DANCE** 300#; **DEAF** 351#, 355#, 380#; **ECE** 430#; **ENGLT** 308#, 327#, 338#, 365#; **GEOG** 310#, 320#, 322#; **HIST** 307*#, 308*#, 320#, 321#, 323#, 325#, 327#, 330#, 374#; **HUM** 302#, 320#, 330#, 355#; **HSER** 330#; **IS** 305#, 310#, 312#; **JOUR** 320#; **MUFHL** 315#, 330#; **NUTRI** 310#, 481#; **PSYC** 356#, 361#, 365#; **SILA** 330#; **SOC** 320#, 325#, 342#; **SPEECH** 325; **TA** 306#, 318#

Note: * Courses appearing in more than one category may be used to satisfy only one category.
These multicultural courses can also satisfy general education category requirements.

General Education

Philosophy

The primary function of education is to transmit from each generation to the next the knowledge and skills requisite to enlarge the comprehension of our place in the universe. General Education gives breadth to the college experience, enhances the ability to learn and develops critical thinking skills.

American River College is committed to the principle of providing general education which includes: Humanities, Languages and Rationality, Living Skills, Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Ethnic/Multicultural Studies. All of these are basic and necessary to participate in and contribute to a balanced life in a democratic society that is diverse in its social, cultural and educational backgrounds.

Description of General Education Areas and Alignment with Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

Humanities

(3 units minimum)

Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in the humanities, a course should help the student 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 in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop an aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. This category includes introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Humanities

- Demonstrate skills and behaviors which contribute to open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Languages and Rationality

(6 units: 3 units each from (a) and (b))

Courses in language and rationality are those which use and examine principles and guidelines of clear and logical thinking and communication. Courses in this category should build upon rather than remediate verbal and quantitative skills.

- a) English Composition: Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement should include both expository and argumentative writing.
- b) Communication and Analytical Thinking: Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral and written communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer language and programming, and related disciplines.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Languages and Rationality

English Composition component of the Language and Rationality general education requirement:

- Utilize a variety of methods to communicate effectively.
- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.

Communication and Analytical Thinking component of the Language and Rationality general education requirement:

- Utilize a variety of methods to communicate effectively.
- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Living Skills

(3 units minimum)

One physical education activity course (with ADAPT, DANCE, FITNS, PACT, SPORT, or TMACT designators) must be taken in this area and a minimum of 2 units from the other courses included in this category. Adapted physical education courses are available for students with documented physical disabilities. These Adapted courses will fulfill the graduation requirement.

Courses in this area may be selected from a number of different disciplines that help students to acquire skills and knowledge to understand themselves as whole persons (integral to their environment). This category includes the study of courses that develop and maintain personal, social, physical and emotional well-being. It is the intent that this area includes such courses as health education, human sexuality, marriage and family, nutrition, and personal adjustment.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Living Skills

- Demonstrate and employ marketable skills and personal qualities for professional growth and career advancement.
- Demonstrate skills and behaviors which contribute to open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.
- Utilize a variety of methods to communicate effectively.
- Employ strategies to work cooperatively and effectively with others.
- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.

Natural Sciences

(3 units minimum)

Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences, a course should help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method, and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category includes introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Natural Sciences

- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

(3 units minimum)

Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course should help the student develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It should stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category includes introductory or integrative survey courses in anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines, exclusive of those which fulfill the American Institutions requirement.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Social and Behavioral Sciences

- Demonstrate skills and behaviors which contribute to open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.
- Utilize a variety of methods to communicate effectively.
- Employ strategies to work cooperatively and effectively with others.
- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

American Institutions Requirement

(3 units minimum)

Courses in American Institutions are those which focus on the historical development of American institutions and ideals, the operation of representative democratic government under the Constitution of the United States, and the principles of state and local government established under the Constitution of this State. To satisfy the general education requirement in American Institutions, a course should help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the basic institutions, ideals, knowledge, and skills necessary for intelligent and loyal citizenship. It should stimulate critical thinking, problem solving, and literacy skills in regard to American historical, political, governmental, economic, social, and intellectual issues as they relate to both domestic and foreign affairs. This category includes introductory or integrative survey courses in history and political science which qualify under the guidelines of either “a” or “b” below.

- a) Any course which addresses the historical development of American Institutions and ideals, inclusive of the following:
- 1) Significant events occurring in the entire area now included in the United States of America, including the relationships of regions within that area and with external regions and powers as appropriate to the understanding of those events within the United States during the period under study.
 - 2) The role of major ethnic and social groups in such events and the contexts in which the events have occurred.
 - 3) The events presented within a framework which illustrates the continuity of the American experience and its derivation from other cultures including consideration of three or more of the following: politics, economics, social movements, and geography.

- b) Any course which addresses the U.S. Constitution, representative democratic government operation, and the process of California State and local government, inclusive of the following:
- 1) The political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States political institutions and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted.
 - 2) The rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under the Constitution.
 - 3) The Constitution of the State of California within the framework of evolution of Federal-State relations and the nature and processes of State and local government under that Constitution.
 - 4) Contemporary relationships of State and local government with the Federal government, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitutions of both the State and nation, and the political processes involved.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with American Institutions

- Utilize a variety of methods to communicate effectively.
- Employ strategies to work cooperatively and effectively with others.
- Locate and critically evaluate information from a variety of sources, including those accessed through technology, to create informed responses to issues, problems, and challenges.
- Recognize the responsibility to behave as an ethical citizen, contributing personal knowledge, resources, and skills for the benefit of the local and larger communities.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Ethnic / Multicultural Studies

Ethnic studies will be offered in at least one of the required general education areas.

Students may fulfill the District's Ethnic/Multicultural Studies course requirement through completion of one 3 unit course. Significant and substantial elements of the course must examine multicultural matters as specified by the criteria below.

- The course examines significant aspects of culture, contributions, and social experiences of under-represented ethnic/racial minority groups in the United States such as: African American, Asian American, Chicano, Latino, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans; Non-western, Non-Eurocentric cultures.
- The course examines multiple groups, one of which may include European Americans and is comparative in nature.
- The course should include analysis of ethnicity, ethnocentrism, and/or racism, and how they shape and explain ethnic experience.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes aligned with Ethnic/Multicultural Studies

- Demonstrate skills and behaviors which contribute to open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.
- For students earning degrees, demonstrate an understanding of the basic content and methodology for the major areas of knowledge, including the arts and humanities, quantitative reasoning, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Note:

- * In November 2013, American River College approved revisions to the college's Institutional Student Learning Outcomes. These revisions included Institutional Student Learning Outcomes subsuming General Education Student Learning Outcomes.