6 Degree & Certificate Guidelines

Degree Programs
Rio Hondo College offers a variety of two-year programs leading to the Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees. See this catalog for a listing of degree programs available.

The A.A. or A.S. Degree Concept
Central to an associate degree, coursework is designed to introduce students to the variety of means through which people comprehend the modern world. This coursework is referred to as the general education requirement of the degree. It reflects the conviction of the college that those who receive these degrees must possess in common certain basic principles, concepts and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College educated persons should be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, these degrees should lead to better self-understanding. In addition to the general education coursework, courses within an area of specialization, called a major, are required for an associate degree. The area of specialization will appear on the face of all diplomas.

Students should meet with a counselor and create an educational plan in order to insure fulfillment of requirements of an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree.

General Education Exceptions
Those students who have been awarded a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in the United States may be exempt from the Rio Hondo College general education and proficiency requirements, should they pursue an associate degree at this institution. A Request for a Course Substitution form must be completed and returned to the Admissions and Records Office in order to obtain an exemption. Course substitution requests that pertain to general education requirements for the associate degree shall be forwarded from the Admissions and Records Office to the Dean of Counseling and Student Development. The dean will, after receiving an evaluation of the course from the Rio Hondo College Articulation Officer, approve or disapprove the request. The completed request form will be returned to the Admissions and Records Office to complete the course substitution process.

Course Substitutions –
A Request for a Course Substitution form must be completed and returned to the Admissions and Records Office in order to substitute one course for another or to waive part of a requirement in the event of discontinued courses. Course substitution requests that pertain to associate degree majors or certificates shall be forwarded to the department/area dean in question. The dean will, after receiving an evaluation of the course from a faculty member, approve or disapprove the request. The completed request form will be returned to the Admissions and Records Office to complete the course substitution process. Rio Hondo College may accept extension and continuing education courses after taking into consideration if they are equivalent to Rio Hondo courses, are from an accredited institution, are taken for credit and a letter grade, and are degree applicable at the originating institution.

The A.A. or A.S. Degree Requirements
Both the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees require a minimum of 60 units with a 2.0 or better grade-point average (GPA). At least 12 units of those 60 must be in residence at Rio Hondo College. Non-degree applicable coursework will not be included in the total number of units earned toward a major.

The degree of Associate of Arts or Associate of Science will be conferred with a major consisting of a minimum of 18 units in a specified field of study (or major). A listing of all majors can be found in the degree listing in the college catalog. In addition, a minimum of a “C” grade for all coursework within the major is required. Effective Fall 2008, courses can be used to meet a General Education area and a Major requirement.