

7 Degree & Certificate Guidelines

Degree Programs

Rio Hondo College offers a variety of two-year programs leading to the Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T), and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) 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 education plan in order to ensure 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 a regionally accredited college or university in the United States will be exempt from the Rio Hondo College general education and proficiency requirements should they pursue an associate degree at this institution. Please see a counselor for additional information.

Course Substitutions – 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. The course substitution request will be reviewed by a faculty representative, Dean of the discipline involved, and by the Articulation Officer. Rio Hondo College may accept extension and continuing education courses after taking into consideration whether they are comparable to Rio Hondo courses, are from a regionally accredited institution, are taken for credit or 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 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 degree.

The degree of Associate of Arts or Associate of Science will be conferred upon any student satisfactorily completing a

minimum of 60 degree applicable units, with a 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) or better, and at least twelve (12) units in residence, and which will include:

- I. A major consisting of a minimum of eighteen (18) units with a minimum "C" grade, and satisfactory completion of any one (1) of the following general education requirements.
 - a. Certified completion of the California State University General Education breadth pattern (CSUGE);
 - b. Certified completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern;
 - c. Certified completion of the Rio Hondo College General Education and Proficiency requirements as listed.

The Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree 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 Major requirement.

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

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 (ADT). 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 60 semester units of CSU-transferable coursework with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0. A minimum of 18 semester units in the major must be completed with a grade of "C" or better in each course (or with a "P" if the course was taken on a Pass/No Pass basis and the "P" is equal to a "C" or higher). Students are required to complete either the CSU GE pattern or IGETC pattern along with 12 units in residence. There are no additional graduation requirements for an AA-T or AS-T degree.

Students transferring to a CSU campus that deems the AA-T or AS-T as similar to the transfer major will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree. This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or other institution 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.

Associate in Science Degree for Transfer (AS-T)

AS-T subject areas include:

- Administration of Justice
- Biology
- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- Early Childhood Education
- Hospitality Management
- Mathematics
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Physics

Associate in Arts Degree for Transfer (AA-T)

AA-T subject areas include:

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Communication Studies
- Economics
- Elementary Teacher Education
- English
- History
- Journalism
- Kinesiology
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Justice Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Arts

Associate Degree for Transfer - Reciprocity Policy

Students who have fulfilled a specific course requirement or entire area of an AA-T/AS-T degree at a California Community College will be considered to have met those requirements at Rio Hondo College for the same degree. Students must initiate the review process with a counselor and must have official transcripts mailed to the RHC Admissions Office.

Rio Hondo College General Education and Proficiency Requirements

The Rio Hondo General Education & Proficiency requirements can only be used to fulfill the general education requirements of an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree.

1. Competence in reading and written expression may be met by the following:

- a. The reading requirement may be met by one of the following:
 - i. Letter grade of "C" or better earned in READ 043 or placement into READ 101.
 - ii. Appropriate score on the reading assessment test or appropriate multiple measures placement.
 - iii. 2 or 4 year degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- b. The written expression requirement may be met by one of the following:
 - i. Credit earned in ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better.
 - ii. A satisfactory score on the CSU English Equivalency Exam (to be determined by the Division of Communications and Languages)
 - iii. Students earning a "C" or better in freshman composition courses (3 or more semester/4 or more quarter units) from regionally accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

- iv. Advanced Placement examination scores of 3, 4, or 5 on either of the following exams: AP English Language & Composition or English Literature & Composition.
- v. CLEP examination scores of 50 or higher on one of the following exams: College Comp, College Comp Modular, English Comp (if taken prior to July '10).

2. Competence in mathematics may be met by one of the following:

- a. Credit ("C" grade or better) in MATH 060 (Geometry), MATH 070 (Intermediate Algebra), MATH 070D (Intermediate Algebra D), MATH 072 (The Mathematics of Money), MATH 073 (B-STEM Intermediate Algebra, formerly titled Fast-Track Intermediate Algebra), MATH 073B (B-STEM Intermediate Algebra B), or a higher level quantitative reasoning course.
- b. Demonstrate proficiency by a satisfactory score on the Rio Hondo College Math Proficiency Exam.
- c. Advanced Placement examination scores of 3, 4 or 5 on one of the following exams: AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics.
- d. CLEP examination scores of 50 or higher on one of the following exams: Calculus, College Algebra, College Algebra-Trig, and Trigonometry.

3. Physical Education-Minimum 2 classes.

Any two physical education or dance activity courses. (Exemption may be granted to those students physically unable to complete this requirement. Exemption forms are available in the Health Office.) Students who have completed a Fire, Police, Wildland Fire, or Corrections Academy from an accredited institution are automatically waived from this requirement. Students with honorable discharge DD214 paperwork will be waived from this requirement.

4. American Institutions Requirement*-Minimum of one course:

HIST 143, 143H, 144, 144H, 156, 157, 158, 159, 159H, 170
POLS 110 or 110H

5. Natural Sciences with Lab (a lab must be included)- Minimum 3 units:

ANTH 101, 101H, &101L
ASTR 110, 110H & 112
BIOL 101, 105 & 105L, 111 & 111L, 112, 120 & 120L
CHEM 110, 120, 130
GEOG 101 & 101L
GEOL 150 & 151
PHY 120, 150, 160, 211, 212, 213

6. Social and Behavioral Sciences - Minimum 3 units:

ANTH 102, 103, 104, 110, 115, 125
CD 106, 208
CHST 101, 146, 148, 150
ECON 101, 101H, 102, 102H, 106, 135
GEOG 102, 103
HIST 101, 102, 122, 143, 143H, 144, 144H, 156, 157, 158, 159, 159H, 167, 170
HUM 110, 111, 125, 125H, 130
MSCM 128
PHIL 128, 128H
POLS 110, 110H, 125, 128, 128H, 130, 135, 140, 150
PSY 101, 101H, 112, 114
SOC 101, 101H, 102, 105, 110, 114, 116, 120, 127, 148
SPCH 150

7. Humanities

A. Fine Arts – Minimum 3 units:

ART 101, 104, 105, 105H, 106, 106H, 107, 108, 109,
110, 112, 113, 115, 120, 130, 135, 140, 179
DANC 179, 199
MUS 101, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 141
PHTO 190
THTR 101, 105, 105H, 110

B. Humanities – Minimum 3 units:

ASL 149
CHIN 101, 102
CHST 146
ENGL 126, 131
FR 101, 102, 201, 202
HIST 101, 102, 122, 131, 143, 143H, 144, 144H, 156,
157, 158, 159, 159H, 167, 170
HUM 110, 111, 125, 125H, 130
JAPN 101, 102
LATN 101, 102
LIT 102, 102H, 112A, 112AH, 112B, 112BH, 114,
114H, 117, 117H, 130, 130H, 140, 140H, 141, 142,
142H, 144A, 144B, 145, 145H, 146A, 146AH,
146B, 146BH, 147, 148, 149
MSCM 128
PHIL 101, 101H, 120, 124, 126, 128, 128H, 135, 140
POLS 128, 128H
SPAN 101, 102, 130, 131, 201, 201H, 202
SPCH 130, 132

8. Language and Rationality

A. English Composition–Minimum 3 units:

ENGL 101

B. Communication and Analytical Thinking – Minimum 3 units:

CIT 101, 125, 135
ENGL 125, 201, 201H
LIB 101
MATH 130, 130H, 140, 160, 170, 175, 180, 190,
190H, 191, 250, 260, 270
PHIL 110, 110H, 112, 112H, 115
PSY 190
SPCH 100, 101, 101H, 140
READ 101
VOCB 101

**Any course taken to meet the American Institutions requirement may not be used to meet another general education requirement.*

Courses may be used to fulfill only one G.E. area.

(It is the student's responsibility to provide verification to the Admissions and Records Office if any of the above requirements are met at another college or university.)

Multiple Majors/Second Associate Degrees

A student may be eligible for more than one major within a degree providing that all required courses and units for each major are completed. It is possible for a student to be awarded more than one degree providing that all residency, unit, general education, and major requirements are met for the additional degree.

Catalog Rights

A student may elect to meet the graduation requirements in effect at the time of entrance or at the time of graduation provided that he/she maintains continuous enrollment.

Continuous Enrollment

Continuous enrollment is defined as being enrolled in at least one course each semester and receiving an A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or W at Rio Hondo College or any other campus within the California community college or university system. If there is a break in enrollment for more than three consecutive semesters, 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 Director of Admissions and Records for consideration.

Graduation

Students planning to graduate should file a "petition for graduation" during the semester in which they plan to graduate. Applications are available online on the Admissions and Records webpage. Deadlines for filing graduation petitions are available on the Rio Hondo website, under the Admissions/Graduation Information link. Please note that Rio Hondo College hosts a commencement ceremony in the spring semester of each year.

Certificate Programs

Certificate programs are designed for students interested in developing advanced levels of proficiency in special occupational subject areas. A student may elect to meet the Certificate of Achievement, Certificate of Skill Proficiency, or Career Certificate requirements in effect at the time of entrance or at the time of graduation provided that he/she maintains continuous enrollment (see Catalog Rights – Continuous Enrollment).

Certificates are awarded upon successful completion of the courses indicated in a designated subject area. Consult each program area for specific requirements. A candidate must maintain a minimum of a "C" average in the certificate program and complete at least one required course for the certificate at Rio Hondo College.

Certificate of Achievement

The Certificate of Achievement is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment in a vocational area. This certificate is awarded through Admissions and Records and will be posted on the student's transcripts.

Upon completion of required Certificate of Achievement courses, students must file an application with the Admissions and Records Office. Deadlines for filing a Certificate of Achievement application are available on the Rio Hondo College website.

Certificate of Skill Proficiency

The Certificate of Skill Proficiency provides the student with skills designed to enhance their job marketability and mobility. This certificate is awarded through the designated Division Office and will not be posted on the student's transcript.

Career Certificate

The Career Certificate prepares students for specific job opportunities. This certificate is awarded through the designated Division Office and will not be posted on the student's transcript.

Exceptions to Graduation/ Certificate of Achievement Requirements

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. The course substitution request will be reviewed by a faculty representative, Dean of the discipline involved and/or by the Articulation Officer.

