

# 7 Degree & Certificate Guidelines

## Degree Programs

Río 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 degree.

**General Education Exceptions** – Those students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university will be exempt from the Río 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** – 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. The course substitution request will be reviewed by a faculty representative, Dean of the discipline involved, and/or the Articulation Officer. Río Hondo College may accept extension and continuing education courses after taking into consideration whether they are comparable to Río Hondo courses, are from a United States 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 Río 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 cumulative 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) or better, and at least twelve (12) units in residence, and which will include a major consisting of a minimum of eighteen (18) units with a grade of "C" or better in each course, and satisfactory completion of any one (1) of the following general education patterns:

- a. California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE)
- b. Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)
- c. Río Hondo College General Education and Proficiency requirements.

A listing of all majors can be found in the degree listing in the college catalog. 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. Certain private institutions that are part of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) or are partner Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) also offer guaranteed admission to students earning an ADT (please visit [aiccu.edu/transfer](http://aiccu.edu/transfer) and [extranet.cccco.edu/HBCUtransfer/Agreements](http://extranet.cccco.edu/HBCUtransfer/Agreements) for more information and a list of participating institutions).

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 at the college. 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
- Computer Science
- Early Childhood Education
- Geology
- 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
- Music
- 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 Río Hondo College for the same degree. Students must initiate the review process with a counselor and must have official transcripts sent to the RHC Admissions and Records Office.

## Río Hondo College General Education and Proficiency Requirements

The Río Hondo General Education & Proficiency requirements can be used to fulfill only 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:*

- The reading requirement may be met by one of the following:*
  - Letter grade of "C" or better earned in READ 043 or placement into READ 101.
  - Appropriate multiple measures placement.
  - 2 or 4 year degree from a United States regionally accredited institution.
- The written expression requirement may be met by one of the following:*
  - Credit earned in ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better.
  - A satisfactory score on the CSU English. Equivalency Exam (to be determined by the

- Division of Communications and Languages)
- Students earning a "C" or better in freshman composition courses (3 or more semester/4 or more quarter units) from United States regionally accredited colleges and universities.
- Advanced Placement examination scores of 3, 4, or 5 on either of the following exams: AP English Language & Composition or English Literature & Composition.
- 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 2010).

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

- Credit ("C" grade or better) in MATH 060 (Geometry), MATH 062 (Pre-Statistics), MATH 070 (Intermediate Algebra), MATH 070CD (Intermediate Algebra: Part II), 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.
- Demonstrate proficiency by a satisfactory score on the Río Hondo College Math Proficiency Exam.
- Advanced Placement examination scores of 3, 4 or 5 on one of the following exams: AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics.
- CLEP examination scores of 50 or higher on one of the following exams: Calculus, College Algebra, College Algebra-Trig, or 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 Student Health and Psychological Services 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  
BIOT 100  
CHEM 110, 120, 130  
GEOG 101 & 101L  
GEOL 150 & 151, 152 & 152L  
PHY 120, 150, 160, 211, 212, 213

### 6. *Social and Behavioral Sciences - Minimum 3 units:*

AJ 101  
ANTH 102, 102H, 103, 104, 110, 115, 125  
CD 106, 208  
CHST 101, 146, 148, 148H, 150  
ECON 101, 101H, 102, 102H, 106, 135  
EGSS 110, 120, 130  
GEOG 102, 103  
HIST 101, 102, 122, 131, 143, 143H, 144, 144H, 156, 157, 158, 159, 159H, 167, 170  
HUM 110, 111, 125, 125H, 130  
KIN 170, 190, 195  
MSCM 128