

aa degree general studies

The AA Degree in General Studies: A Pathway to Opportunity and Its Associated Challenges

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Keywords: AA degree general studies, associate degree general studies, general studies degree, community college, transfer pathways, career opportunities, academic challenges, student success, higher education.

Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive examination of the Associate of Arts (AA) degree in general studies, analyzing its strengths and weaknesses as a pathway to further education and employment. We explore the challenges faced by students pursuing this degree, including academic preparation, financial constraints, and navigating the complexities of transfer options. Conversely, we highlight the opportunities afforded by an AA in general studies, emphasizing its flexibility, affordability, and potential for career advancement.

1. Introduction: Understanding the AA Degree in General Studies

The Associate of Arts (AA) degree in general studies is a foundational degree offered by community colleges and some universities. Unlike more specialized associate degrees, the AA in general studies provides a broad-based education, encompassing a range of subjects across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. This flexibility allows students to explore different academic areas before committing to a specific major, making it an attractive option for those unsure about their future career paths. However, this very flexibility can also present challenges, as students may lack a clear academic focus, leading to potential difficulties in transferring credits to four-year institutions or securing employment directly after graduation. This article delves deeper into both the advantages and disadvantages associated with pursuing an AA degree in general studies.

2. The Opportunities Presented by an AA in General Studies

The AA degree in general studies offers several significant opportunities:

Flexibility and Exploration: The broad curriculum allows students to explore various disciplines, identifying their strengths and interests before specializing. This exploratory phase can be crucial for students who enter higher education with uncertain career goals. The AA in general studies provides a valuable period of self-discovery within the context of higher education.

Affordability and Accessibility: Community colleges, the primary providers of AA general studies programs, generally offer lower tuition fees than four-year universities. This makes higher education accessible to a wider range of students, regardless of socioeconomic background. This affordability is a key advantage of the AA degree in general studies, especially for students needing to balance work and studies.

Transferability: While not guaranteed, many AA general studies programs are designed to facilitate transfer to four-year institutions. Students can use their AA degree as a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree, often with seamless credit transfer for core curriculum courses. However, careful planning and consultation with academic advisors are crucial to ensure smooth transitions.

Foundation for Further Study: The broad foundation provided by an AA degree in general studies equips students with essential critical thinking, writing, and research skills, making them better prepared for the rigors of upper-level undergraduate courses. This strong foundational knowledge is highly valuable in various academic fields.

Career Advancement: While not a terminal degree, an AA in general studies can improve career prospects. It demonstrates a commitment to lifelong learning and can lead to promotions or opportunities for advancement within existing employment. Furthermore, it can serve as a qualification for entry-level positions in certain fields.

3. Challenges Associated with an AA Degree in General Studies

Despite its advantages, pursuing an AA degree in general studies also presents several challenges:

Lack of Focus and Direction: The broad curriculum can sometimes lead to a lack of focus, making it difficult for students to identify a clear career path or choose a major for subsequent studies. This lack of direction can result in extended time to graduation or difficulty securing employment after graduation.

Transfer Credit Issues: While many credits transfer, the specifics vary greatly depending on the four-year institution and the student's chosen major. Students must carefully research transfer agreements between their community college and their target university to ensure seamless credit transfer. Failure to do so can lead to wasted time and credits.

Academic Preparation: Some students entering community colleges may lack the academic preparation needed to succeed in college-level coursework. This can lead to difficulties in completing the AA degree in general studies and may necessitate additional support services, such as tutoring or remedial courses.

Financial Constraints: Even with lower tuition fees, many students face significant financial challenges, including tuition costs, living expenses, and childcare. Balancing work and studies can be demanding, potentially impacting academic performance and time to graduation.

Limited Career Options Directly After Graduation: Unlike more specialized associate degrees, the AA in general studies doesn't always lead to immediate employment in a specific field. This can require additional education or

training to secure well-paying jobs.

4. Strategies for Success with an AA Degree in General Studies

Students pursuing an AA degree in general studies can improve their chances of success by adopting the following strategies:

Early Career Exploration: Engage in career counseling and self-assessment activities to identify potential career paths early in their academic journey. This will aid in choosing relevant electives and ensure their coursework aligns with their career aspirations.

Proactive Transfer Planning: Research transfer agreements between their community college and potential four-year institutions well in advance. Meet regularly with academic advisors to create a detailed transfer plan and address potential challenges proactively.

Seek Academic Support: Utilize available resources such as tutoring, academic advising, and writing centers. Proactive utilization of these services can help address academic weaknesses and enhance overall performance.

Financial Planning: Explore financial aid options, scholarships, and part-time employment opportunities to mitigate financial constraints. Careful budget management is essential to ensure successful completion of the program.

Networking and Mentorship: Build connections with professors, career counselors, and alumni to access valuable insights and guidance. Networking can significantly enhance career prospects after graduation.

5. Conclusion

The AA degree in general studies offers a flexible and affordable pathway to higher education, providing numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth. However, it also presents challenges, particularly regarding focus, transferability, and career prospects. By adopting proactive strategies, seeking academic support, and engaging in careful planning, students can successfully navigate these challenges and leverage the numerous benefits of this valuable degree. The AA in general studies can serve as a solid foundation for future academic and career success, but requires careful planning and proactive engagement from students.

FAQs:

1. Is an AA in general studies a good choice for everyone? No, an AA in general studies is best suited for students who are unsure of their career path or wish to explore various academic disciplines before specializing. Students with clear career goals may benefit more from a more specialized associate degree.

1. How long does it take to complete an AA in general studies? Typically,

it takes two years of full-time study, though this can vary depending on the student's academic background and course load.

1. What are the job prospects after completing an AA in general studies? The AA in general studies does not guarantee specific job prospects. It can enhance career advancement or serve as a stepping stone to further education for better job opportunities.
1. Can I transfer my AA in general studies credits to a four-year university? Most credits are transferable, but it's crucial to verify transfer agreements between the community college and the target university.
1. What are the typical courses included in an AA in general studies program? Curricula vary, but typically include courses in humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics.
1. What kind of financial aid is available for AA in general studies programs? A range of financial aid options exists, including federal grants, loans, scholarships, and institutional aid.
1. What is the difference between an AA and an AS degree? An AA (Associate of Arts) is typically geared towards transferring to a four-year college, while an AS (Associate of Science) often prepares students for specific technical or vocational fields.
1. Are there online AA in general studies programs? Yes, many community colleges and some universities offer online AA in general studies programs, providing flexibility for students.
1. Is it possible to get a job with only an AA degree in general studies? While less common than with a specialized degree, some entry-level positions may be attainable with an AA in general studies, particularly those emphasizing soft skills.

Related Articles:

1. Transferring from an AA in General Studies to a Four-Year University: This article details the process of transferring credits and choosing a major after completing an AA degree in general studies.
1. Career Paths After an AA in General Studies: This article explores various career options and further education pathways open to graduates with an AA in general studies.
1. Financial Aid Options for Community College Students: This article provides a comprehensive overview of the various financial aid resources available to students pursuing an AA degree in general studies.
1. The Importance of Academic Advising for General Studies Students: This piece highlights the crucial role of academic advising in guiding students toward success in their general studies program and beyond.
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aa degree general studies: College Success Amy Baldwin, 2020-03

aa degree general studies: *Making College Work* Harry J. Holzer, Sandy Baum, 2017-08-15
Practical solutions for improving higher education opportunities for disadvantaged students Too many disadvantaged college students in America do not complete their coursework or receive any college credential, while others earn degrees or certificates with little labor market value. Large numbers of these students also struggle to pay for college, and some incur debts that they have difficulty repaying. The authors provide a new review of the causes of these problems and offer promising policy solutions. The circumstances affecting disadvantaged students stem both from issues on the individual side, such as weak academic preparation and financial pressures, and from institutional failures. Low-income students disproportionately attend schools that are underfunded and have weak performance incentives, contributing to unsatisfactory outcomes for many students. Some solutions, including better financial aid or academic supports, target individual students. Other solutions, such as stronger linkages between coursework and the labor market and more structured paths through the curriculum, are aimed at institutional reforms. All students, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, also need better and varied pathways both to college and directly to the job market, beginning in high school. We can improve college outcomes, but must also acknowledge that we must make hard choices and face difficult tradeoffs in the process. While no single policy is guaranteed to greatly improve college and career outcomes, implementing a number of evidence-based policies and programs together has the potential to improve these outcomes substantially.

aa degree general studies: (Re)Defining the Goal Kevin J. Fleming, Ph.d., Ph D Kevin J Fleming, 2016-07-02 How is it possible that both university graduates and unfilled job openings are both at record-breaking highs? Our world has changed. New and emerging occupations in every industry now require a combination of academic knowledge and technical ability. With rising education costs, mounting student debt, fierce competition for jobs, and the oversaturation of some academic majors in the workforce, we need to once again guide students towards personality-aligned careers and not just into college. Extensively researched, (Re)Defining the Goal deconstructs the prevalent one-size-fits-all education agenda. The author provides a fresh perspective, replicable strategies, and outlines six proven steps to help students secure a competitive advantage in the new economy. Gain a new paradigm and the right resources to help students avoid the pitfalls of unemployment, or underemployment, after graduation.

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scholars alike. The opportunities and challenges associated with offering these new baccalaureate degrees is illustrated with institutional examples. This is the 158th volume of this Jossey-Bass quarterly report series. Essential to the professional libraries of presidents, vice presidents, deans, and other leaders in today's open-door institutions, *New Directions for Community Colleges* provides expert guidance in meeting the challenges of their distinctive and expanding educational mission.

aa degree general studies: Handbook of Research-Based Practice in Early Education D. Ray Reutzel, 2014-07-09 Written expressly for early childhood educators, and those who support their professional development, this handbook distills essential knowledge about how to help all PreK-3 learners succeed. Leading experts describe doable ways to create effective learning environments and implement instructional practices with a strong evidence base. Engaging vignettes illustrate discussions of such topics as differentiated instruction, response to intervention, the Common Core standards, social and emotional learning, assessment, and teaching across the curriculum. Each chapter links cutting-edge research to practical applications, examples, and professional development activities.

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aa degree general studies: Studying Dance Schupp, Karen, 2014-09-30 This text prepares students to navigate their dance programs and prepare for a various careers. It orients students to dance as an academic discipline, broadens their understanding of dance, establishes solid approaches to studying dance, and connects dance on campus to their previous training.

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aa degree general studies: *Undergraduate Guide: Two-Year Colleges 2011* Peterson's, 2010-08-24 Peterson's Two-Year Colleges 2011 includes information on nearly 2,000 accredited two-year undergraduate institutions in the United States and Canada, as well as some international schools. It also includes scores of detailed two-page descriptions written by admissions personnel. College-bound students and their parents can research two-year colleges and universities for information on campus setting, enrollment, majors, expenses, student-faculty ratio, application deadline, and contact information. SELLING POINTS: Helpful articles on what you need to know about two-year colleges: advice on transferring and returning to school for adult students; how to survive standardized tests; what international students need to know about admission to U.S. colleges; and how to manage paying for college State-by-state summary table allows comparison of institutions by a variety of characteristics, including enrollment, application requirements, types of financial aid available, and numbers of sports and majors offered Informative data profiles for nearly 2,000 institutions, listed alphabetically by state (and followed by other countries) with facts and figures on majors, academic programs, student life, standardized tests, financial aid, and applying and contact information Exclusive two-page in-depth descriptions written by college administrators for Peterson's Indexes offering valuable information on associate degree programs at two-year colleges and four-year colleges-easy to search alphabetically

aa degree general studies: Why You Should (or Shouldn't) Go to College Catherine Gorman Cordova, 2024-08-20 No matter who you are or what your background might be, deciding whether or not to go to college, and which college to attend, is a complex and often stressful process. *Why You Should (or Shouldn't) Go to College* is written to help you become more informed and more comfortable in your decision-making so that perhaps some of the unavoidable anxiety is reduced, your questions are answered, and you can move forward confidently toward your goal...whatever it

might be. Full of easy-to-understand data and background on higher education and current economic workforce trends, this book provides an overview of the college process, including academic keywords and jargon, alternative routes, and "Student Silhouette" stories from others who have chosen a variety of paths post high school. This book will enhance your knowledge and choices when deciding what path is right for you. Whether you are a stressed high school student trying to decide what's next, a parent deliberating your child's future, or a non-traditional student following your own path, this has the knowledge and information needed to make deliberate and informed choices about your future education and career choices.

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Judith W. Rosenthal, 2013-06-17 This volume offers the most comprehensive, up-to-date description of the wide array of second language programs currently available to undergraduate students in the United States and abroad. It brings together, for the first time, detailed descriptions of programs in foreign language, English as a second language (ESL), dual language (bilingual), American Sign Language, Native American, and heritage languages. Addressing both theory and practice, the volume presents the historical development, current practices, and future directions of each type of program, along with detailed case studies. For second language teachers, academic administrators, and teacher educators, this Handbook provides information that will be useful in making instructional and programmatic planning decisions.

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aa degree general studies: **Higher Education in the United States** Megan Brenn-White, 2010-11-09 As demographic changes reduce the number of domestic students in Europe attracting the right students and scholars will become more important for administrators and faculty at higher education institutions in Germany. Especially the US is an important potential source of students for study abroad an degree programs in Germany, particularly those taught in English. As US universities begin to deploy more aggressive marketing tactics in international recruitment, it is important to understand both US recruitment practices and Germany's differential advantages. The book is written in English. The ordering process on this website is in German. English-speakers should write service@wbv.de Durch die demografische Entwicklung wird die Zahl der einheimischen Studenten in Europa sinken. Gleichzeitig wird die Zahl der amerikanischen Studenten in den nächsten Jahren noch zunehmen. Um so wichtiger ist es für die Verwaltung deutscher Hochschulen, amerikanische Studenten für ein Studium in Deutschland zu gewinnen. Viele Kurse in Master-Studiengängen werden zudem in englischer Sprache angeboten. Der Band analysiert das US-amerikanische Universitätssystem, zeigt die Anwerbep Praxis amerikanischer Hochschulen und informiert über die Möglichkeit der Zusammenarbeit deutscher und US-amerikanischer Hochschulen. Das Buch ist in Englisch geschrieben.

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American - Airline Pilot Central Forums

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AA New Hire Training - Airline Pilot Central Forums

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Regular expression that doesn't contain certain string

Apr 5, 2009 · regex: /aa.*?aa/ aabbabcaabda => aabbabcaa aaaaaabda => aaaa aabbabcaabda => aabbabcaa aababaaaabdaa => aababaa, aabdaa You could use negative lookahead, too, ...

JetBlue/AA deal dead. - Page 3 - Airline Pilot Central Forums

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Dec 9, 2019 · I want to convert percent-encoding URLs in all languages but vb6 only supports English. I have tested the following code. but it can only convert English characters: Private ...

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Transfer Studies A.A. - Lansing Community College

between two -year and four-year institutions in Michigan and qualify for an LCC Transfer Studies Certificate of Achievement (1482). Transfer students are strongly encouraged to apply for this ...

Oxnard College 2023-2024 General Education Requirements ...

Degree: AA in General Studies Pattern 1 with areas of emphasis in: Natural Sciences Social/Behavioral Sciences Arts/Humanities (Checklist for Pattern I Areas must be attached) ...

General Studies (AA) - North Idaho College

GENERAL STUDIES (AA) Associate of Arts Transfer Program Interest Areas: Arts, Comm. and Humanities Business Admin. and Management Healthcare Science, Tech., Engr. and Math ...

Program Outline Report Modesto Junior College

an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in a comprehensive area of study. This degree is intended for students who may not be planning to transfer to a university in the near future. The General ...

Central Texas College District Associate of Arts in General ...

General Education * Degree Objective-Provides graduates with a general education core curriculum foundation, which are appropriate for transfer to a four- ... Program results in a two ...

Associate in Arts and Associate in Science General Education

Applies to Associate Degree in General Studies Pattern I and all associate degrees in specific majors. (Not applicable for Associate Degrees for Transfer and Associate Degrees in General ...

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Program an opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree In General Studies. c. have a signed agreement that addresses the needs of student in the Paramedic Program to complete an ...

General Studies, AA/AS - Utah Tech

4 General Studies, AA/AS Milestones: Meet with your academic advisor. Maintain 2.0 GPA or higher (Bachelor's degree may require higher GPA). Declare Bachelor's degree major. General ...

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• Communication Studies (AA-T) • Early Childhood Education (AS -T) • Economics (AA-T) • Geography (AA-T) • Geology (AS-T) •History (AA T)-T) ... Associate Degree General Education ...

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GENERAL STUDIES - Associate in Arts (2024-2025 Catalog)

Developmental education courses may extend the timeline to degree completion. Transferring credits into NCC: Official transcripts are required; awarded credit will appear in Workday's ...

General Studies AA - Social and Behavioral Sciences

To meet the General Studies degree requirements, a student must complete the following: I. AA/AS General Education Requirements (see Degree Requirements section of the catalog). ...

Associate of General Studies Degree (AGS) - CSN

Associate of General Studies Degree (AGS) REQUIRED CREDITS: 60 DEGREE CODE: AGS NOTE • Course numbers with the "B" suffix may be non-transferable for a NSHE baccalaureate ...

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE GENERAL CORE CURRICULUM

GENERAL CORE CURRICULUM 010 Communications (6 semester credit hours) ... HUMA 1305 Introduction to Mexican-American Studies HUMA 1315 Fine Arts Appreciation HUMA 2319 ...

2024-2025 Associate of Arts (AA) Degree General Education ...

Associate of Arts (AA) Degree General Education Pattern • Courses may be listed in more than one area but will NOT be certified more than once, unless otherwise stated. ... CMST 4 ...

Associate in Arts (AA) Transfer Pathways - fsw.edu

BS or BAS-Bachelor of Science or Applied Science: A four year degree obtained by completing 120 credit hours. The first 60 hours are comprised of general education classes and the final 60 ...

LIBERAL STUDIES CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS - Florida ...

Please record all earned/anticipated credit. Shaded areas are met for transfer students with an articulated AA degree. Please see next page for additional details about Liberal Studies ...

Environmental Studies Pathway - Valencia College

Environmental Studies Pathway Meta-Major: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) ... Federal financial aid assists with funding for up to 60 eligible credits of your AA ...

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BIOL 1114 General Biology BOT 1114 General Botany BIOL 2103 Environmental Science I ZOO 1114 General Zoology Physical Science: Take One of the following courses: CHEM 1315 ...

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AA Degree in General Studies - Pattern I, AA or AS Degree in a Specific Major (for students with catalog rights of Fall 2008 or thereafter) 1. General Education Requirements. LEGEND: C= ...

COMPREHENSIVE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS - CSN

under the following general course numbering parameters:
Remedial/Developmental Courses 001-099 Lower-Division Courses 100-299 Upper-Division Courses 300-499 Course numbers ...

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Twenty-four (24) units total minimum requirement - Three (3) units in each of the ...

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Jun 8, 2022 · CERTIFICATE / DEGREE PLAN Effective: Fall 2022 . Program: General Studies Degree: A A* Major Code/CIP:GST4/240102 Requirements for Degree . Source ; Eval CR ...

AA General Studies - Liberal Arts - Stone Child

Jul 1, 2022 · AA General Studies - PHILOSOPHY: The Native American Studies Option is offered as an Associate degree or as a transfer program to a four-year college or university. Students ...

GENERAL STUDIES WITH AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

The General Studies with an Area of Emphasis program, developed by the Counseling Discipline, is designed to meet the needs of ... degree by studying specific related disciplines of academic ...

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE 2024-2025 General Education ...

AREA 6: ETHNIC STUDIES ... ES 1+, 3+, 4+/ANTH 4+ SADDLEBACK COLLEGE 2024-2025 General Education Requirements for ASSOCIATE Degrees ... (IGETC). NOTE: Associate ...

Aa Degree General Studies (2024) - x-plane.com

Aa Degree General Studies: Other Ways to Win Kenneth C. Gray, Edwin L. Herr, 2006-02-16 Now in its third edition this bestseller offers new data recommendations and observations that ...

General Studies (AA) 2020-2021 Sample Plan - South Dakota ...

Major: General Studies 2018-2019 Sample 2-Year Checklist Total Degree Requirements: 60 credits Student Student ID# Student Phone # Advisor 2.0 Minimum GPA Minor/Career ...

LOCAL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS 2024 - 2025

1. Students who have previously been awarded a Bachelor's Degree or higher from a U.S. institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education and ...

General Education and Course Requirements - New ...

The Associate in Arts degree requires 60 eligible college-level credits including 36 credits in general education, 24 credits of acceptable ... for the Associate in Arts Degree (36 Credits) The ...

Degree Requirements and Transfer Information - cuyamaca.edu

An AA or AS degree with a multiple major can be earned by completion of all general education requirements plus the courses required for both majors as outlined in this catalog. The General ...

FREN 101 French I (5) General Studies - Palomar College

FREN 102 · AA GFrench II (5) 5 hours lecture - 1 hour laboratory

Prerequisite: A minimum grade of 'C' in FREN 101 or two years of high school ... Students may earn only one General Studies ...

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025 - SD City

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025 THIS IS AN ADVISING TOOL ONLY - SEE A COLLEGE CATALOG FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION. 6 - Ethnic Studies: A minimum of 3 ...

Student Name: TTU Advisor(s): Mexican American ...

Mexican American Studies/General Studies - AA to BGS - Texas Tech University Lower Division Requirements at South Plains College for an AA degree The courses in this section meet the ...

Associate Degree Requirements for Moorpark College

General Studies Degree Pattern III Transfer to CSU or UC . 1. GE pattern CSU GE: certify 39 units MC CSU GE: 42 -52 units IGETC: certify 37 units MC IGETC for UC: 35-46 units MC ...

TO: Chief Instructional Officers Academic Senate Presidents ...

Feb 2, 2024 · Degree and General Education" (section 55060) • \$55060 and \$55061 have been collapsed into \$55060 Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education • ...

GENERAL STUDIES - Weber State University

WSU General Studies associate's degree or General Education certificate of completion to fulfill the General Education requirements of their bachelor's degrees. What are the employment ...

General Studies, Associate of Arts - publications.sanjac.edu

General Studies, Associate of Arts 1 GENERAL STUDIES, ASSOCIATE OF ARTS Plan of Study (Degree Plan) 1G-STUDY This plan of study is intended only for students who do not yet know ...

General Studies/Transfer Studies, AA - MCTC

An Associate of Arts degree in General Studies/Transfer Studies can establish the foundation for a lifetime of continual learning and serve as the framework for a productive professional and ...

MOORPARK COLLEGE 2020-2021 AA Degree in General ...

AA Degree in General Studies - Pattern II or III (for students with catalog rights of Fall 2008 or thereafter) Pattern II - is for students who are planning to transfer to a four-year university in ...

GENERAL INFORMATION - 2021-2022 Graduation ...

An AA/AS Degree, with a double major, can be earned by completion of all General Education, and Competency Requirements, and course work required for both majors. General Studies ...

GENERAL STUDIES A.A. D - elcamino.edu

General Studies A.A. Degree July 2010 GENERAL STUDIES A.A. DEGREE The Associate Degree in General Studies provides students with the opportunity to explore diverse methods ...

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The associate degree requires a minimum of 60 units of degree-applicable coursework, of which 18 semester units must be in one of the nine areas of emphasis listed on the following pages or ...

H U M ANITIES AND FINE ARTS - catalog.gcccd.edu

General Studies AA - Humanities and Fine Arts Grossmont College 2024-2025 1
GENERAL STUDIES AA - H U M ANITIES AND FINE ARTS To meet the General Studies degree ...

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL EDUCATION ...

• File Petition for Associate Degree: Meet with an academic counselor to complete a "Petition for Associate Degree (AA/AS)" form. Submit petition form to the Office of Admission and Records ...

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: GENERAL STUDIES

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: GENERAL STUDIES Semester Plan of Study This plan shows one possible grouping of courses in Fall and Spring semesters that would allow students to ...

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