

## DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND TRANSFER PLANNING

### Associate Degrees

The associate degree is a certification of the student's satisfactory completion of a program of study with a specific major or area of specialization. The associate degree is normally completed in two years and may be compared with the baccalaureate degree which is normally completed in four years.

Associate degrees are commonly conferred by community colleges. They are usually of two types, the associate of arts and the associate in science. The distinction between the associate of arts and the associate in science degrees lies in the majors. If the major is in the fields of engineering, physical or biological science, or occupational curricula, the degree conferred is usually the associate in science. Otherwise the associate of arts degree is conferred.

Ordinarily associate degrees have one of two major purposes. Either the program of study prepares the individual for transfer to a four-year college or university, or the program of study is intended to prepare the student for immediate employment.

The requirements for the associate degree include the specific courses in the major and what is called a general education or breadth requirement. The specific details concerning both the major and the general education requirements are described in Associate Degree Requirements (See page 22).

### Associate Degrees For Transfer

Santa Ana College offers Associate Degrees for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T) in addition to associate degrees in Art and Science (A.A. or A.S.). The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Senate Bill 1440, codified in California Education Code sections 66746– 66749) guarantees admission to the California State University (CSU) system (though not to a particular campus or major) for any community college student who completes an Associate Degree for Transfer or "ADT". See Associate Degrees for Transfer for requirements. (See page 20).

### Certificate of Achievement Programs

A Certificate of Achievement (16 or more units or state approved under 16 units) is a verification of achievement in a particular academic or occupational area, and it will be included on the official transcript. Certificate programs normally include only those courses which have a direct bearing upon specialized occupational competency since the certificate has the sole objective of immediate employment in a specialized area. For this reason there is no general education requirement in a certificate program. Santa Ana College certificate of achievement programs are described in the catalog section on College Credit Instructional Programs. To qualify for a certificate, a candidate must meet the following requirements:

**Courses:** Courses are designated for the specific certificate.

**Grades:** At least a C grade in each course required for the certificate, unless otherwise specified. Credit by Examination may also be used to gain credit for required courses.

**Pass/No Pass:** A pass/no pass course is acceptable toward the certificate if it is required for the certificate and (a) offered on a pass/no pass basis only or (b) if the pass/no pass is earned on the basis of credit by examination.

**Residency:** Twelve units completed at Santa Ana College. (At least six of the units must be in courses required for the certificate.)

**Petition:** Petition for certificate filed by the student with the Office of Admissions and Records at Santa Ana College.

### Certificate of Proficiency Programs

A Certificate of Proficiency is under 18 units and/or is not a state approved program. A certificate is verification of completion in a particular subject matter. A certificate will NOT be included on the official transcript.

Certificate programs include only those courses which focus on vocational skills. The certificate has the sole objective of employment in a specialized area, and for this reason there are no general education requirements in a certificate program. Santa Ana College certificate programs are described in the catalog section on College Credit Instructional Programs. At least fifty percent of Certificate of Proficiency course requirements must be completed at Santa Ana College.

### Distance Education

Distance education courses are Santa Ana College credit courses that include lectures, discussions, assignments and tests delivered via the Internet with opportunities for regular and substantive interaction between the instructor(s) and students and among students. The courses are academically equivalent to on-campus courses and

support our district mission to provide quality educational programs and services that address the needs of our diverse students and communities.

Distance Education courses require students to have a computer and Internet access. Students may also use computers in some on-campus facilities.

**Online Courses:** Fully Online Instruction classes meet 100% online with no scheduled meeting days. Students Logon to Canvas at [sac.edu/canvas](http://sac.edu/canvas) and complete work regularly throughout the week. Canvas and other technologies will be required to complete coursework.

**Fully Online Live:** Fully Online Live Instruction classes meet only in scheduled live streaming Zoom meetings. Students logon to Canvas at [sac.edu/canvas](http://sac.edu/canvas) to attend class virtually on zoom during the published course times. Canvas and other technologies will be required to complete coursework.

**Hybrid:** On-Campus Hybrid Instruction classes combine scheduled on-campus meetings and online instruction. Students will attend class on-campus during the published course times and will logon to Canvas at [sac.edu/canvas](http://sac.edu/canvas) and complete work regularly throughout the week. Canvas and other technologies will be required to complete coursework.

**Virtual Hybrid:** Virtual Hybrid Instruction classes combine scheduled live streaming Zoom meetings and online instruction. Students will attend class virtually on Zoom during the published course times and will logon to Canvas at [sac.edu/canvas](http://sac.edu/canvas) and complete work regularly throughout the week. Canvas and other technologies will be required to complete coursework.

**On-Campus with Virtual:** On-Campus with Virtual Instruction classes combine scheduled on-campus and scheduled Zoom meetings. Students will attend class on-campus and will attend class virtually on zoom during the published course times and will logon to Canvas at [sac.edu/canvas](http://sac.edu/canvas). Canvas and other technologies will be required to complete coursework.

### Online Degree Pathway Program

The Online Degree Pathway Program is a program offered through Distance Education which allows students to learn and study collaboratively in a student cohort that completes prescribed coursework in an accelerated 8-week course structure. There are currently five online degree pathways:

1. Associate in Science in Business Administration for Transfer (AS-T in Business Administration); this degree is for transfer to CSU and can be completed in 2 years
2. Associate in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer (AA-T in Communication Studies); this degree is for transfer to CSU and can be completed in 2 years
3. Associate in Arts, in Liberal Arts Degree, 2 year completion; this degree prepares the student for transfer and can be completed in 2 years
4. Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T in Psychology); this degree is for transfer to CSU and can be completed in 2 years
5. Associate in Arts in Psychology for Transfer (AA-T in Psychology); this degree is for transfer to CSU and can be completed in 2 years
6. Associate in Arts in Sociology for Transfer (AA-T in Sociology); this degree is for transfer to CSU and can be completed in 2 years

Business Administration Major Preparation for CSU, 1 year completion  
Psychology Major Preparation for CSU, 1 year completion  
For Online Degree Pathway information, please visit our website:

[sac.edu/onlinepathway](http://sac.edu/onlinepathway)

call (714) 564-6725, or email us at [sac\\_disted@sac.edu](mailto:sac_disted@sac.edu)

### Associate Degrees For Transfer

In addition to traditional associate degrees, California Community Colleges offer Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) to the CSU. These may include Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. California community college students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission with junior standing somewhere in the CSU system and given priority admission consideration to their local CSU campus or to a program that is deemed similar to their community college major. This priority does not guarantee admission to specific majors or campuses. Students who have been awarded an AA-T or AS-T are able to complete their remaining requirements for the 120-unit baccalaureate degree within 60 semester or 90 quarter units.