

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)
Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) Degree
2026-2027

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits and a maximum of 64 semester credits for the program of study; however, minimum total credits for the AAFA vary by specific emphasis.

Students must select one of the emphasis areas: Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre. If an emphasis area is not selected, this program is not eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid. Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (4.0 scale) and grades of “C” or better are required in all courses to earn the degree. The AAFA degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for associate degrees designed for university transfer.

The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree includes the following components:

- I. Plan Course Prerequisites (as specified by emphasis area)
- II. Plan Course Requirements
- III. Plan Course Electives
- IV. General Education
- V. MCCCD Requirements
- VI. General Electives (if needed to reach minimum credits for degree)

Purpose of the Degree

The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) degree is designed for students planning to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors in the Fine Arts. The degree is designed to prepare students to meet selective admission criteria for programs such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts; program admission may have an additional emphasis-specific portfolio or performance requirements.

In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCCD Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) will apply to general university graduation requirements of the majors that align with AAFA degree; however, students need to pay attention to any specific requirements of their intended focus at the

university to be sure they select courses that will meet them. Information regarding the articulation of the AAFA degree with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed at [AZTransfer](#).

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA) follow. The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree requires at least 60 credits and a maximum of 64 credits; however, minimum total credits for the AAFA vary by specific emphasis (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre). Refer to [Current Programs](#) and [Course Sequences](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums. The [Arizona General Education Curriculum](#) identifies the courses that apply to the different curriculum. Some restrictions may apply depending on the specific program of study Industry-recognized credentials accepted as direct course equivalents or electives can be counted as general electives (See [Credit for Prior Learning Administrative Regulation 2.2.4](#)).

I. Plan Course Prerequisites_____Credits varies

Plan Course Prerequisites for the Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree vary by specific emphasis (**Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, Theatre**). Refer to the Program (Degree) Search for specific courses and credit minimums by emphasis.

II. Plan Course Requirements_____Credits varies

Students must complete the Plan Course Requirements in the Associate in Arts Fine Arts degree Required Courses area for the specific emphasis (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre).

Refer to Current Programs to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis.

III. Plan Course Electives_____Credits varies

Plan Course Electives for the Associate in Arts, Fine Arts degree vary by specific emphasis: (Art, Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, or Theatre). Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums for each emphasis.

IV. General Education_____Minimum 35 Credits

The AA-FA degree requires the completion of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) at a minimum of 35 credits (32 if **Written Communication [WCM]** is met by a single transfer course).

A single course can simultaneously count between the AGEC and the Plan Course Prerequisites, Plan Course Requirements, MCCCDC Requirements, and Plan Course Electives, but its credits are only counted once toward the total for the degree.

Per AZTransfer Policy 103: AGEC Transfer Institutions and 104: Transferability of the AGEC Courses Between Community Colleges: The certified (i.e., completed and documented on the transcript) AGEC is transferable from any Arizona public community or tribal college to ASU, NAU, and UA as well as to any other Arizona public community or tribal college. Arizona public community and tribal colleges will accept AGEC coursework from any other Arizona public community or tribal college. AGEC requirements will be accepted and applied as defined by the source institution.

In some cases, a specific degree or emphasis may require the student to select particular courses, rather than select freely from the list of approved AGEC courses. A course that is specified within the AGEC is considered a Plan Course Requirement for the purposes of degree completion. Students who transfer to MCCCDC with a certified AGEC from another public Arizona community or tribal college or have already received an AGEC from within MCCCDC will need to meet all courses specified within the AGEC for their emphasis pathway.

In cases where students have a certified AGEC from another public Arizona community or tribal college with fewer than 35 credits, credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate. Students who have received a certified AGEC, independently or within another degree, before Fall 2026 from MCCCDC or another Arizona public institution will not need to complete **Oral Communication [OCM]** or **Institutions in the Americas [IAM]** designations, and credits must be recovered within any requirement area of the degree to meet the minimum credits to graduate.

AGEC designations are subject to change. See AGEC matrix for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken. The minimum **Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]** and

Natural Science [NSI] requirements for the awarding of the AGECEC, when not specified by the degree requirements, may be fulfilled with any course(s) that meet the designation.

Students are urged to refer to university requirements and academic advisors from both institutions to be certain that all their selected coursework is applicable to the requirements of their intended transfer degree and will not require additional general education coursework to be fulfilled upon transfer.

A. Written Communication [WCM]_____ 6 Credits

- ENG101 or ENG107 AND
- ENG102 or ENG108

Note: The 6-credit requirement may be met with fewer credits if a student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU or UA for a single course that meets [WCM] in full.

B. Oral Communication [OCM]_____ 3 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [OCM] courses
- Refer to Current Programs to search for specified [OCM] requirements by degree or emphasis

C. Quantitative Reasoning [QNR]_____ 3 Credits

Requires a course in

- College Mathematics (MAT140, MAT141, MAT142, MAT145, MAT146) or
- College Algebra (MAT150, MAT151, MAT152, MAT155, MAT156) or
- Higher mathematical level [QNR] approved General Education Course with a MAT prefix, not including MAT206

The minimum math Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] requirement for graduation defaults to the lowest base-level math, as identified above. Some emphasis may require a specific or higher mathematical-level Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] course; refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specific Quantitative Reasoning [QNR] emphasis math requirements by emphasis.

D. Arts and Humanities [AHM]_____ 6 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis require specific [AHM] courses

- Refer to Current Programs to search for specified Arts [AHM] requirements by degree or emphasis
- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.

E. Social and Behavioral Sciences [SCB]_____6 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [SCB] courses;
- Refer to [Current Programs](#)) to search for specified [SCB] requirements by degree or emphasis
- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline

F. Institutions in the Americas [IAM]_____3 Credits

- Some degrees or emphasis may require specific [IAM] courses
- Refer to [Current Programs](#)) to search for specified [IAM] requirements by degree or emphasis.

G. Natural Sciences [NSI]_____8 Credits

- The lecture courses selected for [NSI] must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory courses.
- Credits for lecture and lab components may be combined or each may carry separate credit.
- Refer to [Current Programs](#) to search for specified Natural Sciences [NSI] requirements by degree or emphasis.

V. MCCCDC Requirements_____Minimum 1 Credit

- Students must complete
FYE101 (1 Credit): Introduction to College, Career, and Personal Success OR
FYE103 (3 Credits): Exploration to College, Career, and Personal Success
- See Administrative Regulation: For more details, see the General Graduation Requirements [Administrative Regulation 2.3.9](#).

VI. General Electives_____Credits varies

Select courses 100-level or higher if needed to complete a minimum of 60 semester credits but no more than a total of 64 semester credits, which is the maximum number of credits accepted toward most degree programs at Arizona’s public universities. Ideally, students should select courses that meet requirements for their major/area of interest and transfer institution. See

General Associate Degree Academic Policies for further details, limitations, and guidelines. MCCCCD has established recommended courses and [sequencing](#) to align with the Fine Arts Emphasis Areas.

Maricopa courses and external courses evaluated as Maricopa equivalents, departmental electives (e.g., HISELC for a history elective), or general electives (GENELC) that are numbered 100 level or higher, and completed with a grade of "C" or higher, may be applied in the elective area, regardless of potential transferability to other institutions. It is recommended, however, that students planning to transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution meet these general elective requirements with courses that are transferable and applicable to their intended university degree. Transfer and major guides are accessible at [AZTransfer](#), [Program Search](#), as well as those of individual universities. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.

Total _____ **60-64**

64 semester credits is the maximum accepted toward most degree programs at Arizona's public universities. Some exceptions apply; consult with an academic advisor for additional transfer information.