

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)  
**Associate in General Studies (AGS) Degree**  
2026-2027

## **Description**

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in General Studies degree requires 60-64 semester credits in courses numbered 100 and above. The degree includes the following components:

I. **Plan Requirements** (1-3 credits)

First Year Experience (all courses completed with a grade of “C” or better)

II. **General Education** (minimum of 35 credits)

**Core Areas** (all courses completed with a grade of “C” or better)

- First-Year Composition
- Mathematics
- Computer Usage
- Oral Communication
- Critical Reading

**Distribution Areas** (all courses completed with a grade of “D” or better):

- Humanities, Arts and Design
- Social-Behavioral Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Literacy and Critical Inquiry

III. **General Electives** (enough additional courses numbered 100 or above, completed with a grade of “D” or better, to bring total credits to at least 60 credits).

## **Purpose of the Degree**

The Associate in General Studies (AGS) degree is recommended for students whose educational goals require flexibility. This degree allows students to apply any course numbered 100 or above toward required credits, including those that may not transfer to Arizona public universities or other institutions.

Students who intend to transfer to a another college or university to pursue a bachelor’s degree may find the AGS less appropriate than other associate degrees and the emphases offered by the

Maricopa Community Colleges:

- Associate in Arts (AA)
- Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AAEE)
- Associate in Arts, Fine Arts (AAFA)
- Associate in Business-General Requirements (ABUS-GR)
- Associate in Business-Special Requirements (ABUS-SR)
- Associate in Science (AS)

### **Academic Policies that Govern the Associate in General Studies Degree:**

The graduation policies within the general catalog must be satisfied. Students must complete FYE 101 (1) or FYE 103 (3) ([see General Graduation Requirements Administrative Regulation 2.3.9](#)).

A single course can simultaneously count toward a Core Area and a Distribution Area requirement. For example, CRE101 may be used to satisfy both the Literacy and Critical Inquiry requirement of the Distribution area and the Core curriculum's Critical Reading area.

- While multiple requirements can be met with a single course, the credits are only counted one time toward the required minimum for the degree.
- A course cannot satisfy more than one Core area, even if it is approved for more than one Core area.
- A course cannot satisfy more than one Distribution area, even if it is approved for more than one Distribution area.
- Credits transferred from outside of MCCCDC must be completed with a grade of "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better.

### **Transfer Credit from Institutions Outside of MCCCDC//Prior Learning Assessment:**

- Transfer graded pass/fail or pass/no credit may be transferred if documentation collected by the community college indicates that this was the only grading option available to the student and that the Pass grade ("P") is equivalent to a "C" or better.
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit may be applied toward Plan Requirements, General Education, and General Electives (see [Credit for Prior Learning Administrative Regulation 2.2.4](#))
- Courses with different credit systems (quarter hours, trimester, units) are converted to semester credit hours as outlined in MCCCDC [Administrative Regulation 2.2.4](#).

- A deficiency in a requirement (Plan Prerequisites, Plan Requirements, Plan Electives, or General Education) category due to a quarter-hour or other credit system application must be recovered by additional credits for a total of 35 MCCCDC General Education credits overall (or 32 credits overall if a student transfers a single course from an Arizona public university that fulfills the First Year Composition requirement).

**Grade Point Average, University Transfer Limitations:**

- Completion of the AGS with a minimum Grade Point Average (on a 4.0 scale) of at least 2.0 for Arizona residents and 2.50 for non-residents meets Arizona public university general admission requirements.
- Meeting all AGS minimums does not ensure admission to specific university majors or programs with selective admission processes and/or limited enrollment.
- The AGS is not designed to align with the requirements for bachelor’s degrees, not all credits may be transferable and students may have deficiencies in lower division (100- and 200-level) courses for a particular major.

**Summary of Degree Requirements:**

Details on how to identify courses approved for each of the categories is described following the outline.

- I. Plan Requirements \_\_\_\_\_ **1-3 credits**
  - FYE101 Introduction to College, Career and Personal Success OR
  - FYE103 Exploration of College, Career and Personal Success
  
- II. **MCCCDC General Education** \_\_\_\_\_ **35-48 credits**
  - Core Areas** \_\_\_\_\_ **13-19 credits**
  
  - A. First-Year Composition \_\_\_\_\_ **6 credits**
    - ENG101 or ENG107 AND
    - ENG102 or ENG108

**Note:** First-Year Composition may be met with fewer than 6 credits if a student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU, or UA for a single course that meets First Year Composition in full.

**B. Mathematics**\_\_\_\_\_3-6 credits

- See the General Education Courses list below for approved options

**C. Computer Usage**\_\_\_\_\_1 credit

- See the General Education Courses list below for approved options

**D. Oral Communication**\_\_\_\_\_3 credits

Select one of the following courses:

- COM100 Introduction to Human Communication OR
- COM110 Interpersonal Communication OR
- COM225 Public Speaking OR
- COM230 Small Group Communication

**E. Critical Reading**\_\_\_\_\_0-3 credits

- CRE101 Critical Reading OR equivalent as indicated by assessment

**Distribution Areas**\_\_\_\_\_22-29 credits

**F. Humanities, Arts and Design**\_\_\_\_\_9 credits

- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.
- See the General Education Courses list below for approved options

**G. Social-Behavioral Sciences**\_\_\_\_\_6-9 credits

- Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.
- If COM100, COM110, or COM230 is shared between the Core and Distribution areas, the Social-Behavioral Sciences requirement may be met with 6 additional credits
- The credits for the shared COM course are only counted once, but they may be applied to meet both Oral Communication and Social Behavioral Sciences
- See Academic Policies section above
- See the General Education Courses list below for additional approved options

**H. Natural Sciences**\_\_\_\_\_7-8 credits

Two lecture courses and one corresponding laboratory course are to be selected.

- Credits for lecture and lab components may be combined (as a single 4-credit course) or taken separately (as a 3-credit lecture and 1-credit lab).
- For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.
- See the General Education Courses list below for approved options

**I. Literacy and Critical Inquiry**\_\_\_\_\_0-3 credits

- **Option 1:** The Literacy and Critical Inquiry requirement may be met by CRE101 (which also satisfies Critical Reading) or COM 225 (which also satisfies Oral Communication) with a grade of “C” or better. .

**Note:** While these courses satisfy two requirements, the credits are only counted once toward the total degree.

- **Option 2:** The Literacy and Critical Inquiry requirement may be met with a grade of “D” or better by selecting an additional 3 credits from the list of approved options.
- See the General Education Courses list below for approved options

**III. General ElectivesCredits varies**

Select additional courses 100-level or higher to complete a minimum of 60 semester credits but no more than a total of 64 semester credits.

**Total Credits**\_\_\_\_\_60-64 credits

## General Education Requirements 2026-2027

The general education course list below combines the requirements for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) and the Associate in General Studies (AGS) degrees.

- **Shared Requirements:** Both degrees require First-Year Composition, Oral Communication, Critical Reading, Mathematics, Humanities, Arts and Design; Social-Behavioral Sciences, and Natural Sciences.
- **Additional Requirements for the AGS:** The AGS degree includes two additional areas: Computer Usage as well as Literacy and Critical Inquiry.

### First-Year Composition (shared by AAS and AGS):

Select from the following:

- **ENG** (English): [101 or 107] AND [102 or 108]

**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 First-Year Composition in full.

### Oral Communication (shared by AAS and AGS):

Select from the following:

- **COM** (Communication): 100, 110, 225, 230

### Critical Reading (shared by AAS and AGS):

Select from the following:

- **CRE** (Critical Reading): 101 or equivalent as indicated by assessment

### Mathematics (shared by AAS and AGS)

Select any course with **[QNR]** or **[MA]** designation.

The following may also be selected (regardless of designation):

- **MAT** (Mathematics): 112, 114, 115, 120, 121, 122, 126, 206, 217, 218, 256, 257

### **Humanities, Arts and Design (shared by AAS and AGS)**

Select any course with **[AHM]** or **[HU]** designation.

The following may also be selected (regardless of designation):

- **ARH** (Art Humanities): Any ARH Course(s)
- **ENH** (English Humanities): Any ENH Course(s)
- **HUM** (Humanities): Any HUM course(s)
- **PHI** (Philosophy): Any PHI Course(s)
- **REL** (Religious Studies): Any REL Course(s)

**Note:** Students are encouraged to choose courses from more than one discipline.

### **Social-Behavioral Sciences (shared by AAS and AGS)**

Select any course with **[SCB]** or **[SB]** designation.

The following may also be selected (regardless of designation):

- **HIS** (History): Any HIS Course(s)
- **POS** (Political Science): Any POS course(s)
- **SOC** (Sociology): Any SOC course(s)

**Note:** Students are encouraged to choose courses from more than one discipline.

### **Natural Sciences (shared by AAS and AGS)**

Select any course with an **[NSI]** or **[SQ/SG]** designation.

The following may also be selected for the **AGS only** (regardless of designation):

- **BIO** (Biology): 149AK, 149AL, 149AM, 149AN
- **GLG** (Geology): 121, 140, 229AB-AC, 230AA-AC, 231AA-AD, 280, 281, 282AA

## **Additional Requirements for the AGS:**

The following general education areas are required for the AGS, but are not required for the AAS.

### **Computer Usage:**

Select any course with a **[CS]** designation.

The following may also be selected (regardless of designation):

- **ACC** (Accounting): 115
- **AJS** (Administration of Justice Studies): 205
- **ARC** (Architecture): 243, 244, 245
- **AVC** (Art and Visual Communication):  
100, 169, 170, 173, 175, 177, any AVC 180 course, 183, 283, 289
- **BPC** (Business-Personal Computers): Any BPC course
- **CIS** (Computer Information Systems): Any CIS course
- **CSC** (Computer Science): Any CSC course
- **DFT** (Drafting Technology): 105AA, 254AA
- **ELE** (Electronic): 131, 181, 241, 243, 245
- **ELT** (Electronic Technology): 131, 243
- **ENG** (English): 100AE
- **FON** (Food and Nutrition): 100
- **JRN** (Journalism): 133
- **LAS** (Paralegal Studies): 229
- **MUC** (Music: Commercial/Business): 191
- **OAS** (Office Automation Systems): 111AA

### **Literacy and Critical Inquiry:**

Select any course with an **[L]** designation.

The following may also be selected (regardless of designation):

- **AIS** (American Indian Studies): 203
- **CUL** (Culinary Arts): 223

**Note:** This requirement may be met with 0 additional credits if CRE101 or COM225 is shared between Core and Distribution. While a single course can satisfy two requirements, the credits are only counted once toward the degree total.