

# General Studies

*The General Studies degree structure is currently under review and may undergo changes. Please check with Irvine Valley College counselors or department staff to determine if degree requirements have changed.*

## Curriculum

The general studies program allows students to explore courses throughout the college curriculum. The program curriculum consists of those courses approved for general education credit for the Associate in Arts degree; thus, students who are interested in pursuing the General Studies major should consult the general education list in the "Graduation Requirements" section, as well as individual courses descriptions that may be of interest.

## Major

The general studies major is ideal in a variety of cases. Many students whose work and/or families make attending school something of a balancing act find the flexibility of the general studies major attractive, since they can put together a program each semester from a range of course offerings, throughout the day and evening. In some cases, the student's desired major does not allow for specialization at the lower-division level. And, often, students beginning their college career and those returning to college after an absence choose to leave their options open rather than specialize too soon. The general studies major is a good choice for any of these reasons. It is also an appropriate degree for students who are planning to pursue a baccalaureate degree at a four-year institution.

## Associate in Arts Degree in General Studies

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major and general education requirements (page 57), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 54-55 for further information, including other options for fulfilling the major requirement.

## Transfer Preparation

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance), and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

## Associate in Arts Degree General Studies Major

### OPTION 1:

**Students may fulfill the requirements for the General Studies major by**

- (1) Completing the Irvine Valley College **general education requirements for the Associate in Arts degree** (see page 57)  
**AND**
- (2) Completing **20 additional units** selected from courses in any and all general education categories.

### OPTION 2:

**Students seeking the Associate in Arts degree may satisfy both major and general education requirements by completing the coursework necessary to obtain either**

- (1) **California State University (CSU) general education certification** (see page 66)  
**OR**
- (2) **Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) certification** (see page 69).

Students must complete a **minimum total of 60 degree-applicable units**—including the courses leading to CSU or IGETC certification—in order to satisfy the requirements for an Associate in Arts degree with a major in General Studies.

Students pursuing this option are urged to consult a college counselor prior to beginning their course of study.