

**Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD)
2025-2026 Associate in Arts (AA) Degree**

Description

The Maricopa County Community College District Associate in Arts (AA) degree requires a minimum of 60 semester credits for the program of study; minimum total credits vary by specific emphasis (for example, Associate in Arts, Emphasis in Psychology). Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for credit minimums. 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 AA degree is governed by the MCCCD General Academic Policies for Degrees Designed for University Transfer.

The Associate in Arts degree includes the following components:

- I. Program Prerequisites (as specified by emphasis area)
- II. Required Courses
- III. Restricted Electives (as specified by area of emphasis)
- IV. Arizona General Education Curriculum for Arts (AGEC-A)
- V. MCCCD Additional Requirements (Oral Communication and Critical Reading)
- VI. General Electives (if needed to reach minimum credits for degree)

Purpose of the Degree

The Associate in Arts (AA) 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 Liberal Arts or programs of study other than business or science. Generally, the degree will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona’s public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements.

In most cases, courses used to satisfy the MCCCD Associate in Arts (AA) will apply to general university graduation requirements of the majors that align with the AA degree; however, students need to be aware of any specific requirements of their intended major at the university to be sure they select courses that will meet them. Information regarding the articulation of the AA with majors at the Arizona public universities can be accessed via the following website: aztransfer.com/tools

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) follow. The AA degree requires at least 60 credits; however, minimum credits for the AA vary for a specific area of emphasis. Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu and click on Current Programs to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums; review course sequence at maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates#programs. The following websites identify the courses that apply to the different General Education Core and Awareness Areas: [AGEC-A](#) and the [AGEC matrix](#). Industry-recognized credentials can be counted as general electives.

Requirements

Credits

I. Program Prerequisites	Number varies
Program prerequisites for the AA degree vary by specific emphasis, and are neither required for all emphases nor for the AA degree without a specific emphasis Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.	
II. Required Courses	Number varies
Students must complete FYE 101 (1) or FYE 103 (3) (see General Graduation Requirements Administrative Regulation 2.3.9)	

and select the required courses for the specific AA degree emphasis. Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.

III. Restricted Electives..... **Number varies**
 Restricted electives for the AA degree vary by specific emphasis and are not required for the general AA degree without a specific emphasis. Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis for specific courses required and credit minimums.

IV. Arizona General Education Curriculum--Arts (AGEC-A)..... **up to 44**
 The AGECE-A requires a minimum of 35 credits (32 if FYC is met by single transfer course)*. Courses applied to meet AGECE-A requirements vary by emphasis. Refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for the corresponding area of emphasis and credit minimums.

Any prerequisite/required/restricted elective courses that also have one or more AGECE designation(s) may be applied toward both requirements. Credits for such shared courses are only counted once toward the total credits for the degree.

AGECE designations are subject to change. See [AGECE matrix](#) for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken. Some of the courses have been approved for more than one designation. Notes below will show how such courses may be used to meet multiple degree requirements.

- A. First-Year Composition [FYC]..... **6***
 ENG101 OR ENG107..... **(3)***
 AND ENG102 OR ENG108..... **(3)***
- B. Literacy and Critical Inquiry [L]..... **3**
- C. Mathematical Applications [MA]..... **3-6**
 Requires a course in college mathematics (MAT140, MAT141, MAT142, MAT145, MAT146) or college algebra (MAT150, MAT151, MAT152, MAT155, MAT156) or precalculus (MAT187,-MAT188) or higher [MA]-approved general education course

The minimum math requirement for graduation defaults to the lowest base-level math, as identified above. Some emphasis may require higher-level math; refer to curriculum.maricopa.edu (click on Current Programs) to search for specific emphasis math requirements.

- D. Computer/Statistics/Quantitative Applications [CS]..... **3**
- E. Humanities, Arts and Design [HU]..... **6**
 Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.
- F. Social-Behavioral Sciences [SB]..... **6**
 Students are encouraged to choose course work from more than one discipline.
- G. Natural Sciences [SQ/SG]..... **8**
 The lecture courses selected for Natural Sciences must include or be accompanied by the corresponding laboratory courses for a total of four (4) credits each. Credits for lecture and lab components may be combined or each may carry separate credits. At least four (4) credits must be designated as SQ-Science Quantitative. Eight (8) credits of SG-Science General will not satisfy this requirement.
- H. Awareness Areas..... **0-6**

The same course(s) may be used to satisfy one or more Awareness Area(s) as well as other AGEC requirements. (See [AGEC matrix](#) for current course values). Credits for such shared courses may only be counted once.

1. Cultural Diversity in the United States [C]..... (0-3)
2. Global Awareness [G] OR Historical Awareness [H]..... (0-3)

May be met by [HU] and/or [SB] course depending on specific course(s) selected. (AGEC designations are subject to change. See [AGEC matrix](#) for each course's value(s) in the semester it is taken.)

V. MCCCCD Additional Requirements	0-6
As noted below, courses in this area may also be applied toward AGEC-A requirements.	
A. Oral Communication	(0-3)
COM100 [SB] Introduction to Human Communication OR	
COM110 [SB] Interpersonal Communication OR	
COM225 [L] Public Speaking OR	
COM230 [SB] Small Group Communication (3 credits)	
B. CRITICAL Reading.....	(0-3)
CRE101 [L] Critical Reading OR equivalent as indicated by assessment	

VI. General Electives	0-28
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 various “Emphasis Areas” in one of nine different “Fields of Interest.” See maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates for links to these transfer pathways.	

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 on the following websites: aztransfer.com/tools, maricopa.edu/degrees-certificates/university-transfer/partners as well as those of individual universities. For appropriate course selection, students should consult with an academic advisor.

TOTAL	60-64**
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*FYC may be met with fewer than 6 credits if student has transfer credit from ASU, NAU or UAZ for a single course that meets FYC in full.

**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