

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Multicultural Studies requirement is to promote awareness, understanding, appreciation, and respect for under-represented ethnic and racial cultures—with an emphasis on non-European cultures—and to help students link their personal experiences and their education with broader cultural perspectives.

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT

Candidates for the A.S. (A.A.) degree are required to complete a total of 3-units in Multicultural Studies courses selected from the GE list. These courses must focus on the study of ethnic minorities in the United States or non-Western societies or cultures.

Definitions:

"Non-Western" generally means non-European. A notable exception is Latin America, which is treated as "non-Western" for reasons of history.

"Ethnic minorities in the United States" includes Native Americans and minorities of color, including Blacks, Mexican Americans/Latins/Chicanos, and Asian Americans.

These courses will NOT affect the current unit requirement in GE, major, and electives.

Multicultural Studies courses will be identified in the catalog under graduation requirement as well as on the Cabrillo College AA/AS GE list.

GOALS AND CRITERIA

1. Study the history or experience of underrepresented ethnic and racial groups in the United States or in their country of origin.
2. Identify specific contributions by under-represented ethnic and racial groups to cultures and traditions in the United States or in their country of origin.
3. Explore racial and ethnic relationships in daily life.
4. Increase students' knowledge and understanding of other cultures.
5. Analyze the history of racism in the United States.
6. Promote critical thinking about issues relevant to under-represented groups.
7. Identify theories and practices of accommodation, assimilation, and integration.
8. Expose students to the reality of multicultural societies.
9. Recognize artistic achievements and aesthetic values of non-Western cultures.
10. Encourage and stimulate personal discovery of the individual's identity in a culturally diverse world.
11. Encourage a positive view of cultural diversity.

Courses that qualify to meet the Multicultural Studies requirement must meet at least six of the goals and criteria. The emphasis for each course should be substantial and thematic rather than incidental or supplemental to a different focus.