

Curriculum Committee – Approved 4/8/2024

Local Graduation Requirement Implementation Guideline

This guide is intended to assist curriculum committee members in evaluating and selecting courses that fulfill the graduation requirements across three distinct areas: Self-integration, Physical Education Activity, and CTE Pathways Exploratory courses. The aim is to ensure a holistic educational experience that promotes various aspects of personal growth focused on general self-integration, physical well-being, or career exploration. These courses are intended to be taken in early semesters for students still deciding about their educational and career paths.

I. Graduation Requirement Overview

Students are required to complete a minimum of 2 units from any combination of the following areas:

- Self-integration
- Physical Education Activity
- CTE Pathways Exploratory Courses

II. Implementation and Inclusion Criteria

Utilize the below inclusion criteria as a checklist to assess whether proposed or existing courses meet the graduation requirement in their respective areas. Courses do not have to meet every criterion in an area, but it must be clear from the course outline that the primary purpose of the course is to focus on one or more areas shown below. In addition to this criterion, courses included should have a predictable annual schedule of course offerings (be offered at least 1 primary term per year).

Self-integration Courses

- **Personal Development:** Courses should focus on enhancing students' self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and personal growth strategies to increase the likelihood of success in achieving educational and career goals. This requirement is designed to equip learners for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological beings.
- **College Success Skills:** include topics such as student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, information literacy, social relationships and relationships with the environment, as well as avenues for lifelong learning.

Physical Education Activity Courses

- **Physical Fitness:** Courses must promote physical health through activities that improve strength, flexibility, endurance, and overall fitness.
- **Wellness Education:** Incorporate principles of healthy living, nutrition, and wellness practices.

- Skill Development: Offer opportunities for students to learn and improve specific physical skills or sports.

CTE Pathways Exploratory Courses

- Courses must be in a CTE TOP Code
- Comprehensive Career Coverage: Provide an overview of various career opportunities within specific industries or sectors or across specific sectors served by programs offered at Butte College. Curriculum should be aligned with current industry standards and trends and is designed to help students make informed decisions about potential career paths.
- Skill Development and Application: Emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and operational skills relevant to the intended span of careers, supported by practical, hands-on learning experiences. This could include work experience courses.
- Career Planning Resources: Include guest speakers, career planning tools, and guidance in developing personalized career action plans.

III. Program Exemptions from Graduation Requirement

Exempting certain Associate Degree programs from the graduation requirement involving Self-integration, Physical Education Activity, or CTE Pathway exploratory courses should be considered carefully, with the aim of maintaining the integrity and objectives of the overall educational experience. To receive a program exemption, the program owners must initiate a request for a graduation requirement exemption to the curriculum committee for approval. If a course that meets the graduation requirement and exists within an academic program it shall double-count as both a program course and a graduation requirement and does not constitute an exemption. The curriculum committee will consider exemptions for AS programs that meet one of the following criteria:

1. Programs with Integrated Requirements: Programs that inherently integrate aspects of self-integration, physical education, or career exploration within their core curriculum making additional courses redundant. This situation can occur because the equivalent of the graduation requirement is met across numerous course outlines or as a small fraction of a high unit course as are found in the academies. Programs requesting this exemption must demonstrate that an aggregate minimum of 102 total student learning hours are devoted to topics, concepts, or skills listed in the criteria in section II of this document.
2. GE patterns intended for Transfer: In some cases, there is no associate degree For Transfer (ADT) for paths that are intended to transfer. Completion of the Cal-GETC GE pattern will fulfill all of the local GE and graduation requirements. The graduation requirement for local associate degrees will be waived for students completing the Cal-GETC GE pattern.

When considering exemptions, it's important to ensure that the rationale aligns with the institution's educational goals and does not undermine the holistic development intended by the graduation requirements. Any decision to exempt programs should involve a thorough review process, considering the unique needs and objectives of the students and the programs in question. These exemptions should be made obvious to new students with little explanation.

IV. Student Exemptions from Graduation Requirements

We recognize that some students have achieved the spirit of the Self-Integration, Physical Education activity, or CTE Pathways Exploratory course requirement by means other than a single college course. To honor that knowledge and experience, the following student situations will automatically fulfill this requirement:

- Veterans who have earned at least 6 units on their DD-214.
- Students who have previously completed an associate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Students who have previously obtained an associate or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.