

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE

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### Philosophy for the Associate Degree

The awarding of an associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It symbolizes the successful attempt on the part of the District to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability to think and to communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; to use mathematics; to understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

### General Education

General education is available at each college that makes up the District. A person informed through general education about the conceptual schemes of the arts, humanities and sciences, who comprehends the structure of society and who thinks clearly about the individual and society will have the tools by which he or she may function efficiently. Such an individual is encouraged to utilize these tools in developing a conception of a commitment to a good life involving able and responsible citizenship, moral and humane relationships, and appreciation of the democratic processes and the culture which sustains our society.

Specifically, the colleges offer all of their students a pattern of courses designed to produce an awareness of self and to provide a:

- basic competence with the English language in its written and spoken form
- minimum competence in mathematics
- knowledge of American history and governmental institutions
- regard for health, mental and physical, of oneself and of the community at large
- grasp of the principles of the major divisions of human studies, humanities and science with some understanding of basic disciplines and methodologies
- knowledge in some depth of one subject area