

## **Types of Degrees Offered at Foothill College**

### **Associate Degrees**

While many students seek an Associate Degree in preparation for immediate entry into the job market, earning an Associate Degree may also serve as excellent preparation for transfer to a four-year college or university. By earning an Associate Degree, a student indicates to potential employers, transfer institutions and society that they not only have specialized knowledge in a particular area of study. Rather, degree completion also signals that the student has gained critical and analytical thinking ability, written and oral communication skills, and is able to consider issues with ethical and global perspective.

Students are strongly advised to meet with a counselor early to decide which degree best suits their academic needs and for assistance in planning their course of study. Requirements for all Foothill College Associate Degrees include completion of (1) a minimum of 90 quarter units in a defined set of courses; (2) a minimum of 24 units successfully completed at Foothill College; (3) a grade-point average of 2.0 or better in all college courses including Foothill courses; (4) a major or area of emphasis of at least 27 units in a curriculum approved by the Foothill College Curriculum Committee; and (5) general education coursework. There are significant differences in the general education requirements depending upon the degree you are pursuing; consequently, students are again urged to meet with a counselor to determine which general education pattern is most appropriate.

### **The four types of degrees offered are:**

#### **Associate in Science Degree (AS degree):**

The AS degree is awarded to students who complete all of the requirements in a major or area of emphasis in the areas of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This degree also requires completion of the Foothill College General Education requirements. Students who plan to complete this degree and who also wish to transfer to a four-year college or university are advised to meet with a counselor for assistance in developing an educational plan that satisfies both sets of requirements.

#### **Associate in Art Degree (AA degree)**

The AA degree is awarded to students who complete all of the requirements in a major or area of emphasis in the liberal arts, social sciences and fields *other than* science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This degree also requires completion of the Foothill College General Education requirements. Students who plan to complete this degree and who also wish to transfer to a four-year college or university are advised to meet with a counselor for assistance in developing an educational plan that satisfies both sets of requirements..

<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Degrees.</b>
<p>The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Senate Bill 1440, now codified in California Education Code sections 66746-66749) guarantees admission to a California State University (CSU) campus for any community college student who completes an “associate degree for transfer”, a newly established variation of the associate degrees traditionally offered at a California community college. The Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or the Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor's degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing these degrees (AA-T or AS-T) are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major. In order to earn one of these degrees, students must complete a minimum of 60 required semester units of CSU-transferable coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.0. While a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for admission, some majors may require a higher GPA. Students transferring to a CSU campus that does accept the AA-T or AS-T will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree (unless the major is a designated “high-unit” major). This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to university or college that is not part of the CSU system. Students should consult with a counselor when planning to complete the degree for more information on university admission and transfer requirements.</p>		

**Associate in Science-Transfer (AS-T degree)**

Similar to the AS degree, the AS-T degree is awarded to students who complete all of the lower division major preparation requirements for a related major in the areas of science, technology, engineering or mathematics for one or more local CSU campuses. This degree also requires completion of either the CSU General Education/Breadth requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Breadth Requirements (IGETC) Students who plan to complete this degree and who wish to transfer to a non-local CSU, UC or other college or university are advised to meet with a counselor for assistance in developing their educational plan.

**Associate in Arts-Transfer (AA-T degree)**

Similar to the AA degree, the AA-T degree is awarded to students who complete all of the lower division major preparation requirements for a related major in academic areas such as the liberal arts, social sciences and related fields *other than* science, technology, engineering or mathematics for one or more local CSU campuses. This degree also requires completion of either the CSU General Education/Breadth requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Breadth Requirements (IGETC) Students who plan to complete this degree and who wish to transfer to a non-local CSU, UC or other college or university are advised to meet with a counselor for assistance in developing their educational plan.

Note: At the time this catalog was published, no majors for the AA-T and AS-T had been approved. However, majors are under development. For more information, please see a counselor and the Foothill College web site for more information.