Orientation Course:
Educational Options at OCC

Please note:
New students must complete the online version of this orientation course and the accompanying quizzes.
This is simply a reference tool for students and parents.

Updated: March 2010
Welcome Message from OCC President Dennis Harkins

Welcome to the Orange Coast College! I am certain that once you spend a short time here, you too will feel and become part of the OCC “family”.

This short Orientation class is designed to familiarize you with the educational options available at OCC and how to get started pursuing them.

For more than 60 years, Orange Coast College has set the standard of excellence for community colleges throughout the State and the nation. Whether you are seeking to transfer to a four-year school, enhance your career, or simply improve your life, OCC will help you get there.

OCC is Orange County’s #1 transfer school, so you’ll be assured that you are prepared for success at top universities across town, across the nation, or across the globe. Whether preparing for transfer, preparing for a career, or improving your skills or interests, our distinguished faculty, small classes and state-of-the-art campus mean you’ll always get the most from your OCC experience. I’m very pleased you selected OCC for your future.

Good luck!

President Dennis Harkins, Ph.D.
Certificate Programs

Career certificates are designed to help individuals gain specific skills to help individuals find employment. They are NOT associate degrees. A career certificate is a short term program consisting of 18 or more units in an occupational, technical, or business field. Certificate programs and skills competency awards focus almost exclusively on preparing you for a specific occupation or area of employment. Few courses outside of the major field are required. SEE CATALOG

Associate Degree

An Associate Degree is the first college degree you can earn, and it signifies the completion of a minimum of 60 semester units of college work in General Education courses and classes required for your major. Some AA/AS degrees are not designed for transfer to a university. You will learn how to tell the difference if you do indeed plan on transferring.
General Education Classes
General education and your major requirements are two separate requirements. In order to get an associates degree from Orange Coast College, you need a minimum of 60 units. The general education portion will range from 25-30 of the 60 units. Part of your degree will be general education and the other part of your degree will be a certificate program.

60 Units for AA Degree

- CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
- GENERAL ED.

Associate Degree (Option 1: Not Planning on Transfer)
This option one is designed for students who are getting vocational AA/AS degrees here at Orange Coast College. It’s not designed for students wishing to transfer later on. If you are planning on transferring, you will be using Option two or three.

TURN TO PAGE 14 and 15 of the Orientation Guide

Below are requirements that must be met before graduating. You may choose to complete a few of these courses during your first semester:

1. AREA A: Language and Rationality (page 15)
2. AREA B: Physical and Biological Science
3. AREA C: Humanities
4. AREA D: Social and Behavioral Science
5. AREA E: Life Skills

If you plan on getting an AA/AS degree from Orange Coast College, you will also need to choose a vocational major. These majors are listed in the Catalog

Remember, Option one is not designed for transfer.
General Education Classes vs. Major Classes (Transfering)

General Education and your major requirements are two separate requirements. In order to transfer to the CSU or UC systems, you need a minimum of 60 units. The general education will only be between 36-40 units of the 60 units which are required for UC transfer.

Part of your degree will be general education and the other part of your degree will be major classes.

Note: when transferring to a CSU or UC you will take a higher % of general education courses.
PLANNING TO TRANSFER (CSU)

California State University Locations

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay
Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
California Maritime
Monterey Bay
Northridge
California Polytechnic, Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San Jose
California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

OCC Option 2 or 3 + CSU = 4 Year CSU Degree
University of California Locations
Berkeley
Davis
Irvine
Los Angeles
Merced
Riverside
San Diego
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz

OCC Option 3 + UC = 4 Year UC Degree
What if I do want to Transfer to a 4 year University?

In order to transfer to a California State University (CSU) or a University of California (UC) campus you will need a minimum of 60 transferable units.

Private, out-of-state colleges, and universities accept transfer students with a range of units between 24-60 units. If you plan on attending a private out-of-state university, you will need to meet with a counselor or visit the Transfer Center.

Regardless of where you plan your transfer, the units you take at OCC will be from the three categories below:

1. General Education Courses
2. Major Courses
3. Elective Courses

Critical Question: Which general education option do I choose to transfer later on?

Take general education **OPTION 2 or 3** for a California State University

Take general education **OPTION 3 Only** for any University of California
Transfer preparation – Option 2 – CSU
Please refer to page 16-17 of the Orientation Guide for Option 2 general education.

Below are the requirements that must be completed before transfer. You may choose to complete a few of these courses during your first semester:

1. AREA A: Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking
2. AREA B: Physical Universe and its Life Forms
3. AREA C: Arts, Literature, Philosophy, and Foreign Language
4. AREA D: Social, Political, and Economic Institutions and Behavior; Historical Background
5. AREA E: Life-long Understanding and Self-Development

Transfer preparation Option 3 – CSU/UC
Please refer to page 18-19 of the Orientation Guide for Option 2 general education.

Below are the requirements that must be completed before transfer. You may choose to complete a few of these courses during your first semester:

1. AREA 1: English Communication
2. AREA 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning
3. AREA 3: Arts and Humanities
4. AREA 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
5. AREA 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Some Transfer Majors have Unique General Education Requirements
If you’re a business, economics, computer science, engineering, or a biological sciences major it’s strongly recommended you speak to your counselor as soon as possible and begin taking classes towards your major.

If you are an undecided major you probably can just take general education classes for your first semester. Work with a counselor during your first semester.
to both decide on your major and understand what classes are required for transfer.