

Associate of Arts (General)

Program Overview

With the opportunity to explore and design your own academic program, your studies will culminate in a two-year Associate of Arts Degree. You will have the opportunity to choose your specialization areas and tailor the curriculum to your needs. The emphasis is on developing a deeper insight into multiple disciplines, all while building critical thinking, writing, and analyzing abilities. With a solid foundation, these studies will lead seamlessly into further academic studies.

Students will gain knowledge in multiple areas of study in liberal arts and languages, and social and cultural studies. Holistically, the program aims to develop critical thinking abilities, strengthen research skills, and introduce a variety of theories.

Self-Study

Associate of Arts (General) launched its program review in academic year 2024/25 with a Self-Study. The primary Self-Study writer was Mono Brown, English Faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Darren Bernaerdt (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- David Wright (Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Academic Excellence)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Elise Ng (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey

The Self-Study was completed in May 2025.

External Review

General Arts' external review took place on May 20th, 2025. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Tyron Tsui, Department Chair, Physics & Astronomy, Langara College (External Review Chair)
- Paul Allen, Undergraduate Dean, Corpus Christi College
- Alena Buis, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Mark Wallen, Dean in the Faculty of Arts, Thompson Rivers University

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Associate of Arts (General) created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Enhance oversight of the Associate of Arts (General) program (to improve student retention, foster external connections, and enhance faculty engagement)
- Goal 2: Streamline Associate of Arts (General) credentials
- Goal 3: Create a plan to improve student pathways and retention

- Goal 4: Develop Program Learning Outcomes and a Curriculum Map
- Goal 5: Promote the value of a generalist credential and transfer opportunities

Examples of Post-Review Successes

Please contact Academic Quality Assurance.