

Catalog 2005-2006



Accreditation

Austin Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the associate degree. The College is recognized and sanctioned by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. It is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Association of Community Colleges. Several of the nursing and allied health programs are subject to national accreditation agency requirements.

Catalog

This catalog has been prepared from existing policies and information obtained from the appropriate Austin Community College officials. The catalog is informational in purpose and does not constitute a contract between Austin Community College and any person or entity. The content is current as of the date of publication but is subject to modification at any time to accommodate changes in educational plans or resources. For curriculum changes and updates, refer to the catalog online at www.austincc.edu/catalog.

Not all courses listed in this catalog are offered each semester. The College reserves the right to select the courses to be offered during any session. Each semester the College produces both a printed and an online schedule listing those courses to be offered. Schedules are made available to students as early as possible prior to the beginning of each semester.

Most ACC students take courses to enhance skills or to transfer to four-year institutions. ACC's four-year average Student Right to Know Completion or Graduation Rate is 6%. The 4-year average Student Right to Know Transfer-out Rate is 30%.

Catalog in Effect

Students may graduate under the terms of the catalog in effect when they entered Austin Community College or any subsequent catalog under which they attended, provided: A) said catalog is not more than five (5) years old, and B) the student's particular degree or certificate plan has not been discontinued by the College. Students with majors that are discontinued will be allowed two years in which to complete such plans before the official deactivation of the affected instructional program. Students needing more information about this policy should contact an academic advisor or counselor.

Discrimination Prohibited

Employment at the College and access to its programs or activities shall not be limited on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or physical disability. ACC will take steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. All recruitment and admissions material complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Inquiries regarding ACC's compliance with ADA, or requests for accommodations for persons with disabilities can be directed to:

EEO/ADA/Affirmative Action Coordinator
5930 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, TX 78752-4390
512-223-7572 (voice)
1-800-735-2989 (Texas Relay Service TDD)

Student Right to Know

Copies of the crime report as required by the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act are available in campus police offices, campus libraries, the Student Handbook, and on the web at www.austincc.edu/evp/rightoknow.htm

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The following statement concerning student records maintained by Austin Community College is published in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The release of information to the public without the consent of the student will be limited to that designated as directory information. Directory information includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in activities, dates of attendance, degrees, certificates and awards, name of the previous educational institution attended, student classification and enrollment status. Any student objecting to the release of all or any portion of such information must notify the Office of Admissions and Records within the first twelve class days of the semester. The restriction will remain in effect until revoked by the student.

History and Governance

Austin Community College is a public institution of higher education that serves the capital area of Texas. The College maintains an open admissions policy and offers freshman and sophomore university parallel courses, occupational-technical programs in a variety of areas, avocational and vocational continuing education courses, and adult education.

Austin Community College is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees elected by voters of the Austin, Del Valle, Leander, and Manor Independent School Districts. The college's major revenue sources are appropriations from the State Legislature, local property taxes, and student tuition and fees.

Austin Community College was established by the voters of the Austin Independent School District on December 9, 1972, and opened for classes in September 1973 with 2,200 students. Enrollment in credit courses now exceeds 30,000 per semester.

Purpose of the College – Mission

Austin Community College is an educational institution committed to challenging the human mind to explore new ideas and seek new opportunities. The College mission is to provide a wide range of high quality educational services that meet the needs of our willing partners in learning, both those who seek our services and those whom we must seek out.

Austin Community College operates on the belief that open access to quality postsecondary educational experiences is vital in a rapidly changing democratic society. Therefore, the College exists to provide such educational opportunities to all the people of the Austin Community College service area. Hence, Austin Community College maintains an “open door” admissions policy, offers a comprehensive variety of postsecondary educational programs, and actively seeks to eliminate barriers in the educational process.

A. Types of Programs

Austin Community College offers the following types of programs, services, and instruction to fulfill its mission and to satisfy state law for public junior and community colleges:

1. Vocational and technical programs of varying lengths leading to certificates or degrees.
2. Freshman- and sophomore-level academic courses leading to an associate degree or serving as the base of a baccalaureate degree program at a four-year institution.
3. Continuing adult education for academic, occupational, professional, and cultural enhancement.

4. Special instructional programs and tutorial service to assist underprepared students and others who wish special assistance to achieve their educational goals.
5. A continuing program of counseling and advising designed to assist students in achieving their individual educational and occupational goals.
6. A program of technology, library, media, and testing services to support instruction.
7. Contracted instructional programs and services for area employers that promote economic development.

B. Intended Results

1. The basic result to be produced by the College, in conjunction with other community sectors, is that all service-area adults legally qualified for College services have the postsecondary and higher education they need and can use for productive, successful lives. How close the local community is to this goal is a central accountability indicator for the College. However, declaration of this goal is not a guarantee of particular services, program admissions, or resource allocations; these are decided through the program-review, admissions, and budget processes.
2. Accredited preparation shall be provided for as many career areas and university-transfer options within the mission of the College as is feasible. Emphasis shall be placed on providing postsecondary education (including needed preparation) to people who are educationally disadvantaged or are not well-served by other colleges, and on preparation for family-wage careers (either directly or after further higher education).
3. In addition to mastery of the specific subject-area knowledge and skills needed to meet their education-related goals, students completing College programs shall have the general skills needed for success in employment and higher education: these include dependability, effective communication, gathering and critically assessing information, problem-solving, teamwork, leadership, and a focus on producing results of high quality.
4. The College shall organize its activities so as to produce as high a level of overall value for the community as possible, and shall avoid procedures that waste the money or time of students or staff.
5. The College shall create a good place to work, to learn, and to otherwise experience the higher education process.