

Part 3 - Planning Your Academics

Developing an educational plan is one of the most important and helpful things you can do as a student as you prepare to reach your academic goals. An educational plan will outline the required courses and units you'll need to complete your degree or certificate. The outline will include every semester of your time at Palo Verde College, so you know exactly what lies ahead of you in order to graduate.

The Counseling Department is here to encourage and assist you in formulating your educational plan based on your goals. Call to schedule your appointment with a counselor, and mention that you want to discuss and develop your educational plan. Many students attend Palo Verde College with the intention of transferring to a 4 year college or university. If this is your goal, be sure to discuss this with your counselor during your appointment so that you may tailor your plan to fit the requirements of your destination.

Palo Verde College offers an array of Associates Degrees. Some of these are designed to transfer to a 4 year college or university, and some are not. You'll want to discuss your degree options thoroughly with your counselor to find the best options that meet your goals. In addition to our degree programs, Palo Verde College offers two types of certificates: a Certificate of Achievement and a Certificate of Career Preparation. A Certificate of Achievement is earned through a 1 or 2 year program in occupational and technical disciplines. Students who receive Federal financial aid are eligible for the Certificate of Achievement Programs, and the certificate is listed on your transcript upon completion.

A Certificate of Career Preparation is completed in fewer than 18 units and indicates a competency in a given area. These programs educate you for career advancement or new employment opportunities. However, these programs are not eligible for Federal financial aid recipients, and they do not appear on your transcript.

While your education is in progress, we recommend that you check in with your counselor at least once per term to ensure that you're on track to meet all of your goals. Besides the counselors who are available for academic and personal issues, Palo Verde College offers specialized counseling services for students with disabilities and EOPS students. There are a number of things that can cause students to fall behind, and keeping contact with your counselor will help keep you progressing. We understand that life can get overwhelming sometimes, and we want you to know we're here to help support you with anything you may need.