

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics

Program Title:

Cross-Cultural Awareness

Program Status:

Active from 2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)

Department:

Anthropology

Award Type:

Certificate of Achievement (Credit)

Program/Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Cross-Cultural Awareness is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to engage effectively in an increasingly interconnected world. Through an interdisciplinary curriculum, students explore global cultures, communication styles, social systems, and historical contexts that shape diverse communities. Students will develop a deeper understanding of cultural identity, examine the impact of cultural differences on interpersonal and professional interactions, and learn strategies for fostering inclusion and mutual respect. Emphasis is placed on real-world application, reflective learning, and the development of global competency skills essential for success in multicultural environments.

Control Number:

46556

Credential ID:

No value

Transferability:

Transferable to both UC and CSU

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

2201.00

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

Social Sciences, General

(SP02) Student Program Award:

Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units

Maximum Credits:

22

Minimum Credits:

19

Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

03/12/2026

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

06/09/2026

External Review Approval Date:

06/09/2026

Proposal Details

Proposal Start:

2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)

What changes have been made to the program:

No value

Program Justification:

Students will be prepared to navigate cross-cultural settings with confidence, communicate more effectively across cultural boundaries, and contribute meaningfully to diverse workplaces, academic pursuits, and community initiatives while meeting their CAL-GETC standards.

Submission Rationale

• New Program

Program Requirements

Cross-Cultural Awareness (Total 19-22)

Complete all of the following

Required Core Courses (Total 6)

Complete the following number of credits: 6

ANT101 - Cultural Anthropology	3
ANT102 - Aztecs, Maya, and Their Predecessors	3
ANT107 - Anthropology of Religion	3
ANT201 - Introduction to Archaeology	3
SOCIC1000 - Introduction to Sociology	3
SOC115 - Introduction to Chicano/a Studies	3
SOC121 - Social Problems	3
SOC140 - Introduction to Gender	3
SPE105 - Introduction to Intercultural Communication	3
GGR120 - Introduction to Human Geography	3
GGR103 - World Geography	3

List A (Total 3)

Complete the following number of credits: 3

ARTHC1100 - Survey of Art from Prehistory to the Medieval Era	3
ARTHC1200 - Survey of Art from the Renaissance to Contemporary	3
ENG125 - Introduction to Film	3

List B (Total 3)

Complete the following number of credits: 3

ENG140 - Survey of American Literature II	3
ENG222 - Survey of World Literature II	3
HIS110 - World Civilization I	3
HIS120 - World Civilization II	3
HIS125 - California History	3
HISTC1001 - United States History to 1877	3
HISTC1002 - United States History since 1865	3
ENG122 - Survey of World Literature I	3

List C (Total 4)

Complete all of the following

ANTHC1001 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology	3
ANTHC1001L - Biological Anthropology Lab	1

List D (Total 3-6)

Complete at least one of the following rules

ETH101 - Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3
ETH210 - Introduction to Mexican American Studies	3

Recommended Sequences

New Sequence

Term 1 (Total 6)**List A (Total 3)****Take one of the following**

ARTHC1100 - Survey of Art from Prehistory to the Medieval Era	3
ARTHC1200 - Survey of Art from the Renaissance to Contemporary	3
ENG125 - Introduction to Film	3

List B (Total 3)**Take one of the following**

ENG140 - Survey of American Literature II	3
ENG222 - Survey of World Literature II	3
HIS110 - World Civilization I	3
HIS120 - World Civilization II	3
HIS125 - California History	3
HISTC1001 - United States History to 1877	3
HISTC1002 - United States History since 1865	3
ENG122 - Survey of World Literature I	3

Term 2 (Total 6)**Required Core Courses (Total 3)****Take one of the following**

ANT101 - Cultural Anthropology	3
ANT102 - Aztecs, Maya, and Their Predecessors	3
ANT107 - Anthropology of Religion	3
ANT201 - Introduction to Archaeology	3
SOCIC1000 - Introduction to Sociology	3
SOC115 - Introduction to Chicano/a Studies	3
SOC121 - Social Problems	3
SOC140 - Introduction to Gender	3
SPE105 - Introduction to Intercultural Communication	3
GGR120 - Introduction to Human Geography	3
GGR103 - World Geography	3

List D (Total 3)**Take one of the following**

ETH101 - Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3
ETH210 - Introduction to Mexican American Studies	3

Term 3 (Total 4)

List C ANTHC1001L - Biological Anthropology Lab	1
List C ANTHC1001 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology	3

Term 4 (Total 3)**Required Core Courses (Total 3)****Take one of the following**

ANT101 - Cultural Anthropology	3
ANT102 - Aztecs, Maya, and Their Predecessors	3

ANT107 - Anthropology of Religion	3
ANT201 - Introduction to Archaeology	3
SOCIC1000 - Introduction to Sociology	3
SOC115 - Introduction to Chicano/a Studies	3
SOC121 - Social Problems	3
SOC140 - Introduction to Gender	3
SPE105 - Introduction to Intercultural Communication	3
GGR120 - Introduction to Human Geography	3
GGR103 - World Geography	3

Program Outcomes	
Cross-Cultural Awareness	
PSLO	Performance
PLO 1 Identify and explain key concepts related to culture, identity, worldview, and intercultural communication.	70
PLO 2 Analyze cultural similarities and differences using interdisciplinary perspectives, including historical, social, and global contexts.	70
PLO 3 Evaluate the impact of cultural assumptions and biases on personal perspectives, social interactions, and decision-making.	70
PLO 4 Reflect on personal cultural identity and experiences to enhance self-awareness and intercultural sensitivity.	70

Program Narrative
Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives 1. Enhance students’ understanding of global cultures and the diverse ways individuals and communities interpret the world. 2. Promote cultural humility, empathy, and respect in interactions across cultural boundaries. 3. Explore and compare cultural frameworks that shape social norms, communication patterns, and worldviews. 4. Develop the ability to recognize and challenge cultural stereotypes, biases, and assumptions. 5. Apply intercultural communication strategies that support effective, respectful interactions across cultures. 6. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, social, and political forces that contribute to cultural diversity. 7. Use critical thinking to evaluate cross-cultural scenarios and propose culturally responsive approaches.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Cross-Cultural Awareness provides students with a foundational understanding of cultural diversity and the skills necessary to navigate and engage effectively in multicultural environments. Through interdisciplinary coursework, students explore global cultures, examine how cultural identities shape perspectives and behaviors, and develop strategies for respectful and effective cross-cultural communication. The program emphasizes cultural humility, critical thinking, and real-world application, preparing students to interact thoughtfully in diverse academic, professional, and community settings. This certificate supports students seeking to enhance their global competence, strengthen interpersonal skills, and contribute positively to an increasingly interconnected world.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

To earn the Certificate of Achievement in Cross-Cultural Awareness, students must complete the required courses listed below with a grade of “C” or better in each course. A minimum of 18 units is recommended for this certificate.

1. Semester 1: Any List A (ART 110 or ART 111 or ENG 125) and List B (ENG 140 or ENG 222 or HIS 110 or HIS 120 or HIS 125 or HIS 130 or HIS 140 or ENG 122)
2. Semester 2: Any from Required Core Courses (ANT 101 or ANT 102 or ANT 107 or ANT 201 or SOC 101 or SOC 115 or SOC 121 or SOC 140 or SPE 105 or GGR 120 or GGR 103) AND one from List D (ETH 101 or ETH 210)
3. Semester 3: ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1001L
4. Semester 4: Any from Required Core Courses (ANT 101 or ANT 102 or ANT 107 or ANT 201 or SOC 101 or SOC 115 or SOC 121 or SOC 140 or SPE 105 or GGR 120 or GGR 103)

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning

The Certificate of Achievement in Cross-Cultural Awareness aligns with institutional goals to expand promote diversity and inclusion and prepare students for success in an interconnected world. This certificate supports long-term planning efforts by offering a structured academic pathway that enhances students’ cultural literacy and intercultural communication skills—competencies increasingly sought across academic disciplines and workforce sectors.

As part of the college’s broader master planning initiatives, the program:

1. Advances institutional equity and inclusion goals by fostering culturally responsive learning and strengthening students’ ability to engage respectfully in diverse environments.
2. Supports Guided Pathways by offering a clear, stackable credential that can stand alone or complement degrees in the social sciences, humanities, education, business, and allied health.
3. Responds to labor market and societal needs, where cross-cultural competence is essential in fields such as social services, public safety, international business, community engagement, and cultural and global studies.
4. Strengthens community partnerships by preparing students to participate in multicultural civic projects, service learning, and community-based initiatives.
5. Enhances institutional transfer pathways, as many four-year institutions value and recognize intercultural proficiency within general education frameworks and global studies programs.
6. Contributes to long-term enrollment growth by offering a flexible certificate that appeals to traditional, returning, and working adult students seeking professional development in cultural competency.

Ongoing evaluation of student learning outcomes, course offerings, and emerging cultural competency standards will guide future program improvements, ensuring the certificate remains relevant, rigorous, and aligned with institutional strategic priorities.

Narrative Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

Enrollment and completer projections are based on current interest in cultural and global studies, cultural competency coursework, and anticipated student demand within related academic pathways such as Social Sciences, Humanities, Communication Studies, and Ethnic Studies.

Year 1 (Launch Year):

- Projected Enrollment: 20–30 students
- Projected Completers: 10–15 students

Assumes initial enrollment from existing courses, faculty outreach, and integration into Guided Pathways.

Year 2:

- Projected Enrollment: 30–40 students
- Projected Completers: 15–20 students

Increase expected due to expanded course offerings, improved scheduling, and greater campus awareness.

Year 3:

- Projected Enrollment: 40–50 students
- Projected Completers: 20–25 students

Growth driven by sustained interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, as well as program stability.

Long-Term Projection:

After the program is fully established and supported through consistent advising, marketing, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, annual enrollment is expected to stabilize at 45–60 students, with 25–30 completers per year.

Rationale for Projections:

- Rising student interest in global and cultural studies.
- Increasing workforce demand for intercultural communication skills.
- Alignment with general education pathways and transfer preparation. Aligns perfectly with CAL-GETC standards
- Stackability with larger degrees enhances certificate completion rates.
- Existing enrollment in related courses indicates strong potential adoption.

Narrative Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

The Certificate of Achievement in Cross-Cultural Awareness occupies an important interdisciplinary role within the college curriculum. It complements existing programs in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Communication Studies, Global Studies, and Ethnic Studies by providing students with a focused credential that highlights intercultural competency, skill set increasingly valued in both academic and professional environments.

The program fits naturally within general education pathways, particularly in areas related to social and behavioral sciences, cultural studies, and communication. It can be pursued as a stand-alone certificate for students seeking to enhance their cultural literacy or as a stackable credential that supports degree completion in related majors such as Sociology, Anthropology, History, Ethnic Studies, Global Studies, Political Science, Foreign Languages, and Business.

Alignment with Cal-GETC:

The courses within this certificate align with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) by fulfilling requirements in Area 3: Arts and Humanities and Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences. Students completing the certificate will have gained knowledge and skills that complement general education outcomes for transfer students, supporting both Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathways and successful transfer to four-year institutions. Additionally, the emphasis on cultural awareness, ethical reasoning, and intercultural communication enhances students' preparation for the critical thinking and global competency skills expected in Cal-GETC-aligned programs.

Relationship to Similar Programs:

While several programs on campus address aspects of culture, diversity, and global perspectives, the Cross-Cultural Awareness Certificate is distinct in its integrated, multidisciplinary approach. Unlike discipline-specific programs (e.g., Ethnic Studies or Anthropology), this certificate draws from multiple fields to provide a broad and applied understanding of cultural identity, worldview, and intercultural communication. Its practical focus—such as developing cultural humility, communication adaptation, and bias recognition—makes it relevant across diverse majors and career pathways.

By aligning with Cal-GETC standards and complementing existing general education and major requirements, this program strengthens the curriculum by broadening students' cultural understanding, reinforcing institutional commitments to inclusive excellence, and preparing graduates to function effectively in an increasingly multicultural world.

Narrative Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

No comparable programs currently exist at other colleges in the service area.