

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics	
Program Title:	Emphasis on Studies of the Americas
Program Status:	Active from 2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)
Department:	Anthropology
Award Type:	Certificate of Achievement (Credit)
Program/Catalog Description	The Certificate of Achievement: Emphasis on Studies of the Americas provides students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the histories, cultures, societies, and contemporary issues of North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean. Through coursework drawn from anthropology, history, ethnic studies, sociology, and related disciplines, students explore Indigenous civilizations, colonial and post-colonial transformations, cultural diversity, migration, identity formation, and social and political development across the Americas. This certificate equips students with analytical, cultural, and comparative skills relevant to academic study, civic engagement, and careers involving cross-cultural communication, public service, community work, and international or regional studies. It also serves as a stackable credential that supports progression into related associate degrees and transfer pathways.
Control Number:	46557
Credential ID:	No value
Transferability:	Transferable to both UC and CSU
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	2202.00
(SP01) Program TOP Code:	Anthropology
(SP02) Student Program Award:	Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units
Maximum Credits:	19
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:	The Certificate of Achievement: Emphasis on Studies of the Americas meets increasing student and community interest in understanding the diverse histories, cultures, and contemporary issues of the Americas. By integrating coursework from anthropology, history, ethnic studies, and related fields, the certificate offers a focused interdisciplinary pathway not currently available in the college’s curriculum. This program supports transfer preparation, enhances cultural and global awareness, and aligns with institutional goals related to equity and student completion. As a stackable credential, it provides students with valuable academic grounding while contributing to broader community and workforce needs.

Submission Rationale

- New Program

Program Requirements

Certificate of Achievement: Emphasis on Studies of the Americas (Total 19)

Complete all of the following

List A (Total 7)

Complete all of the following

ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing	4
ENGLC1001 - Critical Thinking and Writing	3

List B (Total 3)

Complete the following number of credits: 3

ANT102 - Aztecs, Maya, and Their Predecessors	3
ANT107 - Anthropology of Religion	3

List C (Total 3)

Complete the following number of credits: 3

HISTC1001 - United States History to 1877	3
HISTC1002 - United States History since 1865	3

List D (Total 6)

Complete all of the following

SOC115 - Introduction to Chicano/a Studies	3
ETH210 - Introduction to Mexican American Studies	3

Recommended Sequences

New Sequence

Term 1 (Total 7)

List A ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing	4
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List C (Total 3)

Take one of the following

HISTC1001 - United States History to 1877	3
HISTC1002 - United States History since 1865	3

Term 2 (Total 12)

List B (Total 3)

Take one of the following

ANT102 - Aztecs, Maya, and Their Predecessors	3
ANT107 - Anthropology of Religion	3

List A ENGLC1001 - Critical Thinking and Writing	3
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List D SOC115 - Introduction to Chicano/a Studies

3

List D ETH210 - Introduction to Mexican American Studies

3

Program Outcomes

Emphasis on Studies of the Americas

PSLO

Performance

PLO 1: Analyze the diverse cultural traditions, identities, and artistic expressions of the peoples of the Americas and explain their significance in both local and global contexts.

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PLO 2: Demonstrate respect for and understanding of the experiences of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, diasporic, and other marginalized communities across the Americas.

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PLO 3: Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, political, and social developments that shaped countries and regions throughout North, Central, and South America, including the Caribbean.

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Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

1. Provide an interdisciplinary foundation for understanding the histories, cultures, societies, and political systems of regions across North, Central, and South America, including the Caribbean.
2. Promote cultural awareness and global literacy by examining the diverse experiences and contributions of peoples throughout the Americas.
3. Foster critical thinking and comparative analysis through the study of major themes such as colonization, migration, identity formation, social movements, and contemporary issues.
4. Prepare students for academic advancement into transfer programs in the humanities, social sciences, ethnic studies, Latin American studies, American studies, or related fields.
5. Support personal and professional growth for students seeking careers or community engagement opportunities that benefit from cross-cultural understanding and knowledge of the Americas.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Studies of the Americas provides students with an interdisciplinary exploration of the histories, cultures, societies, and political systems of regions across North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean. Through coursework drawn from the humanities and social sciences, students examine major themes such as colonialism, migration, identity, social movements, and globalization. The program emphasizes cultural awareness, critical thinking, and comparative analysis while highlighting the experiences of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and diasporic communities.

This certificate is ideal for students seeking a deeper understanding of the interconnected peoples and nations of the Americas, as well as those preparing for further study in fields such as Latin American studies, American studies, ethnic studies, history, anthropology, political science, and related disciplines. It also supports students pursuing careers that value cross-cultural competence and global perspectives.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

Students must complete at least 18 units across six areas:

1. English Communication (7 units)
 2. **Arts and Humanities (3 units)** – to be completed in area 3b of CAL-GETC
 3. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 units)** – One must be List B of the Anthropology ADT and the other course should be SOC 115.
 4. **Ethnic Studies (3 units)** – This should be ETH 210
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1. Semester 1: One from List A (ENGLC 1000 or ENGLC 1001) and one from List C (HISTC 1001 or HISTC 1002)
 2. Semester 2: One from List C (ANT 102 or ANT 107) and List A (ENGLC 1000 or ENGLC 1001) and both from List D (SOC 115 and ETH 210)

Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better (or “P” if taken on a pass/no pass basis where “P” is equivalent to “C” or better) in each course.

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning

This certificate supports the college’s mission by offering an interdisciplinary pathway that promotes cultural literacy, critical thinking, and global awareness. The program aligns with CAL-GETC by including coursework that can fulfill lower-division general education areas in the arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, critical thinking, and ethnic studies, helping students prepare for transfer to CSU and UC.

Emphasizing the experiences of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and diasporic communities, the certificate advances DEIA goals while strengthening Guided Pathways efforts. Overall, it enhances transfer readiness, supports student success, and contributes to a diverse and informed academic community.

Narrative Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

Initial enrollment in the Certificate of Achievement: Emphasis on Studies of the Americas is expected to be moderate, reflecting steady student interest in humanities and social science coursework already offered. Based on current enrollment patterns in related introductory courses, the program is projected to attract approximately 15–25 students per year during its first three years.

As awareness of this stackable certificate grows—especially its alignment with transfer pathways, including the Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) and CAL-GETC—enrollment is anticipated to increase gradually.

Projected annual completers are as follows:

- Year 1: 8–10 completers
- Year 2: 10–12 completers
- Year 3: 12–15 completers

These estimates reflect typical completion rates for short-term certificates and anticipate improved throughput as students recognize the certificate as a meaningful milestone supporting transfer preparation and further study in fields related to the Americas

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

The Certificate of Achievement: Emphasis on Studies of the Americas holds a foundational place within the college’s humanities and social sciences curriculum. It functions as an entry-level, stackable credential that complements existing transfer pathways—including related Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs)—by offering students a structured academic route toward degree completion and preparation for upper-division study. The certificate enhances program coherence by recognizing completion of core coursework that introduces students to the historical, cultural, political, and social dynamics of the Americas.

This program aligns naturally with certificates and degrees in fields such as History, Ethnic Studies, Sociology, Political Science, and Humanities, while maintaining a distinct interdisciplinary focus on the diverse peoples, cultures, and regions of the Americas. Unlike broader social science or general humanities programs, the Studies of the Americas certificate offers students a concentrated foundation in comparative, regional, and culturally focused coursework.

The certificate does not duplicate existing programs; rather, it broadens curricular options by providing a compact milestone credential that supports student progression, increases opportunities for completion, and integrates seamlessly with transfer-oriented pathways, including CAL-GETC and discipline-specific ADTs.

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

No comparable Certificate of Achievement in Studies of the Americas is currently offered by other colleges within the service area. This certificate fills a regional gap by providing a focused, stackable academic option that supports student progression into related Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) and other humanities and social science pathways. The program strengthens the college’s curriculum by offering a unique opportunity for students seeking foundational preparation in the histories, cultures, and societies of the Americas, an option not available at neighboring institutions.