Do I need an AA degree to transfer?

We hear this question a lot. Earning an Associate’s degree (AA or AS) is not required to transfer to a 4-year university. However, completing an AA/AS makes sense if the courses required to earn the AA are the same courses you are taking to prepare for transfer. By carefully selecting courses, most students can meet the requirements for both educational objectives.

There are several tools to help you explore AA degrees and your progress towards completing them:

- To browse a list of the degrees (as well as certificates and skills competency awards) go to degrees. Click on: AS, AA, C, or SCA to review the department requirements. Make sure to read all the information. For the AA or AS you must also complete the SBCC General Education requirements (listed under “G”).
- To review your progress toward a degree, visit DARS. DARS is a self-advising tool that will track your progress toward a degree at SBCC as well as your general education, transferable unit count and GPA toward transfer to a UC or CSU.
- To compare the course requirements between your transfer plan and your SBCC degree plan, map out your courses on the Student Education Plan Worksheet (SEPW). You will see that one course may meet the IGETC, the ASSIST preparation for major, SBCC GE and the SBCC Department requirement. (See attached blank worksheets). Note: look for SBCC majors that closely match your transfer major or the various emphases in the Liberal Arts and Sciences majors.
- Take a look at the example below to see how double, triple and even quadruple counting earns you a degree while you take courses to transfer to a 4-year university. Print out a blank SEPW and the instructions (both are attached) to see what you need to transfer and earn a degree!
These are great tools to help you make good course decisions.

Check them out now!