Program Summary

COLLEGE OF
ALAMEDA

COA New Program: Digital Literacy and Critical Inquiry - COA Certificate of Achievement

Overview

College	COA - Liberal Studies and Language Arts
Originator	Jane McKenna
Award Type	COA Certificate of Achievement

Codes and Dates

State Approval Date	
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	
Board of Trustees Date	
Current Effective Date	
Curriculum Code	
TOP Code	1601.00 - Library Science, General

Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Digital Literacy and Critical Inquiry develops students' research, communication, and critical thinking skills essential for CSU and UC transfer. Students complete courses that develop mastery of information literacy, digital research, and humanities-based inquiry. This program emphasizes information evaluation, communication skills, psychology, and human values, preparing students for success across disciplines and transfer pathways.

Career Opportunities

This certificate directly supports the Vision for Success and AB 928 (Cal-GETC) mandates by embedding LIS into transfer preparation and providing students with a transcripted milestone that documents skills in research, communication, and ethical information use. It is particularly well-suited for dual enrollment and first-year students, who need early guidance in navigating AI and digital tools responsibly.
Students completing the Certificate of Achievement in Digital Literacy and Critical Inquiry gain demonstrated skills in information evaluation, research strategy, digital communication, and ethical use of emerging technologies such as AI. These abilities are foundational for careers in education, communications, business, public service, data and information management, media, and research support roles. Employers in both public and private sectors increasingly seek candidates who can think critically about information credibility, synthesize diverse sources, and apply ethical standards in digital environments. The certificate also provides a

strong foundation for students pursuing further study in library and information science, data analytics, social sciences, journalism, and education.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Apply humanities perspectives and ethical reasoning to social and academic issues.
2. Communicate effectively in interpersonal and group contexts
3. Evaluate information for credibility, bias, and relevance across disciplines.
4. Demonstrate information literacy and digital research skills, including ethical use of AI tools.

Degree Requirements:

SUBJECT #

TITLE

UNITS

Total Certificate Units = 16-18 units

Required Core Courses (14 Units)		**14.00**
LIS 074	Information Seeking Behavior	3
AND		
LIS 085	Introduction to Information Resources	2
AND		
PSYC C1000	Introduction to Psychology	3
AND		

Communication Core Courses (select one)		**3.00**
COMM 004	Small Group Communication	3
OR		
COMM C1000	Introduction to Public Speaking	3
OR		
COMM 001A	Introduction to Speech	3
AND		

Humanities Core Courses (select one		**3.00**
HUMAN 001	Introduction to the Humanities	3
OR		
HUMAN 002	Human Values	3

Restricted Electives (Choose one, 2-4 units)		**3.00-5.00**
ENGL C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
OR		
ENGL C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	5
OR		
ENGL C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	3
OR		
STAT C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
OR		
MATH 015	Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students	3
OR		
ETHST 001	Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3