Introduction of Industry-Based Technical Electives within Cal Poly SLO’s Construction Management Curriculum

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The California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo requires that all Construction Management majors complete 8 units of technical elective credit as part of the degree requirement. Tech electives are various courses that offer additional information on particular construction-related subjects. This paper will explore the option of adding additional tech elective courses that focus on the various industry sectors within the construction line of work, particularly: residential, commercial, and specialty trades such as MEP. With these areas of construction being the primary job market targets for recent graduates, there is an interest to gain a higher understanding of these industries. With an average of two tech electives offered each quarter and with a curriculum as vigorous and time consuming as Cal Poly’s Construction Management program, it can be difficult for students to enroll in tech electives that interest them. With the addition of an industry-based tech elective, it would allow students to attain further knowledge about the area of construction they plan to peruse post-graduation, effectively preparing them more so than the competition. By analysis of surveying, interviewing, and research, this paper will outline a proposal of industry-based technical elective courses to implement within the Cal Poly SLO Construction Management curriculum.

Key Words: Industry Trends, Cal Poly SLO, Construction Management Curriculum, Technical Electives, Education

Do you have interests in a specific area of construction (residential, commercial, civil, specialties, industrial, etc.) that you wish CM touched more on during your undergrad?

Yes
No

Are you satisfied with the current tech elective classes offered each quarter?

Yes
No

Do You Think CM Needs Additional Options for Tech Electives?

Yes
No

Student interest in taking an Industry-Based tech elective (residential, commercial, or specialties)

Fall Quarter: Residential Tech Elective
Winter Quarter: Commercial Tech Elective
Spring Quarter: Specialties Tech Elective