

Adopted: March 14, 2017

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-825-17

RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR MASTERS DEGREES

1 WHEREAS, On March 20-21, 2014 the Academic Senate of the California State University
2 passed AS-3171-14/AA, "Resolution on Academic Standards for Master's Degrees,"
3 which recommended that the percentage of courses "designed primarily for graduate
4 study" be increased from 50% to 60% of the units required for the graduate degree; and
5

6 WHEREAS, AS-3171-14/AA also recommended that the CSU campuses consider adopting policies
7 determining whether a course is "designed primarily for graduate study"; therefore be it
8

9 RESOLVED: That a graduate course be defined as a course designed primarily for graduate study
10 following the guidelines proposed in EP&R 82-39, coded memo on "Definitions of
11 Graduate Level Instruction," dated August 12, 1982; and be it further
12

13 RESOLVED: That a graduate course be further defined as a stand-alone course at the graduate level
14 (i.e. not scheduled to meet at the same time, or in the same place as an undergraduate or
15 teaching credential course with the exception of service courses which, if they were to be
16 taught within the student's home department, would typically receive graduate credit);
17 and be it further
18

19 RESOLVED: That the requirement for the number of units designed for graduate study be elevated
20 from 50% to 60% of the units required for the degree; and be it further
21

22 RESOLVED: That these requirements be implemented by all graduate programs no later than the 2019-
23 21 Cal Poly Catalog cycle.
24

Proposed by: Richard Savage, Dean of Graduate Education
Date: November 11, 2016
Revised: March 8, 2017
Revised: March 13, 2017

MEMORANDUM

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ACADEMIC SENATE

To: Gary Laver
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: April 13, 2017

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Copies: K. Enz Finken
M. Pedersen
B. Tietje
R. Savage
C. Sunata

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-825-17
Resolution on Academic Standards for Master's Degree

I am pleased to acknowledge and approve the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution. The changes outlined in this resolution significantly strengthen the academic rigor of our master's degree programs and brings Cal Poly into alignment with other CSU graduate program requirements.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members for their attention to this important matter.