ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-953-22

RESOLUTION ON UNDERGRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS and SEMESTERS

Impact on Existing Policy: Supersedes AS-745-12

WHEREAS, The Chancellor’s Office has mandated that Cal Poly convert to semesters by fall of 2026; and

WHEREAS, Conversion to semesters requires that all academic policies be reviewed and revised as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, The current policy on undergraduate concentrations is given in AS-745-12 Resolution on Concentration Definition; and

WHEREAS, A concentration is intended to be a coherent and specialized course of study within a student’s major degree program; and

WHEREAS, A concentration is a carefully chosen and formally recognized course of study with requirements stated in the catalog; and

WHEREAS, Faculty and colleges have a commitment to deliver approved curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Concentrations, including interdisciplinary concentrations, are not baccalaureate programs; and

WHEREAS, Concentrations are noted on the student’s transcript, but not shown on the diploma; and

WHEREAS, Faculty have the option to include concentrations in the baccalaureate programs they develop; and
WHEREAS, CSU Executive Order 1071 delegates authority to campus presidents to approve options, concentrations, special emphases and minors (https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/10867125/latest); therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the criteria for approval of a proposed or edited concentration shall be the following:

1. A concentration is a block of designated courses from one or more lists of designated courses or course areas, totaling at least 12 units.

2. No single course should appear in every concentration of a given major; such courses should be included in the major.

3. The courses for a concentration shall appear in the major course column of the curriculum.

4. The number of concentration units must be less than 50% of the total major, support, and concentration units;

and be it further

RESOLVED: that all concentrations proposed or converted for the 2026-27 semester-based catalog, and subsequent catalogs, shall conform to these criteria.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: November 1, 2022

i (1) Describe how this resolution impacts existing policy on educational matters that affect the faculty. Examples include curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards.
(2) Indicate if this resolution supersedes or rescinds current resolutions.
(3) If there is no impact on existing policy, please indicate NONE.
MEMORANDUM

To: Thomas Gutierrez  
   Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
      President

Date: February 9, 2023

Copies: Gregory Bohr  
         Rachel Fernflores  
         Amy Fleischer  
         Damon Fleming  
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         Gary Laver  
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         Beth Merritt Miller  
         Kathryn Rummell  
         Cem Sunata  
         Christine Theodoropoulos  
         Andy Thulin  
         Dean Wendt  
         Philip Williams

Subject: Response to AS-953-22 Resolution on Undergraduate Concentrations and Semesters

By way of this memo, I approve the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution. This revised policy regarding undergraduate concentrations will ensure faculty have the necessary criteria for undergraduate concentrations as they prepare their curriculum for the conversion to semesters.

Please extend my appreciation to the Academic Senate and the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee for their continued efforts to make efficient and effective revisions of academic policies relating to semester conversion.