

Feedback Form on Revisions to the Executive Order on CSU General Education Breadth

Please complete and send this form by Nov. 2, 2020 to esfeedback@calstate.edu

Campus:

Please check as applicable for your campus. This response is inclusive of:

- Ethnic Studies Council
- Campus Senate
- Campus Associated Students
- Campus Administration
- Academic Senate, CSU
- General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC)
- California State Student Association
- Other (Please specify. If an individual, please specify your role on the campus. If a combined response, please specify the groups included.) CSULA CFA Council of Racial and Social Justice

As part of the CSU's long-held practice of shared governance, the Chancellor's Office invites campus input on the **proposed revisions to the executive order on CSU General Education Breadth. The draft executive order is attached for your reference, with newly added sections underlined and sections to be removed identified by strikethrough.** We welcome all general comments, recommended revisions and/or edits to improve clarity or correct errors on the proposed revisions listed below:

p. 1	Changes to title and effective date of policy
p. 3	2.2.1.a edit for clarity
p. 4	2.2.5.d edits for clarity related to Area B3
p. 5	Article 3.1 included "ethnic studies" in paragraph 3
p. 7	Subarea B3 edit for clarity and correction in total number of units in lower-division GE
p. 8	Area C edits for clarity Area D edits to reflect the number of required lower-division and total units
p. 9-10	Area E edit for clarity Area F Inclusion of the new Area F including core competencies
p. 12	5.3.2.2 edit for Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) clarity
p. 13-14	addition of Area F and additional clarity (5.3.2.3.d and f; 5.3.3.2; 5.3.3.4.d and f)
p. 15-16	5.3.5. c and d addition of Area F; edit in Area D 5.4.1, 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.5.1 edits for clarity on transfer certification
p. 19	6.2.1.c.2 Inclusion of Ed Code 89032 requirement to offer courses in Ethnic Studies
p. 20	6.2.3 edits for clarity
p. 20-21	GE Requirements chart -edits for clarity and to reflect the inclusion of Area F

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Please Type Comments Below

We are in solidarity with the statewide CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, which represents 23 campuses and approximately 500 faculty, in opposing the CO proposal to place the Ethnic Studies requirement exclusively in lower division GE (Area F).

We call on the CO to rescind Title 5 July 2020 changes and revise the AB 1460 implementation timeline to allow for thoughtful implementation.

The draft EO presumes the Ethnic Studies requirement should be carried out in GE Area F at the lower division. We oppose this pathway. The language about the pathway to implementation is clear in AB 1460 which states in Section 2 (d): "Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies." The law does not specify general education, Area F, or lower division only as pathways to implementation. Thus, we would like the EO to be revised to reflect the letter and spirit of the law—an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement met by courses in both lower and upper division.

In addition, the CSU FAQ on AB 1460 (Ethnic Studies) asks and answers the following question: "**What is the difference between a graduation requirement and a CSU General Education Breadth requirement?** Graduation requirements are a broader category than GE requirements. Graduation requirements include things such as the total number of units needed to complete the degree, the number of units required at the upper division, the completion of a specific set of courses for a major and the general education requirements." Thus, we prefer that the Ethnic Studies requirement should be met through a graduation requirement per the CSU's definition. Moreover, an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement that operates as an overlay is more efficient because it relies on existing courses that can be coded immediately for the requirement while a GE Area F requirement necessitates additional labor, curricular review, etc. on the part of the Registrar's office, the General Education Governance Board, and the Ethnic Studies faculty.

Furthermore, implementation via a graduation requirement would not present obstacles for students who meet this requirement at the community college level. This type of structure already exists on our campus and across the CSU system with the American Institutions (40404) requirement and it does not create barriers to graduation. The American Institutions graduation requirement is allowed to be an overlay, EVEN FOR ADT students. That is, an ADT student could get CSU GE certified (which does not require a student to earn an ADT) and have the American Institutions requirement unmet. The result is that a student can graduate with an ADT and still need more CSU graduation coursework, beyond their major, and in upper division GE, if they fail to complete the American Institutions requirement before transfer. Transfer students can also fulfill the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement as an overlay with upper division GE Areas B, C, or D and, consequently, not impact or increase overall units required for graduation. Indeed, implementing the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement as an overlay allows for a greater overall number of courses to articulate at the lower division and upper division in the curriculum and meet the requirement. As a result, we feel that there are not significant barriers to implementing Education Code 89032 as a graduation requirement.

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Likewise, we suggest focusing on the fact that this is a CSU-based graduation requirement, not a community-college graduation requirement. As Dr. Wrynn noted in her presentation to CSU San Marcos, 50% (or more) of CSU students are transfer students. Knowing this, it seems as if the Chancellor's Office is moving forward with an implementation of AB1460 that transfers the primary responsibility for fulfilling AB 1460 to the community colleges. Our fear is that this form of implementation will create compliance issues and make the CSU and the specific campuses subject to litigation because AB 1460 requires a California State University requirement not a community college requirement.

We also ask that the core competencies in the EO be updated to reflect the official set of core competencies approved by the Council on Ethnic Studies with unanimous consent on October 2, 2020. The approved core competencies are attached to this feedback form. We endorse the counter-proposal that has been proposed by the Council on Ethnic Studies and by many Senate resolutions:

- Retain 9 units in GE Area D1-3
- A freestanding Ethnic Studies graduation requirement that can be met at either the upper or lower division

This counter proposal has the following advantages:

- Enacts a broader interpretation of the legislation by placing no additional constraints
- Courses satisfying the Ethnic Studies requirement are dispersed throughout lower- and upper-division courses with an ES prefix
- Reduces the impact to programs and departments that offer courses in GE Area D
- Provides students maximum flexibility to determine how to fulfill the Ethnic Studies requirement, especially those in high unit majors
- Does not necessarily require GEC or GE curriculum review processes
- Reduces the impact on CCC and CSU ADT program, and does not disadvantage students who attend CCCs with no Ethnic Studies course offerings

In summary, we reject the CO position that Area F is necessary because of transfer agreements and high unit majors. A free-standing ES requirement is basically an overlay that can be satisfied alongside other requirements. Because 50% (or more) of CSU students are transfer students, reducing AB 1460 to lower division violates the spirit of the law and undermines AB 1460 by offloading the Ethnic Studies requirement onto community colleges.