

Adopted: November 29, 2022

**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*** <sup>i</sup>

- 1 WHEREAS, The Chancellor’s Office has mandated that Cal Poly convert to semesters  
2 by fall of 2026; and  
3
- 4 WHEREAS, Conversion to semesters requires that all academic policies be reviewed  
5 and revised as appropriate; and  
6
- 7 WHEREAS, The current policy on undergraduate concentrations is given in AS-745-12  
8 Resolution on Concentration Definition; and  
9
- 10 WHEREAS, A concentration is intended to be a coherent and specialized course of  
11 study within a student's major degree program; and  
12
- 13 WHEREAS, A concentration is a carefully chosen and formally recognized course of  
14 study with requirements stated in the catalog; and  
15
- 16 WHEREAS, Faculty and colleges have a commitment to deliver approved curriculum;  
17 and  
18
- 19 WHEREAS, Concentrations, including interdisciplinary concentrations, are not  
20 baccalaureate programs; and  
21
- 22 WHEREAS, Concentrations are noted on the student's transcript, but not shown on  
23 the diploma; and  
24
- 25 WHEREAS, Faculty have the option to include concentrations in the baccalaureate  
26 programs they develop; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, CSU Executive Order 1071 delegates authority to campus presidents to  
29 approve options, concentrations, special emphases and minors  
30 (<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/10867125/latest>); therefore be it  
31  
32 RESOLVED: that the criteria for approval of a proposed or edited concentration shall  
33 be the following:  
34  
35 1. A concentration is a block of designated courses from one or  
36 more lists of designated courses or course areas, totaling at least  
37 12 units.  
38  
39 2. No single course should appear in every concentration of a given  
40 major; such courses should be included in the major.  
41  
42 3. The courses for a concentration shall appear in the major course  
43 column of the curriculum.  
44  
45 4. The number of concentration units must be less than 50% of the  
46 total major, support, and concentration units;  
47  
48 and be it further  
49  
50 RESOLVED: that all concentrations proposed or converted for the 2026-27 semester-  
51 based catalog, and subsequent catalogs, shall conform to these criteria.

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

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**<sup>i</sup> (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.**



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Thomas Gutierrez  
Chair, Academic Senate

**Date:** February 9, 2023

**From:** Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

*Jeffrey D. Armstrong*

**Copies:** Gregory Bohr  
Rachel Fernflores  
Amy Fleischer  
Damon Fleming  
Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore  
Aaron Keen  
Gary Laver  
Andrew Morris  
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

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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.