

Adopted: December 2, 2008

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

AS-675-08

**RESOLUTION ON
NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES**

- 1 WHEREAS, The Social Sciences Department is requesting that its current degree, BS in Social
2 Sciences, be replaced by two new degrees titled BS in Anthropology-Geography
3 and BA in Sociology; and
4
- 5 WHEREAS, This change was recommended by the Social Sciences Program Review
6 Committee in 2006 and has been carefully evaluated and endorsed by the College
7 of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee, the dean for the College of Liberal Arts,
8 and the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee; therefore be it
9
- 10 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate endorse the phased elimination of the BS in Social
11 Sciences degree and the concurrent implementation of two new degrees through
12 the Social Sciences Department—BS in Anthropology-Geography and BA in
13 Sociology.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: October 17, 2008

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Summary Statement of Proposed New Degree Program for Academic Senate

1. Title of proposed program:

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Anthropology and Geography

2. Reason for proposing the program:

Cal Poly currently offers only a degree in Social Sciences, which includes a broad range of courses from Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology. The report from the 2005 external review of the department suggested strongly that the Social Sciences degree be replaced with two degrees: one in Anthropology-Geography and the other in Sociology. Creating two separate degrees will allow students to focus more on the individual disciplines, which will provide them with an improved education resulting in better employment opportunities and preparation for graduate school.

Based on the program strengths, student interest, and the greater emphasis on global issues in Anthropology-Geography, it was felt that we could serve students better by combining those two disciplines.

3. Expected student learning outcomes and methods for assessing outcomes:

Students in the Anthropology-Geography Major will graduate with an enhanced ability to:

1. understand and appreciate the cultural and physical attributes of major world regions, key regional issues and linkages between regions, the processes that shape cultural change and interaction, and international development issues.
2. demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of human ecology with specific emphasis on the ecological, demographic, genetic, developmental, and epidemiological dimensions of modern human adaptations and their evolutionary foundations over time and space.
3. comprehend the historical place of humans around the globe and apply acquired skills for cultural resource management and conservation.
4. analyze the processes that shape the earth's physical environment (e.g. climate, landforms, water, soils, biota, and ecosystems), the distribution of natural resources, and the ways in which humans utilize natural resources and impact the environment with an emphasis on sustainability.

5. apply scientific research methodology and design, including the ability to collect, synthesize, and interpret qualitative and quantitative cultural and ecological data using a variety of methods including the utilization of geo-spatial technologies (GIS, remote sensing, and GPS).
6. critically analyze issues from multiple perspectives and communicate results effectively.
7. synthesize information and utilize acquired skills locally and globally to improve the state of the environment and the human condition by applying cultural, ecological, and spatial knowledge, methods, and techniques.

Methods for assessing outcomes:

- 1) Exit examinations or course embedded assessments with questions focused on the key concepts in Sociology
- 2) Student, graduating senior, and alumni surveys
- 3) Yearly evaluation of a sample of senior projects
- 4) Other methods, to be developed/explored

4. Anticipated student demand:

<u>Anthropology-Geography</u>	Number of Students		
	<u>at initiation</u>	<u>3 years after initiation</u>	<u>5 years after initiation</u>
Number of Majors	50	125	125
Number of Graduates	10*	50	150

*The SOCS major currently has approximately 250 majors and graduates approximately 70 each year. It is anticipated that some current SOCS students will, with good planning, be able to convert to the new degree program within the first year.

Indicate briefly what these projections are based upon:

These figures are based on current enrollments and graduation rates for the Social Sciences degree. Student surveys indicate that that the new degrees will each attract approximately half of the existing majors, with slightly more Sociology majors.

5. **If additional resources (faculty, student allocations, support staff, facilities, equipment, etc.) will be required, please identify the resources needed and from where you expect them to come:**

This degree proposal involves no new resources; current resources are being redistributed between the two proposed degrees, which will remain in a single department.

6. ***If the program is occupational or professional, briefly summarize evidence of need for graduates with this specific education background:***

N/A

7. ***If the new program is currently a concentration or specialization, include a brief rationale for conversion:***

As stated prior, students in the SOCS major currently take courses in all three areas offered by the department: Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology. A recent program review and the long-held view of the department is that students would be served better by creating separate degree programs. The current core classes and concentrations are being reconfigured to reflect two degree programs.

8. ***If the new program is not commonly offered as a bachelor's or master's degree, provide a brief, compelling rationale explaining how the proposed subject area constitutes a coherent, integrated degree major that has potential value for students:***

Anthropology and Geography are typically offered as two separate degree programs. However, in looking at Cal Poly's students' interests, the strengths of the faculty's teaching and research interests, and Cal Poly's interests in increasing students' ability to interact effectively in global contexts and to promote sustainability, it was felt that combining these majors into a single degree program would better serve students, faculty, and the university alike. Addressing issues such as sustainability in a global and cultural context, will prepare students to take on positions in International NGOs, and in government and private sector jobs.

9. **Briefly describe how the new program fits with the mission and/or strategic plan for the department, college, and university:**

The Cal Poly mission statement specifies that Cal Poly fosters teaching, scholarship, and service in a learn-by-doing environment where students and faculty are partners in discovery. As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly promotes the application of theory to practice. As a comprehensive institution, Cal Poly provides a balanced education in the arts, sciences, and technology, while

encouraging cross-disciplinary and co-curricular experiences. As an academic community, Cal Poly values free inquiry, cultural and intellectual diversity, mutual respect, civic engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

With classes in anthropological theory and quantitative methods, supplemented with internship opportunities, the Anthropology-Geography degree promotes the application of theory to practice. Anthropology is the study of humanity and it is intrinsically focused on issues of ethnic and biological diversity and thereby supports Cal Poly's emphasis on cultural diversity and social responsibility. Cultural Geography is likewise focused on human societies and social behavior and, as a discipline, also supports the university's emphasis on diversity. Physical Geography focuses on the earth sciences and scientific methods related to climatology, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and helps support the university's efforts in science education, especially as they relate to sustainable development.

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Summary Statement of Proposed New Degree Program for Academic Senate

1. Title of proposed program:

Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

2. Reason for proposing the program:

Cal Poly currently offers only a degree in Social Sciences, which includes a broad range of courses from Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology. The report from the 2005 external review of the department suggested strongly that the Social Sciences degree be replaced with two degrees: one in Anthropology-Geography and the other in Sociology. Creating two separate degrees will allow students to focus more on the individual disciplines, which will provide them with an improved education resulting in better employment opportunities and preparation for graduate school.

3. Expected student learning outcomes and methods for assessing outcomes:

In addition to the broad and comprehensive university objectives, the specific learning objectives for majors in sociology would include the following:

1. Majors in sociology will achieve an international/global perspective of cultures and societies along with knowledge of other social and cultural systems.
2. Majors in sociology will develop an understanding of the problems and implications the United States as a multicultural, pluralistic society must address.
3. Majors in sociology will learn to apply a holistic/integrated approach to current social problems on a local, regional and global level.
4. Majors in sociology will come to appreciate the way social groups and structures influence individual behavior and the way individual behavior influences social groups and structures.
5. Majors in sociology will develop skills concerning the primary information collection, or research techniques used by modern sociology.
6. Majors in sociology will grow in their ability to think critically concerning important issues facing our society and societies in a global perspective.
7. Majors in sociology majors will be able to demonstrate the writing skills necessary to communicate effectively in their work and their personal lives.
8. Majors in sociology will be prepared to enter a broad range of careers which employ the insights and skills of sociology, and they will as well, if they so choose,

prepare for further graduate training in sociology and other fields of study which can draw on the breadth of training is the discipline of academic sociology.

Methods for assessing outcomes:

- 1) Exit examinations or course embedded assessments with questions focused on the key concepts in Sociology
- 2) Student, graduating senior, and alumni surveys
- 3) Yearly evaluation of a sample of senior projects
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4. Anticipated student demand:

<u>Sociology</u>	Number of Students		
	<u>at initiation</u>	<u>3 years after initiation</u>	<u>5 years after initiation</u>
Number of Majors	60	135	135
Number of Graduates	10*	60	160

*The SOCS major currently has approximately 260 majors and graduates approximately 70 each year. It is anticipated that some current SOCS students will, with good planning, be able to convert to the new degree program within the first year.

Indicate briefly what these projections are based upon:

These figures are based on current enrollments and graduation rates for the Social Sciences degree. Student surveys indicate that that the new degrees will each attract approximately half of the existing majors, with slightly more Sociology majors.

5. If additional resources (faculty, student allocations, support staff, facilities, equipment, etc.) will be required, please identify the resources needed and from where you expect them to come:

This degree proposal involves no new resources; current resources are being redistributed between the two proposed degrees, which will remain in a single department.

6. If the program is occupational or professional, briefly summarize evidence of need for graduates with this specific education background:

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7. *If the new program is currently a concentration or specialization, include a brief rationale for conversion:*

As stated prior, students in the SOCS major currently take courses in all three areas offered by the department: Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology. A recent program review and the long-held view of the department is that students would be served better by creating separate degree programs. The current core classes and concentrations are being reconfigured to reflect two degree programs.

8. *If the new program is not commonly offered as a bachelor's or master's degree, provide a brief, compelling rationale explaining how the proposed subject area constitutes a coherent, integrated degree major which has potential value for students:*

N/A

10. *Briefly describe how the new program fits with the mission and/or strategic plan for the department, college, and university:*

The Cal Poly mission statement specifies that Cal Poly fosters teaching, scholarship, and service in a learn-by-doing environment where students and faculty are partners in discovery. As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly promotes the application of theory to practice. As a comprehensive institution, Cal Poly provides a balanced education in the arts, sciences, and technology, while encouraging cross-disciplinary and co-curricular experiences. As an academic community, Cal Poly values free inquiry, cultural and intellectual diversity, mutual respect, civic engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

With classes in social theory and quantitative methods, supplemented with internship opportunities, the Sociology degree promotes the application of theory to practice. Much of the Sociology curriculum explores issues related to ethnic and racial diversity and, in so doing, supports Cal Poly's emphasis on cultural diversity and social responsibility.

State of California
Memorandum

To: John Soares
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: December 22, 2008



From: Warren I. Baker
President

Copies: R. Koob
L. Halisky
D. Conn
M. Whiteford

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-675-08
Resolution on Proposed New Degree Programs for Social Sciences

I am pleased to approve the above-entitled Academic Senate Resolution. The proposal will now be sent to the Chancellor's office for approval.

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