

Adopted: February 11 2014

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California**

AS-775-14

**RESOLUTION ON
CROSS-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES MINORS**

- 1 WHEREAS, A minor is defined as a “coherent group of courses which stands alone and provides a
2 student with broad knowledge of and competency in an area outside the student’s
3 major”; and
- 4 WHEREAS, A concentration is defined as a “coherent and specialized course of study within a
5 student’s major degree program, which presupposes knowledge of the major
6 discipline”; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The “stands alone” group of courses requirement of minors is limiting when developing
8 a specialized curriculum without hidden prerequisites; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The “specialized course of study within a student’s major” requirement of
10 concentrations does not recognize in-depth study in disciplines outside of the major;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, CSU Executive Order 1071 delegates to presidents the authority to approve options,
13 concentrations, special emphases, and minors; therefore be it
- 14 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate request that President Armstrong create the Cross-
15 Disciplinary Studies Minor as defined in the attached document.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Dated: October 24, 2013

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES MINOR

DEFINITION

A cross-disciplinary studies minor (CDSM) is the result of a partnership between two or more target major programs. It is defined as a set of curricular requirements comprised of coherent groups of courses tailored for each partner program such that all students from target majors develop (1) depth in the partner discipline, (2) focused study in their own discipline, as well as (3) focused study in the mutual domain of the minor.

REQUIREMENTS

- The curricular requirements are the same for all students in the CDSM.
- The total number of units in the CDSM that cannot be covered by the requirements of the student's major shall not exceed 24 units.
- The CDSM curriculum shall require at least 12 units of coursework that cannot be covered by the requirements of the student's major.
- At least half of the units must be from upper division courses (300- or 400-level) and at least half of the units must be taken at Cal Poly.
- Not more than one-third of the courses in an CDSM can be graded Credit/No Credit (CR/NC), except for courses that have mandatory CR/NC grading.
- A minimum overall 2.0 GPA for all CDSM required coursework is needed for completion.

MAJORS/PARTNER MAJORS/CROSS-DISCIPLINARY MINORS

- The CDSM will be completed along with the requirements for the bachelor's degree.
- Each partner major department will have a CDSM faculty/staff advisor. Students who wish to complete a CDSM are to contact the CDSM advisor in their home department as early as possible and fill out the appropriate agreement form.
- Each CDSM will have a program coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating curriculum changes both within the minor as well as changes in the target majors that may affect the minor.

MINORS/GRADUATION

- The CDSM is formally declared when the student requests a graduation evaluation in the Evaluations Office; however, students should seek advisor approval early in their program to ensure timely graduation.
- The completion of the CDSM will be noted on the student's transcript, but will not be shown on the diploma. In no case will a diploma be awarded for the CDSM.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

EXAMPLE CROSS-DISCIPLINARY MINOR CURRICULUM FOR A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY MINOR IN DATA SCIENCE

STAT minor units	STAT	Course	Core Units	CSC	CSC Minor Units
	required in the major	CSC 101: Fundamentals of CS I		required in the major	
	CS/STAT/MATH elective	CSC 102: Fundamentals of CS II	4	required in the major	
	CSC/STAT/MATH elective	CSC 103: Fundamentals of CS III	4	required in the major	
	required in the major	MATH 206/244: Linear Algebra/ Linear Analysis	4	support (Math) elective	
	required in the major (*)	STAT 312, 321 or 301/302 (Intro to Statistics)		required in the major (STAT 323/312)	
	required in the major (*)	STAT 325 Probability Theory	4	support (Math) elective	
	technical elective	CSC 365: Databases	4	technical elective	
	technical elective	CSC 369: Distributed Computations (Hadoop)	4	technical elective	
	Free elective	CSC 349: Algorithms	4	required in the major	
	required in major	STAT 330/ 331: SAS/R	4	technical elective (2c)	
	required in major	STAT 324: Applied Regression	4	technical elective (2c) (* TBA)	
	elective	STAT 419: Applied Multivariate analysis	4	Minor	4
	Free elective	CSC 466: Knowledge Discovery from Data	4	technical elective	
4	Minor	DATA 201: Introduction to Data Science	4	Minor	4
4	Minor	DATA 301: Data Science	4	Minor	4
2	Minor	DATA 350: Data Science Capstone I	2	Minor	2
2	Minor	DATA 450: Data Science Capstone II	2	Minor	2
8	Minor	CS Tech Electives		technical elective	
	400 electives	STAT Tech Electives		Minor	8
20			56		24

MINORS

(<http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/Policies-Undergrad/Minors>)

Definition: A minor is defined as a coherent group of courses which stands alone and provides a student with broad knowledge of and competency in an area outside the student's major.

MAJORS/MINORS

- A major and a minor may not be taken in the same degree program (e.g., a student majoring in history may not complete a minor in history, whereas a student majoring in crop science may complete a minor in plant protection).
- The minor will be completed along with the requirements for the bachelor's degree. Courses in the minor may be used to satisfy major, support and general education requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

- Students who wish to complete a minor are to contact the department offering the academic minor as early as possible in the program and fill out the appropriate agreement form.
- A minor consists of 24 to 30 units with at least half of the units must be from upper-division courses (300- or 400-level) and at least half of the units must be taken at Cal Poly.
- Not more than one-third of the courses in a minor can be graded Credit/No Credit (CR/NC), except for courses which have mandatory CR/NC grading.
- A minimum overall 2.0 GPA is required for completion of the minor (French, German and Spanish language minors must have a 2.75 GPA).

MINORS/GRADUATION

- The minor is declared when the student requests a graduation evaluation in the Evaluations Office.
- The completion of the minor will be noted on the student's transcript but will not be shown on the diploma. In no case will a diploma be awarded for the minor.

CONCENTRATIONS

(<http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/Policies-Undergrad/Concentrations>)

Faculty have the option to include concentrations in the baccalaureate programs they develop. A concentration is intended to be a coherent and specialized course of study within a student's major degree program, which presupposes knowledge of the major discipline. The requirements for a concentration are stated in the catalog, and faculty have a commitment to deliver the approved curriculum as stated. Therefore, when advising individual students, faculty should attempt to follow the approved curriculum before considering substitutions.

Concentrations are noted on the student's transcript but are not shown on the diploma. The following requirements for establishing or revising a concentration become effective with the 2013-15 catalog cycle.

- A concentration is a block of at least five designated courses from one or more lists of designated courses or course areas.
- No single course should appear in every concentration; such courses should be included in the major.
- The courses for a concentration shall appear in the major course column.
- The number of concentration units shall not exceed 50% of the total major units.

State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

To: Steven Rein
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: March 24, 2014

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President



Copies: P. Bailey
D. Cerf
K. Enz Finken
D. Epperson
D. Larson
M. Pedersen
C. Theodoropoulos
A. Thulin

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-775-14
Resolution on Cross-Disciplinary Studies Minors

This memo formally acknowledges receipt and approval of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.