

Adopted: June 2, 2026

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

AS-1018-26

RESOLUTION ON STACKED COURSES

Impact on Existing Policy: None

- 1 WHEREAS, Stacked courses are distinct courses that meet together—each with its own
2 course learning objectives (CLOs); and
- 3 WHEREAS, Stacked courses differ from crosslisted courses, which share the same course
4 learning objectives (CLOs); and
- 5 WHEREAS, A separate designation for stacking is needed since crosslisting only allows credit
6 in one of the crosslisted courses; and
- 7 WHEREAS, There are legitimate reasons why academic units may need to have courses
8 meet together that include: collaboration on a common task, different audiences
9 that approach the same material at different levels; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Cal Poly does not have a policy governing stacked courses; and
- 11 WHEREAS, In the absence of a policy University Scheduling will no longer allow non-
12 crosslisted courses to meet together; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The current curriculum review process is an appropriate vehicle to review and
14 approve course stacking; therefore, be it
- 15 RESOLVED: that the Cal Poly Academic Senate adopts the attached Policy on Stacked
16 Courses to begin with the 2028 Catalog review cycle.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and the Academic
Senate Graduate Committee
Date: 5/19/2026

POLICY ON STACKED COURSES

Definitions

- A crosslisted course is a single course with a single set of course learning objectives (CLOs), offered by different departments or programs, and thus identified by different course prefixes and numbers. Taking a crosslisted course under one course prefix and number confers equivalent credit in all versions of the crosslisting, so a student may take only one version of a crosslisted course.
- Stacked courses are distinct courses that are designed to meet together and to allow students enrolled in each course to attain its distinct CLOs, which represent its specific course level and goals. Taking one course in the stack does not necessarily confer equivalent credit for the other courses in the stack or prohibit students from taking the other courses in the stack unless the courses are designated as antirequisites. In that case, the courses will have a notation in the Catalog that they are not open to students with credit in (NOTSWCI) the other courses in the stack.

Policy

1. This policy does not address faculty compensation for teaching stacked courses.
2. Course stacking will now be a designated property of a course that must be declared when a course is proposed or through a course edit. Stacking may be added or removed from a course outside of the normal Catalog cycle if no other changes that are prohibited off-cycle are required at the same time. For example, an antirequisite can only be added as part of the Catalog cycle.
3. After this policy goes into full effect in Fall 2028, courses not designated as “stacked” cannot meet together.
4. Courses may be designated as stacked if:
 - a. One of the following conditions is met:
 - i. The courses are intended to meet together whenever they are offered in the same term, OR
 - ii. The courses must be stacked due to low enrollment, AND
 - b. All CLOs for each stacked course can still be achieved by its own students when they meet together.
5. Course stacking can be added to a course through the following process.
 - a. The Course Proposal form will be amended by adding fields that indicate stacking, which courses are in the stack, and justify why the stacking is appropriate.
 - b. The justification for stacking must describe how the CLOs of the stacked course can still be achieved if it meets together with the other courses in the stack. For proposals to stack courses of different levels (*e.g.* lower-division with upper-division, undergraduate with graduate), this justification must be particularly strong and indicate why the courses cannot meet separately.
 - c. If a new course is proposed to be stacked with an existing course, a course edit of the existing course must be submitted along with the new course proposal.
 - d. The proposal must indicate whether students are prohibited from earning credit in more than one course within the stack.
 - e. Stacking is reviewed as any other course element at all levels of curriculum review appropriate for a particular course (*e.g.* stacking for GE courses is reviewed by the General Education Governance Board, stacking for graduate classes is reviewed by the Academic Senate Graduate Committee).
 - f. When reviewing a stacked proposal,
 - i. both the positive and negative implications of mixing audiences should be considered and extra scrutiny should be applied to proposals that stack courses at different levels, and

