

Adopted: May 23, 2023

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

AS-959-23

RESOLUTION ON UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM FOR SEMESTER CONVERSION

Impact on Existing Policy: Supersedes AS 388-92; rescinds AS 234-87 and AS 609-04ⁱ

- 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, AS 388-92 describes the general structure and outline of curriculum at Cal
8 Poly; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, AS 234-87 and AS 609-04 specify a requirement of 8 quarter-units of free
11 electives in each program or a justification as to why this requirement
12 cannot be met; and
13
- 14 WHEREAS, the conversion to semesters will require maximum flexibility in the design
15 of major programs; therefore be it
16
- 17 RESOLVED: that AS 234-87 and AS 609-04 and any other previous policy requiring
18 free electives are rescinded; and be it further
19
- 20 RESOLVED: that programs are allowed and encouraged to incorporate free electives
21 in their curricula, if doing so will not put the program above the specified
22 maximum number of semester units; and be it further
23
- 24 RESOLVED: that the general guidelines for undergraduate curriculum at Cal Poly in
25 the attached policy shall be adopted.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: May 23, 2023

ⁱ (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.

GENERAL POLICIES ON UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

1. Course Categories

Curriculum course categories shall be Major Courses, Support Courses, General Education Courses, and Free Elective Courses. Each category shall be subject to the following guidelines.

a. Major Courses

i. Definitions

1. Major courses comprise the basic knowledge in the discipline and are required of all students in the major.
2. Courses using the prefix of the major program must count as major courses.
3. Courses from any other prefix or discipline may be designated as major courses.
4. Unless otherwise designated, all major courses will be counted towards the major GPA.
5. Courses in the major which fulfill General Education (GE) requirements should be listed in the Major Course category with a reference (e.g. a footnote) to the GE area.
6. The major column comprises all courses in the major core and concentration (if present).

ii. Major core

1. For students pursuing the same degree objective, more than 50% of their major courses or course areas must be the same (CSU ASA 2017-02).
2. The major core comprises requirements common to all students earning the degree, addressing a common set of learning outcomes for the program.

iii. Concentrations

1. A concentration is a coherent and specialized course of study within a student's major degree program. Degree programs are not required to include concentrations.
2. Policy on concentrations is given in AS-953-22
3. No single course should **be required** in every concentration offered in a given degree program; such courses should be included in the major core or support.
4. The number of units in a concentration must be less than 50% of the sum of all major units (major core plus support plus concentration).
5. In a program that includes a concentration, an equivalently-sized Individualized Course of Study (ICS) may be included as an alternative.
6. The courses for a concentration or ICS shall appear in the major course column, and are included in the calculation of the major GPA.

b. Support Courses

i. Definition

1. A support course is any specified course outside of the home department. Courses with the home department prefix shall not appear in the support course category.
2. Support courses which fulfill General Education requirements shall appear in the Support Course category with a reference (e.g. a footnote) to the appropriate GE area.
3. Support courses are not included in the calculation of the major GPA.

c. General Education

- i. Those areas and courses designated as fulfilling General Education requirements as defined by CSU Executive Order 1100 shall appear in the category of General Education Courses. Areas which can be met by major and support courses shall be designated by a comment or footnote such as "Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement."
- ii. GE courses are not included in the calculation of the major GPA, unless they are also listed in the major core or concentration.

d. Free Electives

- i. Free elective means a course chosen solely by the student with no curricular restrictions.
- ii. Programs are not required to include free elective units in the degree program.
- iii. Free electives are not included in the calculation of the major GPA.

2. Required semester units

a. Definitions

- i. "Major units" include all units earned in major (core), support, and concentration. Conversely, "major units" are the total number of units earned minus units from GE and free electives.

b. Unit requirements

- i. The minimum (and maximum, where applicable) numbers of total semester units required for the following baccalaureate degrees offered by Cal Poly are as follow:
 - 1. Bachelor of Arts (BA): 120 (Title 5 § 40500)
 - 2. Bachelor of Science (BS): 120 (Title 5 § 40501)
 - 3. Bachelor of Architecture (BArch): 120-150 (Title 5 § 40505)
 - 4. Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA): 120-132 (Title 5 § 40506)

5. Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA): 120-150 (Title 5 § 40507)
- ii. The minimum numbers of total semester units designated as major courses or course areas required for the following baccalaureate degrees offered by Cal Poly are as follow:
 1. Bachelor of Arts (BA): 24 (Title 5 § 40500)
 2. Bachelor of Science (BS): 36 (Title 5 § 40501)
 3. Bachelor of Architecture (BArch): 45 (Title 5 § 40505)
 4. Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA): 120-150 (Title 5 § 40507)
 5. Note: Title 5 does not designate a minimum number of major units for the BFA degree.
 - iii. The maximum number of total semester units designated as major courses or course areas required for the BFA degree is 70 (Title 5 § 40506). Note: Title 5 does not designate a maximum number of major units for the BA, BS, BArch, or BLA degrees.
 - iv. The minimum numbers of upper-division semester units designated as major courses or course areas required for the following baccalaureate degrees offered by Cal Poly are as follow:
 1. Bachelor of Arts (BA): 12 (Title 5 § 40500)
 2. Bachelor of Science (BS): 18 (Title 5 § 40501)
 3. Bachelor of Architecture (BArch): 27 (Title 5 § 40505)
 4. Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA): 18
 5. Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA): 27 (Title 5 § 40507)
- c. Each baccalaureate degree offered by Cal Poly requires a minimum of 40 upper-division units.
 - d. Of the semester units in courses or course areas designated as major at least 10 should be designated in lower division courses or course areas.