

Adopted: October 31, 2023

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

AS-964-23

RESOLUTION ON IN-RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR LAST 30 UNITS FOR QUARTER-TO-SEMESTER CONVERSION

Impact on Existing Policy: Supersedes and updates AS-827-17ⁱ

- 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-827-17 requires that 28 of a student’s last 40 quarter-units be
8 completed in residence; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, AS-827-17 states that “Although the origins of this requirement, which
11 appears in catalogs dating back to the 1950s, are unknown, it can be
12 inferred that Cal Poly faculty, like those of some other peer institutions,
13 have defined the integrity of a degree as requiring that an appropriate
14 number of senior-level courses be completed at the degree-granting
15 institution”; and
16
- 17 WHEREAS, Currently active blanket substitutions modify the ‘28 out of 40’
18 requirement for students who study away on a Cal Poly led program,
19 Cal Poly affiliated program, or department-approved exchange
20 program:
21 BCSM and CENG waive the requirement entirely;
22 OCOB and CAFES allow 20 of the last 40 units to be taken away;
23 CLA allows 25 of the last 40 units to be taken away; and
24
- 25 WHEREAS, A typical undergraduate degree in the semester system will comprise 120
26 semester-units versus the 180 quarter-units currently required; therefore
27 be it
28

29 RESOLVED: That 18 of the last 30 semester-units required for the degree must be
30 taken in residence; and be it further
31
32 RESOLVED: That colleges will separately determine the extent to which they wish to
33 waive this requirement for students who study away on a Cal Poly led
34 program, Cal Poly affiliated program, or department-approved
35 exchange program for part of their last 30 units; and be it further
36
37 RESOLVED: That this requirement becomes effective for all students graduating
38 under the 2026-27 and subsequent semester-based Catalogs.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: September 26, 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.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Jerusha Greenwood
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: December 21, 2023

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Jeffrey D. Armstrong

Copies: Rachel Fernflores
Danial Grassian
Jennifer Haft
Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
Academic Programs & Planning
College Deans
College Associate Deans
Office of the Registrar
Office of the Provost

Subject: Response to AS-964-23 Resolution on In-Residence Requirement for Last 30 Units for Quarter-To-Semester Conversion

By way of this memo, I am pleased to approve the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution which directly updates existing requirements on in-residence requirements for the purpose of the conversion to semesters.

This resolution will facilitate the transfer of the allowable number of units within the last 30 units that our students take in residence at Cal Poly. The commitment to the Learn by Doing curriculum will be upheld by providing for the final capstone degree requirements to be completed at Cal Poly, while also providing colleges the flexibility to waive this requirement for students involved in high-impact practices, who study abroad/away, and department exchange programs.

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.