

Ethnic Studies Requirement Workgroup Overview

Introduction

Brief Background on AB1460:

AB1460 ("California State University: graduation requirement: ethnic studies") (sometimes called the Ethnic Studies Requirement, ESR) is a California Assembly Bill that was passed in and then signed into law by Governor Newsom August 17, 2020:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1460

For those not already familiar, the law can be summarized by citing Section 1b and 2d of AB1460: *Ethnic studies are an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans....Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit [or equivalent quarter unit] course in ethnic studies.*

The bill is broadly worded from an operational point of view, as legislation often is, so there are many important details left to interpret and unpack. An Executive Order (EO) from the Chancellor's Office (CO) will provide the formal structure for campuses to deploy the law. According to the law, details such as core competencies and other curricular elements, are to be created in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies (CSUCES).

Executive Order and Feedback:

On October 8, 2020 a revised EO 1100 ("CSU General Education Breadth Requirements Revised") was issued. The CO requested feedback from campuses on the changes by November 2, 2020 and provided an associated feedback form. A finalized EO, incorporating feedback from all CSU stakeholders, is anticipated in late November 2020. As an aside, in advance of the EO, a FAQ was issued that provided anticipatory context for the EO.

Very Quick Summary of the ESR in the draft EO, FAQ, and Other Documentation:

- ESR housed in a new GE Area F, not an "overlay" graduation requirement
- No extra units required for graduation; units for Area F taken from existing Area D
- Ethnic Studies (ES) course designation, but cross listing is allowed
- Courses must cover one of the four core groups and be consistent with core competencies
- Deployment by Fall 2021

Ethnic Studies Requirement Workgroup (ESRWG) Background:

In anticipation of an EO regarding AB1460 coming from the CO in early Fall 2020, the Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly, Tom Gutierrez, created an *ad hoc* ESRWG in Summer 2020, chaired by Jenell Navarro, Interim Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department, to begin strategies and discussions (see membership on AS website). Because of the specialized nature of the requirement, it was important to seed the ESRWG with experts in ES, DEI, and curricular matters (e.g. GE, USCP).

Ethnic Studies Requirement Workgroup Charges

Charge 1: Work with the Provost's office and other stakeholders to craft feedback to the CO on the draft EO by November 2, 2020. The ESRWG will be the primary point of contact to collect feedback from the Academic Senate (AS) and the Executive Committee (EC). Note, in collaboration with the Provost, all campus viewpoints can be represented, and we do not need a single campus voice. However, logistically it will be convenient if voices are organized in a single feedback response. See below timeline.

Charge 2: Once the official EO is released, work with the GEGB (or appropriate AS Committee) to draft an AS resolution on how to deploy the ESR consistent with the EO at Cal Poly starting in Fall 2021. Note: The bulk of this work would likely be done in Winter 2021.

Documents available on the AS website for reference:

1. AB1460
2. CO FAQ on ESR
3. CO Overview Document with timeline
4. Draft EO
5. Draft EO Feedback Form
6. CSUCEC core competencies from CSUCES