



CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

December 7, 2020

TO: Dr. Joseph Castro  
President

Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval  
Provost

FROM: Dr. Thomas Holyoke  
Chair, Academic Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "TH Holyoke", written over the name of the sender.

RE: Implementation of the Ethnic Studies GE Requirement

In accordance with Executive Order 1100, the Academic Senate, by a vote of 38 to 5, approved the following interim policy implementing the new Ethnic Studies requirement for General Education. Permanent amendments to APM 215 will be developed over the coming months, but until then this memorandum will serve as official interim policy.

The following changes are made to our General Education (APM 215) and related policies:

- The course PLSI 2 (American and California Government) will be removed from General Education area D2
- PLSI 2 will be established as a separate 3-unit graduation requirement for all Fresno State students and may not be waived
- Area D3 of lower division General Education, and all courses in it, will be re-designated as area D2, with the area D3 designation eliminated (this reduces the units required for lower division required GE in area D from 9 units to 6 units)
- A new area F will be created in lower division GE (though it may include courses in the 100 range) exclusively focusing on Ethnic Studies, and all students will be required to take one 3 unit course from this area (this requirement may not be waived, but may be fulfilled at a community college)

It is understood that for 39 “high-unit” majors, because of various professional and national accreditation requirements that currently preclude students graduating with a minimum of 120 semester units, the addition of Area F in GE, and consequently the re-assignment of PLSI 2 to be a separate 3 unit graduation requirement further complicates the curriculum demands of these majors. These high-unit majors will work with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Dean of Undergraduate Studies to find ways to avoid having the curriculum changes negatively impact the major while minimizing adverse impacts on other

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programs (including those that rely on GE, MI or other graduation requirements) as much as possible. The high-unit majors have the right to devise and propose their own solutions for accommodating the 3 units so as to simultaneously maintain their curricular rigor along with their unique professional and national accreditation requirements. It is understood that these solutions (like all curriculum changes) require the approval of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. To minimize impacts, MI courses may also be accepted for inclusion in upper division GE areas IC and ID, if approved by the GE Committee.

This might, for example, be accomplished in the following ways, keeping in mind that high unit majors may not waive D1, Area F, or the campus American and California Government (PLSI 2) requirement. (This list is provided only as possible solutions and is neither exhaustive nor is exploring each required, nor does the order imply any hierarchy or preference, unless designated in the item itself.)

- Course requirements in the major may be reduced by 3 units.
- An existing or new GE or M/I or W course (taught by an expert in their respective field outside of the high unit major) might be tailored to students in a specific high unit major. Such a course would be designed by the instructor in coordination with faculty in the high unit major and might substitute for a major requirement or elective while also fulfilling the university requirement.
- An existing or new GE or M/I or W course might be team taught by a faculty expert in the GE area, M/I, or in writing with a faculty member in the high unit major and substitute for a major requirement or elective while also fulfilling the university requirement.
- A course in the major might also count as fulfilling a GE area, and thus “double count.” (The course does not need to actually be added to GE, but would have to be approved by the GE Committee and only students in that major could use the course to count for that area of GE).
- W courses from any Department might be added into GE, allowing students in any major to double count an upper division GE course and the W requirement
- An upper division GE course in the major that is also a W course may “triple count” (one course fulfills 9 units worth of requirements, though the student only satisfies 3 units in his/her 120 unit total)
- A course in GE (excluding area F and D1), the W course requirement, or the MI requirement is waived for the major. This is the solution of last resort.