



CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

December 7, 2020

TO: Dr. Joseph Castro  
President

Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval  
Provost

FROM: Dr. Thomas Holyoke  
Chair, Academic Senate

RE: Implementation of the Ethnic Studies GE Requirement

In accordance with Executive Order 1100, the Academic Senate, by a vote of ## to ##, 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, the addition of Area F in GE, and consequently the re-assignment of PLSI 2 to be a separate 3 unit graduation requirement, makes it impossible for students to graduate at 120 credit units. These high unit majors will be required to work with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Dean of Undergraduate Studies to find ways to reduce their major by 3-units without negatively impacting the major. These academic

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programs have the right to devise and propose their own solutions to the need to reduce 3 units, though these solutions (like all curriculum changes) may require the approval of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. These modifications should also not adversely impact academic programs relying on courses in GE or in MI or other graduation requirements any more than is absolutely necessary. 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:

- 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.