

February 3, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: CSU Presidents

FROM: Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D. 
Executive Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: ASCSU Recommended Implementation of a California State University (CSU) Ethnic Studies Requirement

The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) on Friday, January 25, 2020 passed Resolution AS-3403-20/AA, which calls upon the CSU to establish an ethnic studies requirement for CSU bachelor's degree graduates. The Chancellor's Office is pleased to share the enclosed ASCSU resolution and to initiate the first phase of a multi-step process of systemwide consultation on this recommendation.

We appreciate the work of the ASCSU to promote matters of diversity, equity and inclusive excellence. As we engage in shared governance in the systemwide consultation on these recommendations, we ask that you assess how your existing campus-based cultural diversity requirements would be impacted by an ethnic studies requirement. As you discuss and report your feedback, please consider and provide your written reflections on the three general ASCSU recommendations using the attached feedback form. The form also includes an additional section to indicate potential campus impacts of the recommendations.

A. Five ethnic studies student learning outcomes

Each campus shall include and address the following ethnic studies student learning outcomes in the General Education curriculum. Upon completing their ethnic studies requirement, students will be able to:

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

1. Analyze and articulate core concepts of ethnic studies, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, racialization, equity, ethno-centrism, Eurocentrism, and white supremacy;
2. Apply theory to describe critical events in the histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions of communities of color with a particular emphasis on agency and self-affirmation;
3. Describe the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, and/or age;
4. Describe how resistance, social justice, and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues (communal, national, and international); and
5. Demonstrate active engagement with issues of race and ethnicity to build diverse, just, and equitable communities beyond the classroom.

B. A 3-unit requirement at the lower division and an upper-division “reflective element” requirement

1. The primary ethnic studies requirement is a minimum 3 semester unit course or course overlay as part of lower division GE (ethnic studies outcomes 1-5 as a requirement of lower division GE). This primary requirement will start in the 2023-24 academic year.
2. The secondary ethnic studies requirement is a reflective element (reinforcing any two of ethnic studies outcomes 2-5) in the upper-division.³ This secondary requirement will start in the 2027-28 academic year.

C. Evaluation of courses by Ethnic Studies faculty

That the ASCSU endorses a requirement that CSU campus approval and review processes explicitly include evaluation by ethnic studies faculty and subject matter experts.

By February 28, 2020, we ask for campus feedback, including an analysis of potential campus impacts. We have attached a form for the campus to use to submit feedback. Campus responses may be submitted separately by the campus faculty senate, associated student government and by the administration, or through a single, comprehensive campus submission inclusive of these groups. Please send your response in a Microsoft Word document to esfeedback@calstate.edu. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs, Innovations and Faculty Development. Alison may be reached at awrynn@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4672.

LJB/amw

Enclosures

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cc: CSU Trustees
Academic Senate CSU
CSU Campus Faculty Senate Chairs
CSU Associated Students, Campus Presidents
California State Student Association
CSU Chancellor's Office Executive Staff
CSU Provosts and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
CSU Vice Presidents for Student Affairs