

Gary W. Reichard

**CODED MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** April 16, 2008

**TO:** Presidents

**FROM:** Gary W. Reichard   
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

**SUBJECT:** Second Baccalaureate Degrees: Students Enrolled in BS Nursing Programs

The California State University shares the state's dedication to expanding, through many means, the number of nurses in California who have completed baccalaureate nursing degree programs. I write with special reference to students who already possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited college or university and who subsequently seek a California State University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Campuses offering BSN programs to such students are strongly encouraged to apply existing CSU policy and Title 5 regulations in such a way as to facilitate the efficient and timely progression of these students to their CSU BSN degree objectives.

The CSU, in recognition of previously earned, accredited baccalaureate degrees, grants authority to presidents or their designees to waive for postbaccalaureate BSN students additional CSU General Education-Breadth and U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals requirements. Relevant policy includes but is not necessarily limited to: Title 5 sections 40403.c, 40404, 40405.3, 40405.4, 40408, 40501 and Executive Order 595 section VI.A-B. Relevant language includes the following:

**Title 5 sections**

**40403. Required Residence**

(b) Extension credit or credit by evaluation shall not be used to fulfill any requirement prescribed by this section; provided, however, that the Chancellor may designate specified extension courses that may be offered for residence credit and may establish policies and procedures under which residence credit may be earned by evaluation.

(c) When the circumstances of an individual case make it appropriate, the appropriate campus authority may authorize the substitution of credit earned at other campuses or institutions for residence credit.

**40404. Requirements in United States History, Constitution and American Ideals.**

...To qualify for graduation each student shall demonstrate competence by completing courses in the foregoing fields or by passing comprehensive examinations in those fields. Students transferring from other accredited institutions of collegiate grade, who have been certified by such institutions as meeting these requirements, shall not be required to take further courses or examinations therein. The Chancellor may institute such guidelines as may be appropriate for the administration of this section.

**40405.3 Lower Division General Education Reciprocity Between the California State University and the University of California**

(a) The Chancellor may enter into a formal agreement of reciprocity for lower division general education requirements between the California State University and the University of California. Pursuant to such an agreement, students transferring to the California State University from campuses of the University of California may satisfy California State University general education-breadth requirements for the bachelor's degree through satisfactory completion of all lower division general education requirements of a University of California campus and of a minimum of 9 semester units or 12 quarter units of upper division general education coursework at the California State University campus granting the degree. Upper division general education requirements shall be taken no sooner than the term in which the candidate achieves upper division status.

(b) If the chancellor or an officially authorized representative of a University of California campus certifies that a student has completed that campus's lower division general education program, California State University campuses shall accept that certification as meeting all of the lower division general requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

**40405.4. Procedures for Implementing Programs to Meet General Education Requirements.**

(a) The Chancellor shall establish procedures to implement the objectives and requirements of Section 40405.1-40405.3, including provision for exceptions in individual cases of demonstrable hardship, and including periodic review of the extent to which the objectives and requirement are being met.

(b) The Chancellor may grant exceptions to the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 40405.1 for high unit professional degree major programs on a program-by-program basis.

**40408. Credit Based on Examination.**

Unit credit toward the degree may be secured by passing an examination given or approved by the appropriate campus authority in courses offered by the campus and for which credit has not otherwise been allowed.

**40501. Bachelor of Science Degree: Required Curriculum.**

To be eligible for the Bachelor of Science degree, the candidate shall have completed the following requirements:

(a) General Education-Breadth Requirements. The courses in General Education-Breadth Requirements shall be distributed in the manner prescribed in Sections 40405-40405.4.

(b) Major 36 semester units. There shall be one major with a minimum of 36 semester units. At least 18 semester units in this major shall be upper division courses or their equivalent. The maximum number of units shall be determined by the campus.

**CSU Policy**

**EO 595 General Education-Breadth Requirements**

VI. Exceptions to the foregoing requirements may be authorized only under the following circumstances:

- A. In the case of an individual student, the campus may grant a partial waiver of one or more of the particular requirements of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 40405.1, to avoid demonstrable hardship, such as the need to extend the time required for completion of the degree in the case of a senior level transfer student.
- B. In the case of high-unit professional major degree programs, the Chancellor may grant exceptions to one or more requirements for students completing the particular program. Such exceptions must be considered at the campus level prior to initiating the request. A full academic justification shall be submitted to the [Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer] who shall submit his or her recommendation and that submitted by campus president, along with all relevant documents, to the Chancellor.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Christine Hanson at (562) 951-4672 or [chanson@calstate.edu](mailto:chanson@calstate.edu).

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