COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Recommended Changes to Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Related to Baccalaureate Degrees Earned in Postbaccalaureate Standing

Presentation By

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Summary

This item presents two recommended changes to Title 5, both of which intend to serve students, the university, the workforce, and the state, in cases in which students who have previously earned a bachelor’s degree are pursuing a subsequent bachelor’s degree. Under current policy, those students are required to fulfill all CSU General Education (GE)-Breadth requirements, as specified in Title 5 section 40405.1. Additionally, these bachelor’s students in postbaccalaureate standing are required to complete the Title 5 section 40404 requirements in United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals; and they may be held to campus-specific required courses.

The first recommendation limits the degree requirements for “second baccalaureate” students to only those requirements in the major degree program. The language of this proposed new Title 5 is drawn from Education Code 66055.8, which prohibits postbaccalaureate students in Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs from being required to complete courses other than those required for the nursing major program. The second recommendation would impose a similar limitation, this one specific to the systemwide general education requirements established in Title 5 section 40405.1.

In both cases, the proposed changes are based on the assumption that such a previously earned bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution (or equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the appropriate campus authority) would represent a breadth of instruction that is acceptable nationally as appropriate for baccalaureate preparation. The proposed changes will reduce
instructional redundancy and free up valuable GE enrollment opportunities for students pursuing a first bachelor’s degree. The streamlining resulting from this change will allow students to complete CSU baccalaureate programs in reduced time, making the university more responsive to a changing workforce that seeks professional re-training through second (or subsequent) bachelor’s degree programs.

An agenda item will be presented at the July meeting to take action to adopt the following recommended changes to Title 5.
Section 40509 – Baccalaureate Degrees Completed in Postbaccalaureate Standing

A campus of the California State University shall not require a student who has been admitted to a baccalaureate degree program to undertake courses other than those that are specifically required to complete the current major within the degree program if:

(a) The student has previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association; or

(b) The student has completed equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the appropriate campus authority.

Section No. 40405.1—California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

(a) Each recipient of the bachelor's degree completing the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements pursuant to this subdivision (a) shall have completed a program that includes a minimum of 48 semester units or 72 quarter units of which nine semester units or 12 quarter units shall be upper-division level and shall be taken no sooner than the term in which the candidate achieves upper-division status. At least nine of the 48 semester units or 12 of the 72 quarter units shall be earned at the campus granting the degree. The 48 semester units or 72 quarter units shall be distributed as follows:

(1) A minimum of nine semester units or 12 quarter units in communication in the English language, to include both oral communication and written communication, and in critical thinking, to include consideration of common fallacies in reasoning.

(2) A minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units to include inquiry into the physical universe and its life forms, with some immediate participation in laboratory activity, and into mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning and their applications.

(3) A minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units among the arts, literature, philosophy and foreign languages.

(4) A minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units dealing with human social, political, and economic institutions and behavior and their historical background.

(5) A minimum of three semester units or four quarter units in study designed to equip human beings for lifelong understanding and development of themselves as integrated physiological, social and psychological entities.

The specification of numbers of units implies the right of discretion on each campus to adjust reasonably the proportions among the categories in order that the conjunction of campus courses, credit-unit configurations and these requirements will not unduly exceed any of the prescribed semester or quarter unit minima. However, the total number of units in General Education-Breadth accepted for the bachelor's degree under the provisions of this subdivision (a) should not be less than 48 semester units or 72 quarter units.
(b) The president or an officially authorized representative of a college which is accredited in a manner stated in Section 40601 (d) (1) may certify the extent to which the requirements of subdivision (a) of this section have been met up to a maximum of 39 semester units (or 58 quarter units). Such certification shall be in terms of explicit objectives and procedures issued by the Chancellor.

(c) In the case of a baccalaureate degree being pursued by a postbaccalaureate student, the requirements of this section shall be satisfied if:
(1) The student has previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association; or
(2) The student has completed equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the appropriate campus authority.