

Procedures for Fast-Track Degree Programs

The original policy is available at http://www.calstate.edu/app/documents/Fast_Track_Pilot_Programs.pdf

Fast-Track: Combined Projection and Proposal

In the traditional proposal process, a campus must submit for Trustee approval a proposed degree projection on the campus academic plan; and subsequent to Trustee approval of the projection, the campus may begin developing a degree proposal that will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for system-level review and approval. In the traditional process, proposals are to be submitted in the academic year preceding planned implementation.

As adopted by the Board in July 1997, the fast-track process shortens the time to implementation by allowing proposals to be submitted at the same time that the projection is proposed to the Trustees. Fast-track proposals still undergo system-level review, and the fast track does not move the proposal through an expedited review process.

Fast-Track Criteria

To be proposed via fast-track, a degree program must meet all of the following six criteria:

1. The proposed program could be offered at a high level of quality by the campus within the campus's existing resource base, or there is a demonstrated capacity to fund the program on a self-support basis.
2. The proposed program is not subject to specialized accreditation by an agency that is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors, or it is currently offered as an option or concentration that is already recognized and accredited by an appropriate specialized accrediting agency.
3. The proposed program can be adequately housed without a major capital outlay project.
4. It is consistent with all existing state and federal law and Trustee policy.

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5. It is either a bachelor's or master's degree program.
6. The proposed program has been subject to a thorough campus review and approval process.

Fast-Track Timeline

Two deadlines: The first Monday in January—for July approval
The second Monday in June—for December approval

We expect that fast-track proposals that are submitted to the Chancellor's Office, Office of Academic Planning, by the first Monday in January and that raise no major issues can be acted on by the Board of Trustees in March, sent through system-level review, and could receive Chancellor's Office approval in July.

Those proposals that are submitted by the second Monday in June and raise no major issues can be acted on by the Board of Trustees in September, sent through system-level review, and could receive Chancellor's Office approval in December.

Submitting Fast-Track Proposals

When submitting an update to the campus academic plan, please note any fast-track degree proposals and include a very brief description of the program and a rationale for offering it through the fast-track process.

Please use the traditional degree proposal template, available on the APP Web at:
http://www.calstate.edu/app/documents/Proposal_Format.doc

Please direct questions to Dr. Christine Hanson at (562) 951-4672 or app@calstate.edu

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