

Procedures for Pilot Degree Programs

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

The Pilot Degree Program Proposal Process

In support of the CSU tradition of experimentation in the planning and offering of degree programs, Trustee policy established in July 1997 that a limited number of proposals that meet fast-track criteria may be implemented as 5-year “pilot programs” without prior review and comment by the Chancellor or CPEC.

Pilot-Program Criteria

Pilot degree programs 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.
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.

Pilot Program Implementation Procedures

1. Prior to implementation, the campus is obligated to (1) notify the Chancellor’s Office of plans to establish the program, (2) to provide a program description and list of curricular requirements, and (3) to confirm that each of the six pilot criteria apply to the pilot program.

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2. While Chancellor's Office approval is not required, a pilot-program must be acknowledged by the Chancellor's Office before the program is implemented.
3. A campus may implement a pilot program without first proposing the projection on the campus Academic Plan. In such cases, the program will be identified as a pilot program in the next annual update of the campus Academic Plan.
4. The CSU Chancellor's Office will notify CPEC.

Pilot Operational Policy

1. A pilot program is authorized to operate only for five years.
2. If no further action is taken by the end of the five years, no new students can be admitted to the pilot program.
3. The campus is obliged to make appropriate arrangements for students already enrolled to complete the program.

Pilot Conversion Procedures

For the program to continue beyond the five-year limit, the campus must propose to the Chancellor's Office converting the program from pilot to regular status. A pilot program could be converted to regular-program status and approved to continue to operate indefinitely if the following conditions are met:

1. The campus committed the resources necessary to maintain the program beyond five years;
2. A thorough program evaluation (including an on-site review by one or more experts in the field) showed the program to be of high quality; to be attractive to students; and to produce graduates attractive to prospective employers and/or graduate programs, as appropriate;
3. Approval by the Board and the Chancellor is required after review and comment by the Chancellor's Office, and, as appropriate, by CPEC.

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

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