

MODIFY AN EXISTING PROGRAM

Change the CSU Degree Designation

DEGREE DISTINCTIONS

California Education Code Title 5 provides the only mandated distinction between bachelor's degrees, focusing on number of units as follows:

- **Bachelor of Arts**: 24 semester units in the major with 12 units as upper-division units;
- **Bachelor of Science**: 36 semester units in the major with 18 units as upper-division units.

There are no statewide policies that address a distinction between master's degrees.

The rationale for changing a degree designation should refer to campus policy differentiating degrees, e.g., BA and BS, MA and MS, if the campus has such a policy. While there is no prescribed format for the rationale of the proposed change, the narrative may address, e.g., disciplinary convention, accreditation standards, recruitment issues, employer concerns, degree designations used at other CSU campuses or other public or private institutions across the country. For further guidance, WASC provides a [Degree Definitions Guide](#).

The Master Plan and longstanding Trustee policy discourage the proliferation of degree designations and degree terminology, and proposals to change degree distinctions are evaluated carefully.

Changes in degree designation do not require prior Trustee approval, but they are included in the next campus Academic Plan sent to the Board of Trustees.

PROCEDURE

To propose a change to a degree designation, submit the following required information to Academic Programs at degrees@calstate.edu:

1. evidence that all necessary campus approvals have been obtained;
2. rationale for the proposed change;
3. anticipated term of implementation;
4. program description, goals and student learning outcomes;
5. degree program roadmap
 - a. For bachelor's degree programs: both 4-year and 2-year transfer major and subprogram roadmaps, which includes GE/breadth requirements;
 - b. For Master's degree programs: a roadmap showing the suggested coursework and capstone experience(s) that students should complete each term.