

Trustee and System Academic Planning Policies

The following Trustee Guidelines regarding program development have guided CSU planning since the 1960s. In addition, program development in some areas (e.g., engineering), is limited or guided by Title 5, system-level policy or professional accreditation.

Subject: from *State University Administrative Manual* - Section VII, 9100.1

Approved Academic Master Plan

The Board of Trustees (BOT) has adopted [planning policies](#) designed to promote orderly curricular development, guide the distribution of programs in the system and facilitate the progress of each campus in fulfilling the mission of the CSU as expressed in the statewide master plan for higher education. These policies, first published in the *1963 Master Plan for the California State Colleges*, are still in effect and are summarized below:

- Curricula are to reflect the needs of students and of the state.
- The foundation program for each campus in the system consists of the liberal arts and sciences, business administration and education. (These are board-specified subject areas that are regarded as the “Broad Foundation Program.”)
- Programs in applied fields and professions other than those listed above are to be allocated within the system on the basis of (1) needs of the state, (2) needs of the campus service area and (3) identification of employment opportunities.
- “All campuses cannot be all things to all people.” Curricula in the applied fields and professions are therefore to be located in a systemwide pattern that will achieve an equitable and educationally sound distribution of programs throughout the state.
- Although many campuses may wish to offer the same programs, the trustees exercise great selectivity in final approval of new curricula.
- Specialized, high-cost programs are to be allocated on the basis of review and study of the individual subject area and approved Campus Physical Master Plans.
- Subsequent policies adopted by the board include the following:
 - Degree programs are to be broadly based and of high academic quality.
 - Unnecessary proliferation of degrees and terminologies is to be avoided.
 - A formal review of existing curricula is to be conducted by each campus as part of the overall planning process.
 - The Academic Master Plans serve as the basis for campus master planning of facilities.
 - The ability to accommodate the latest instructional technology will be included in the planning for construction of all new and renovated instructional buildings.