
Chapter VI: California State University

A. Introduction

The California State University (CSU) has policies and procedures in place to facilitate the movement of approximately 48,000 California Community College transfer students into the CSU annually. For every new freshman, two new transfer students enroll in the CSU, three-quarters of whom come from California Community Colleges. The compatibility of CSU lower-division requirements and courses offered in California Community Colleges facilitates the smooth transition of students between the two segments, saving students time and money. It is important that students intending to transfer are assured that normal progress toward a baccalaureate degree may be made while attending a community college.

Courses Acceptable for Baccalaureate Credit

Community colleges and other regionally accredited institutions have the responsibility for designating those courses on their campuses that have been developed and are recommended by the faculty as appropriate for baccalaureate level credit and thus transferable to a CSU campus. Transferable courses, also referred to as baccalaureate-level courses, must be accepted by any CSU campus for elective credit, as established by CSU Executive Order 167. (See Appendix M). The Academic Senate of the California State University adopted in 1987 a document on considerations involved in determining what constitutes a baccalaureate-level course. (See Appendix D).

General Education-Breadth Requirements

The current CSU General Education-Breadth requirements were adopted in 1981. Policies and procedures for development and implementation of the program are detailed in CSU Executive Order 595. (See Appendix N). Each CSU campus is responsible for developing the campus program within the established framework. Executive Order 595 allows other regionally accredited colleges and universities, primarily community colleges, to "certify" completion of General Education-Breadth requirements, using courses that have been accepted for inclusion on the college's CSU General Education-Breadth list.. Transfer students who are fully certified are not subject to CSU-campus-specific lower-division General Education-Breadth requirements, so it is advantageous for students who cannot be sure to which CSU campus they will transfer. Of the minimum total of 48 semester units required for General Education-Breadth, no more than 39 semester units may be certified for a student. Colleges may propose that courses be added to their certification lists in an annual update process. Responsibility for accepting courses for addition to certification lists rests with a CSU-CCC faculty panel.

Alternatively, community college students may fulfill lower-division general education requirements by completing the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).

United States History Constitution and American Ideals Requirement

Executive Order 405 (Appendix O), published in 1982, outlines graduation requirements for the CSU in United States History, Constitution, and American Ideals. It established guidelines for the administration of Section 40404 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations, by prescribing the minimum subject matter elements to be included in courses or examinations designated as meeting the requirements. This executive order also describes requirements and procedures whereby other accredited institutions may certify that the requirements of Section 40404 have been satisfied. Many students take courses that simultaneously satisfy the "American Institutions" requirement and can be used as partial fulfillment of the CSU General Education-Breadth requirements. Courses used to certify completion of the American Institutions requirement cannot be applied toward completion of IGETC.

Course-to-Course Agreements

This kind of agreement lists alphabetically individual courses, or sequences of courses, at a "sending" institution that are acceptable in lieu of another course, or sequence of courses, at a "receiving" CSU campus. Responsibility for producing Course-to-Course Agreements rests with the individual CSU campus. (See Appendix K).

Major Preparation Agreements

This kind of agreement identifies coursework (usually lower-division) at a "sending" institution that is acceptable in lieu of requirements in a specific major or department at a "receiving" CSU campus. Responsibility for producing Major Preparation Agreements rests with the individual CSU campus.

B. Systemwide Articulation

CSU Chancellor's Office

The CSU Office of the Chancellor is responsible for the on-going review for compliance with all CSU executive orders, including 167, 405, and 595. The Executive Vice Chancellor/Chief Academic Officer and supporting staff monitor implementation of general education and American Institutions policies and procedures, in consultation with the CSU General Education Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of CSU faculty members, campus and system administrators, and representatives of the California State Student Association, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. A CSU articulation officer and a CCC articulation officer are liaison members of the committee.

C. Campus Articulation

Policies and procedures for developing and maintaining campus-specific General Education/Breadth, Course-to-Course, and Lower-Division Major Preparation agreements vary at each CSU Campus. A listing of the name of each campus Articulation Officer/Coordinator is available in the CIAC Directory, at: <http://enrollment.csusb.edu/articulation/ciac>. Contact these individuals directly regarding articulation questions, proposals, and procedures.

General Model of CSU Articulation Process

