

Adopted: March 14, 2017

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-825-17**

**RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR MASTERS DEGREES**

- 1 WHEREAS, On March 20-21, 2014 the Academic Senate of the California State University  
2 passed AS-3171-14/AA, “Resolution on Academic Standards for Master’s Degrees,”  
3 which recommended that the percentage of courses “designed primarily for graduate  
4 study” be increased from 50% to 60% of the units required for the graduate degree; and  
5
- 6 WHEREAS, AS-3171-14/AA also recommended that the CSU campuses consider adopting policies  
7 determining whether a course is “designed primarily for graduate study”; therefore be it  
8
- 9 RESOLVED: That a graduate course be defined as a course designed primarily for graduate study  
10 following the guidelines proposed in EP&R 82-39, coded memo on “Definitions of  
11 Graduate Level Instruction,” dated August 12, 1982; and be it further  
12
- 13 RESOLVED: That a graduate course be further defined as a stand-alone course at the graduate level  
14 (i.e. not scheduled to meet at the same time, or in the same place as an undergraduate or  
15 teaching credential course with the exception of service courses which, if they were to be  
16 taught within the student’s home department, would typically receive graduate credit);  
17 and be it further  
18
- 19 RESOLVED: That the requirement for the number of units designed for graduate study be elevated  
20 from 50% to 60% of the units required for the degree; and be it further  
21
- 22 RESOLVED: That these requirements be implemented by all graduate programs no later than the 2019-  
23 21 Cal Poly Catalog cycle.  
24

Proposed by: Richard Savage, Dean of Graduate Education  
Date: November 11, 2016  
Revised: March 8, 2017  
Revised: March 13, 2017

# MEMORANDUM

Cal Poly | Office of the President

RECEIVED

APR 17 2017



## ACADEMIC SENATE

**To:** Gary Laver  
Chair, Academic Senate

**Date:** April 13, 2017

**From:** Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

**Copies:** K. Enz Finken  
M. Pedersen  
B. Tietje  
R. Savage  
C. Sunata

**Subject:** Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-825-17  
Resolution on Academic Standards for Master's Degree

---

I am pleased to acknowledge and approve the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution. The changes outlined in this resolution significantly strengthen the academic rigor of our master's degree programs and brings Cal Poly into alignment with other CSU graduate program requirements.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members for their attention to this important matter.