

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

**AS-905-20**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AB1460/ EDUCATION  
CODE 89032 (THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) ETHNIC STUDIES  
UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT) IN GENERAL EDUCATION  
(TITLE V)**

- 1 WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom signed California Assembly Bill 1460 (AB1460) on  
2 August 17, 2020 and,  
3
- 4 WHEREAS, being added to the Education Code SEC. 2. Section 89032, AB 1460 reads, in  
5 Section 1 (b): “Ethnic studies are an interdisciplinary and comparative study of  
6 race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core  
7 groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and  
8 Latino Americans”  
9
- 10 WHEREAS, AB 1460 reads in Section 2 (b): “Commencing with the 2020-2021 academic  
11 year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic studies at  
12 each of its campuses,”  
13
- 14 WHEREAS, Section 2 (c) of AB1460 reads: “The California State University shall collaborate  
15 with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic  
16 Senate of the California State University to develop the core competencies to be  
17 achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to  
18 implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve  
19 the core competencies before commencement of the 2020-2021 academic year”  
20
- 21 WHEREAS, AB1460 Section 2 (d) reads: “Commencing with students graduating in the 2024-  
22 2025 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an  
23 undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-  
24 unit course in ethnic studies,”  
25
- 26 WHEREAS, the California State University’s Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ dated  
27 9/29/2020) on the CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement distinguishes between a  
28 “university graduation requirement” and a “General Education requirement,”  
29
- 30 WHEREAS, the California State University’s Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) notes:  
31 “Graduation requirements are a broader category than GE requirements,”  
32

33 WHEREAS, AB1460 specifically requires an “undergraduate graduation requirement” in  
34 Section 2 (d),  
35 WHEREAS, AB 1460 does not specify that the Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement be a  
36 General Education requirement; and  
37  
38 WHEREAS, the CSU Chancellor’s Office noted that Diversity and/or Ethnic Studies  
39 requirements should be carried out as campus-based university requirements in  
40 their Executive Order 1100 FAQ in response to a CSU Webinar on September 29,  
41 2017, and  
42  
43 WHEREAS, the Council on Ethnic Studies represents the CSU faculty experts on Ethnic  
44 Studies and oppose implementation of Education Code 89032/AB 1460 in  
45 General Education; and be it further  
46  
47 RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of the California Polytechnic State University reaffirm  
48 the importance and need for faculty control of the curriculum; and be it further  
49  
50 RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of the California Polytechnic State University request  
51 that the California State University Chancellor and Board of Trustees rescind their  
52 modification to Title V General Education changes from Summer 2020; and be it  
53 further  
54  
55 RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of the California Polytechnic State University reaffirms  
56 the position that the Ethnic Studies requirement shall be fulfilled as a campus-  
57 based university graduation requirement.

Proposed by: Cal Poly Ethnic Studies Requirement  
Working Group

Date: November 3, 2020

## Assembly Bill No. 1460

### CHAPTER 32

An act to add Section 89032 to the Education Code, relating to the California State University.

[Approved by Governor August 17, 2020. Filed with Secretary of State August 17, 2020.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1460, Weber. California State University: graduation requirement: ethnic studies.

Existing law establishes the California State University and its various campuses under the administration of the Board of Trustees of the California State University. Existing law requires the trustees to adopt rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of this state for the governance of the trustees, their appointees and employees, and the California State University. Existing regulations require students of the California State University to complete courses in American history and American government or pass comprehensive examinations in those fields in order to graduate, with specified requirements and exceptions.

This bill, commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, would require the California State University to provide for courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses. The bill, commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, would require the California State University to require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one 3-unit course in ethnic studies, as specified.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Ethnic studies programs have come about from students of color demanding them. On November 6, 1968, a coalition of student groups at San Francisco State University demanded that the university institute an ethnic studies program.

(b) Ethnic studies are an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans.

(c) Studies have found that both students of color and white students benefit academically as well as socially from taking ethnic studies courses. Ethnic studies courses play an important role in building an inclusive multicultural democracy.

(d) A report of the California State University Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies, commissioned by the Chancellor's office, recommended that ethnic studies become a general education requirement throughout the California State University system.

SEC. 2. Section 89032 is added to the Education Code, to read:

89032. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that students of the California State University acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens.

(b) Commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses.

(c) The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2021–22 academic year.

(d) Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement. This graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

(2) The student has completed an ethnic studies course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

## FAQ on EO 1100 Revised

The following list of commonly raised questions and Chancellor's Office responses is provided with the release of Executive Order 1100 Revised August 23, 2017. Questions have been received through the CSU webinar on September 29, 2017, as well as ongoing consultation and survey feedback from faculty, students and administrators. A summary of revisions made to EO 1100 Revised appears at the end of this document. All requirements refer exclusively to baccalaureate-level learning.

### Article 1. Applicability

#### 1. When do these changes take effect?

The policy is effective fall 2018 and applies to students enrolling in fall 2018 and subsequent terms who: (1) have not previously been enrolled continuously at a campus of the CSU or the California Community Colleges (CCC) and (2) who have not satisfied lower-division general education requirements according to the provisions of Title 5 Sections 40405.2 or 40405.3. Students subject to earlier catalog years may elect to change their catalog year and be subject to the new GE requirements as well as current major degree program requirements and campus graduation requirements.

#### 2. Can we delay implementation until fall 2019 to give us more time for the curricular changes we need to carry out?

It would be difficult to justify delaying the benefits afforded by these policy changes, which increase opportunities for student success and facilitate efficient degree completion. Student-supportive policy changes include:

- Intermediate Algebra is no longer required as the uniform prerequisite for all courses in CSU General Education Breadth Area B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning.
- Approved GE Area B4 courses may now include non-algebra intensive courses such as statistics pathways, statistics for majors, computer science and personal finance, for example.
- Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
- To facilitate efficient degree completion systemwide, 48 semester units<sup>1</sup> is set as both the minimum and maximum for total GE units. Stand-alone one-unit GE laboratory courses may increase the maximum to 49 units;
- To ensure efficient completion of lower-division certification and transfer from CCC campuses, coupled with efficient degree completion at the CSU, this policy clarifies that the nine units of upper-division GE courses are taught only in Areas B, C and D.

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<sup>1</sup> One semester unit is equivalent to 1.5 quarter units.

## Article 2. Fulfilling CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

### 3. Can California State Universities (CSU) certify GE completion (either complete certification or subject-area certification) in the same way the California Community Colleges (CCC) do?

Yes, policy now allows certification of lower-division GE Areas satisfactorily completed at any CSU campus. Such lower-division certification ensures that students shall not be held to any additional lower-division GE requirements, mirroring the certification process between CCC and CSU campuses. Upper-division GE courses completed at one CSU campus shall fulfill the same requirement at any other CSU campus and shall be applied toward the student's residency requirement.

### 4. What are "Golden Four" GE courses?

Courses in GE Subareas A1, (oral communication in the English language), A2 (written communication in the English language), A3 (critical thinking) and B4 (mathematics/quantitative reasoning) are sometimes referred to as the "Golden Four" or "Basic Skills" courses. They are required for transfer admission to the CSU, and each of the four courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C-, per Title 5 Section 40803.

### 5. Can a CSU campus that requires a minimum C grade for GE courses, other than the Golden Four, require a student to repeat a transferred GE course for which a C-, or lower, is earned?

No, satisfactory completion of a GE course on one campus shall be recognized as satisfied at any other CSU campus. However, if the course is also required for the major, and the major requires a higher minimum grade, the course shall satisfy the GE requirement but not the major requirement.

### 6. If the Golden Four require a minimum C- grade to satisfy CSU GE requirements, can students take those courses for Credit/No Credit?

GE policy does not prohibit students from satisfying the Golden Four requirements with a Credit grades as long as the "CR" represents a letter grade of C- or better. However, we recommend that students take these courses for a letter grade as some majors may require letter grades in all required courses.

### 7. Why are the upper-division GE units restricted to Areas B, C and D?

This clarification of existing requirements reflects the organization of 48 units of CSU GE Breadth, with 39 units in lower-division certification and the remaining 9 units left for upper-division completion. The upper- and lower-division units coordinate with the number of units required in Areas A through E, as shown in the following chart.

	Semester units required for transfer (ADT & full certification)	Semester units required for CSU GE Breadth	Semester units remaining after transfer
Area A	9	9	0
Area B	9	12	3
Area C	9	12	3
Area D	9	12	3
Area E	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>

Lower-division certification includes 9 lower-division semester units each in Areas A, B, C and D and 3 lower-division semester units in Area E, which totals 39 of the 48 units required. Following completion of the first 39 units at a CSU or community college, the remaining 9 semester units (of the total 48 GE units required) reside in Areas B, C and D—the only Areas that require a total of 12 units each—3 units each beyond lower-division certification. These 9 units coincide with the 9 semester-units of upper-division GE required at the CSU. (See Attachment A of EO 1100 Revised for an illustration of this distribution.)

**8. When should a CSU student take upper-division GE courses?**

In most cases, upper-division GE courses should be restricted to students who have completed 60 semester units or more. This protects the integrity of the increasing complexity of degree requirements, and it conserves upper-division courses for the graduating seniors whose degree completion could be slowed without access to required upper-division GE courses. At the same time, the CSU has committed to providing the courses students need, when they need them. There may be cases in which students with fewer than 60 units may need to enroll in an upper-division GE course to continue making full-time progress toward degree completion. At a minimum, students shall be required to have satisfactorily completed the Golden Four courses (written communication, oral communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning) before enrolling in upper-division GE courses.

**9. Are there software approaches to preventing a student from enrolling in upper-division GE courses without first having completed one course each in GE Areas A1, A2, A3 and B4?**

Yes, the campus Office of Admissions and Records or the Office of the Registrar could edit the prerequisites for upper-division GE courses to include the completion of courses in GE subareas A1, A2, A3 and B4. If additional assistance is required, you may contact Dr. April Grommo, Director of Enrollment Management Services, at 562-951-4726 or [agrommo@calstate.edu](mailto:agrommo@calstate.edu).

**10. Is “double counting” of GE courses required?**

Yes, campuses may no longer prohibit the double counting of GE requirements and other requirements. Major-required courses that are approved for GE credit, along with courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement. Campuses may not place limits on the number of GE courses students may take from any one department (including the department of the student’s major).

**11. Will the transfer of upper-division GE courses dilute CSU campus distinctiveness?**

No, historically this has not been the case because the transfer of upper-division students from one CSU to another is extremely rare. Of the 419,622 degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled in fall 2016, only 463, or .1%, had transferred from one CSU campus to another that fall. Essentially all students who graduate from a particular CSU campus have taken their 9 upper-division GE semester units at the home campus.

**12. If a campus has a service learning, GVAR or other all-campus requirement that is completed as part of GE, can the campus continue this practice?**

Campus-specific requirements such as service learning or cultural diversity may continue to double count or be specifically required within the defined distribution Area requirements. All campus GE programs must conform to the total 48 semester-unit GE program limit (or 49 semester units as described in Article

4 Area B). Total degree requirements cannot exceed 120 units (or the unit total approved by Chancellor White in 2014). A GWAR course cannot be required as part of GE because there is no upper-division Area A allowed in CSU policy.

**Clarification added to FAQ 4/20/18-** To further clarify, it is acceptable for a campus to overlay GWAR requirements with upper-division GE courses in Areas B, C or D.

**13. If a campus GE program requires a GE Area beyond those required in the EO, does the campus need to discontinue the additional campus-specific GE Area?**

Campuses have many options, including moving the courses from that extra GE Area into an existing GE Area, moving the courses out of GE entirely and double counting them as an overlay with GE requirements, reclassifying the courses as campus-specific graduation requirements apart from GE, or designating the courses as major requirements, among other possible strategies. Total degree requirements will need not to exceed 120 units (or the unit total approved by Chancellor White in 2014).

**Clarification added to FAQ 4/20/18-** For campuses planning GE Area variations, if the plans achieve the intent of the EO to ensure clarity, equity and streamlined graduation requirements, the Chancellor's Office has supported campus plans to vary from the prescribed GE Breadth Areas or Subareas if:

1. The course is an existing campus-wide graduation requirement (such as language other than English), is not an existing GE Area, and will be double counted within the discipline-appropriate EO 1100-R GE Area or campus-specific Subarea; or
2. The course is an existing Title 5 graduation requirement (such as American Institutions), and it will be double counted within the discipline-appropriate GE Area or campus-specific Subarea; or
3. For the purposes of directing students to take an upper-division course in satisfaction of the EO 1100-R requirements, campuses may add an upper-division Subarea in Areas B, C, and/or D. (See question #14 in the EO 1100-R FAQ, issued on August 23, 2017 and posted online as a living document).

Pre-EO 1100-R campus GE requirements that exceed the Areas or Subareas specified in the EO shall not be required in the campus GE program; however, such courses could be adopted as a campus graduation requirement. The total number of units in each distribution Area and in the total GE program shall not exceed the units specified in EO 1100-R. The Academic Senate CSU General Education Task Force, which began its work in March 2017, may pursue distribution requirements in their consideration of CSU General Education Breadth requirements.

**14. What sort of “reasonable adjustments,” as described in 2.2.5.d may a campus make to the required distribution Areas A-E?**

One example of a “reasonable adjustment” that a campus might make would be to break Area C into Subareas C1 for Arts, C2 for Humanities and C3 for Upper-Division Arts or Humanities. Students would be instructed to take 3 semester units each in C1, C2 and C3 with the 3 remaining Area C units to be taken in either C1 or C2 (as specified by the campus). This sort of adjustment could also be made in Area D.



**Clarification added to FAQ 4/20/18-** To further clarify, the example in the FAQ #14 answer was offered as a way of specifying to students and advisors that the nine units of upper-division GE are to be offered and satisfied only in Areas B, C [and D].

**15. Cultural diversity and ethnic studies courses are not specified in the CSU GE Breadth requirements. Does that mean the campuses have to eliminate these courses?**

No, campuses can retain their cultural diversity and ethnic studies courses, which can fit within the frameworks of EO 1100 Revised total GE Area limits and GE Area distribution limits. Almost all CSU campuses have been double counting their cultural diversity requirement with GE requirements, helping students to complete degree requirements efficiently. If there are questions about reconfiguring campus requirements, please contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, State University Associate Dean at 562 951-4602 or awrynn@calstate.edu.

**16. Does EO 1100-R supports campuses instituting additional GE Areas or Subareas?**

In keeping with intentions for the EO and with responses given during the spring and summer 2017 consultation, the policy was written to achieve a consistent CSU General Education Breadth structure. Further, systemwide consistency facilitates efficient transfer from community colleges and other CSU campuses, and ensures that freshmen and transfer students are held to the same GE requirements, giving them equitable opportunities for academic success.

### **Article 3. Premises of CSU General Education Breadth**

**17. Can a CSU campus refuse to accept a GE course from another CSU (or from a CCC or other regionally accredited institution) if the course was taught online?**

No, course modality is not to be considered when evaluating courses for transfer. GE requirements may be satisfied through courses taught in face-to-face, hybrid, or completely online modalities. Pursuant to California Education Code Section 66763, a course provided entirely online shall be accepted for credit at the student's home campus on the same basis as it would be for a student matriculated at the host campus.

### **Article 4. Subject Area Distribution**

**18. Can courses that meet the requirements of CSU GE Subarea B4 have a prerequisite?**

Yes, the new policy allows CSU faculty to specify the prerequisites relevant to each GE math or quantitative reasoning course.

Courses in Subarea B4 shall allow students to demonstrate the abilities to reason quantitatively, practice computational skills, and explain and apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to solve problems. Courses in this Subarea shall include a prerequisite reflective only of skills and knowledge required in the course. In practice, it will be important for students to be advised to take a Subarea B4 course that is appropriate for their major. For some majors, this will require a mathematics class such as calculus, which may have a mathematics prerequisite.

Courses meeting the GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement may include traditional mathematics (e.g., algebra, trigonometry and calculus) as well as statistics. Additionally, GE

math/quantitative reasoning options now may include—for example—personal finance, statistics for specific majors, or computer science, which may not be exclusively algebra based. The change allows students more flexibility in completing their bachelor's degrees, and more opportunities to apply mathematical and quantitative reasoning to the world around them.

**19. Can any LD GE courses have prerequisites? What about prerequisites for UD GE courses?**

Yes, as described above, the prerequisite shall be reflective only of skills and knowledge required in the course. For LD GE courses, this is typically understood to be completion of high school a-g requirements and admission to the CSU. For UD GE courses, campuses must require completion of the Golden 4 (see 2.2.3 of EO 1100 Revised) as a prerequisite. Campuses should ensure that there are course options within each GE category that do not have prerequisites (other than the condition that UD GE courses require the completion of the Golden 4).

**20. The Quantitative Reasoning Task Force (QRTF) recommended specific GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirements. Why are those not included in the revised policy?**

In defining the Subarea B4 requirement, the revised EO embraces the fundamental principles of the *QRTF Report* recommended definition, while keeping within the language conventions for EO 1100 Area definitions. The Academic Senate General Education Task Force (GETF) may discuss recommendations that fall outside the scope of this revision project (clarification, ensuring equity and facilitating efficient degree completion).

**21. Can our campus have 49 units of GE if we require a 4 semester-unit lecture-and-laboratory course? Can we require 49 units if we require a 3 semester-unit B1 or B2 science lecture course and a related stand-alone one-unit laboratory course?**

Yes, while it is expected that campuses could satisfy the laboratory experience requirement with a 3-unit lecture course with an integrated laboratory experience, campuses may require another one semester-unit for a laboratory experience (class). See Article 4, Area B of EO 1100 Revised for a full explanation.

**22. Why can't financial literacy or personal finance courses be taught in Area E?**

Personal finance courses that include a mathematical or quantitative foundation are eligible to be certified for Subarea B4. A personal finance course that is robust enough for Subarea B4 will not be broad enough for Area E. Removing personal finance courses from Area E will lessen potential confusion that would result if a campus offered some personal finance courses approved for Area E and others approved for Subarea B4.

**23. Can any GE course exceed the unit count required for a Subarea?**

Higher-unit GE courses may not be required, but GE courses bearing higher units may be allowed to satisfy GE Area or Subarea requirements. Major courses that double count toward satisfaction of a GE Subarea may carry a higher unit than the Subarea requires, but students need to be given the option of completing a lower-unit GE course. The most efficient path to degree completion may be through taking, for example, a 5-unit biology major course that also satisfies the B2 and B3 GE Subareas. Compared to taking the 5-unit biology major course and a separate 3-unit B2 GE course and 1-unit B3 GE course, the student who double counts the GE course with the major requirement would save four units.

**24. Does a co-requisite or stretch course that requires more than three units conflict with the Subarea A2 (Written Communication) and B4 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning) limits of three units each?**

There is no conflict because all students are required to complete a 3-unit A2 course and a 3-unit B4 course; but students may choose a higher-unit co-requisite version of those courses.

**25. Why are there no recommended outcomes for CSU GE Breadth Areas in EO 1100 Revised?**

Outcomes are not included in any CSU GE Area within the EOs on GE. Campuses may develop their own student learning outcomes for the CSU GE Breadth Areas and Subareas.

## **Article 5. Transfer and Articulation**

**26. What is an “eligible institution” for articulation?**

Any regionally accredited institution or international higher education institution legally authorized to deliver postsecondary instruction in their country is eligible for course articulation with CSU campuses.

**27. Can CSU campuses articulate GE courses with institutions other than CCCs?**

Yes. Article 5 “Transfer and Articulation” in the executive order refers to the annual CSU GE Breadth and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) review process that is shared among the CCC, CSU and University of California systems. CSU campuses may continue to articulate courses with all eligible institutions in the same manner they do now.

**28. Does the language in 5.5.2.1 “Limit on Certification on Total General Education Units,” mean that the CSU GE pattern MUST be completed in no more than 39 units (40 if a lab is included)?**

A student may complete more than 39 semester units of GE (40 with lab) for transfer. For example, if a student takes a 4-unit Statistics course for B4 and a 5-unit language course for C2 they are now at 42 units (or 43 with lab). The intent of the EO is that students who want to finish CSU GE Breadth in 39 units must be afforded the opportunity to do so. If, however, a student chooses to take higher unit courses for GE, whatever they take should count towards their transfer.

**29. Can a student transfer CCC courses to the CSU to meet upper-division GE requirements?**

No. According to Title 5 Section 40409(a), “No upper-division credit may be allowed for courses taken in a community college.”

**30. Can students transferring to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) be required to take additional lower-division GE courses?**

No, a student who transfers to the CSU with a CCC Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) is fully certified for 39 units of lower-division CSU GE and *cannot be held to additional lower-division GE requirements*. ADT transfer students are obligated to complete the nine semester units of upper-division GE courses that are part of the 60 CSU semester units required to complete the CSU degree.

**31. What is “GE for STEM” within ADTs?**

To accommodate the high number of lower-division major preparation courses required in some STEM majors, students pursuing certain ADTs may be eligible to take GE Breadth for STEM. This allows them to defer taking two lower-division GE courses (one in Area C and one in Area D) until after transfer. See Article 5.3.5 of EO 1100 Revised for details.

**32. Which exams may be used for GE course certification?**

Satisfactory scores on external examinations, like Advanced Placement, may be used to award GE credit and to certify satisfaction of GE Sub-areas. Coded memo [ASA-2017-13](#) provides the current list of GE units to be awarded for specified examination scores. The list is updated on an annual basis. In addition, course-based challenge exams completed at one CSU campus for a CSU GE course shall be recognized at all other CSU campuses. For more information concerning credit-by-examination policy, see [EO 1036](#) Systemwide Admission Eligibility and/or Baccalaureate Credit Awarded for External Examinations, Experiential Learning, and Instruction in Non-Collegiate Settings.

**Article 6. Implementation and Governance**

**33. Why are courses that have not been taught within a five-year period supposed to have GE status removed?**

Concerns have been raised that the number of GE course offerings on some CSU campuses is overwhelming to students, causing confusion when students try to select courses to satisfy GE requirements. The five-year period allows for regular campus review and adjustments.

**34. Are CSU campuses required to include students on the campus-wide GE committee?**

Yes, it is required to include students on campus GE committees. Additionally, administrators and other staff members may serve on campus GE committees. However, in all cases the majority of the committee membership shall remain instructional faculty.

**Need further assistance on EO 1100?**

Contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, State University Associate Dean, Academic Programs at 562-951-4603 or [awrynn@calstate.edu](mailto:awrynn@calstate.edu).

## Summary of Changes to EO 1100\*

Section	Revision
<b>2.1</b>	Changes the term “CSU GE pathways” to “CSU GE patterns.”
<b>2.2.1</b>	Sets the required semester units for GE Breadth at 48 as both a minimum and maximum, while allowing 49 semester units to reflect practice of requiring a 4 semester unit lecture/lab course or a 1 semester-unit lab course on some campuses. Required laboratory units have often not appeared in GE unit totals.
<b>2.2.2</b>	Establishes minimum C- grade requirements for oral communication, written communication, critical thinking and mathematics/quantitative reasoning, per Title 5.
<b>2.2.3</b>	Clarifies when students should enroll in upper-division GE courses.
<b>2.2.3 and 4</b>	Clarifies that the 9 semester units required at the upper division must be taken in Areas B, C, and D. Some campuses currently require upper-division GE in other areas, which can cause students to take more units than should be the case.
<b>2.2.4</b>	Requires that 9 semester units of upper-division GE shall be taken in the CSU.
<b>2.2.6.1</b>	Institutionalizes double counting for efficient degree completion. Major courses and campus-wide required courses that are approved for GE credit shall also fulfill (double count for) the GE requirement.
<b>2.2.6.2</b>	Campuses are encouraged to allow the double counting of the 6 semester units of American Institutions with GE Area D Social Science.
<b>2.2.1.c and 5.6.2.a</b>	Specifies binding completion. Once a GE requirement is satisfied, students shall not be required to satisfy it again, even if the student were to change campus or major.
<b>3.2</b>	Clarifies that GE courses may be taught in all modalities (e.g., face-to-face, online, and hybrid) formats.
<b>3.3</b>	Removes the long list of LEAP information, replaced with a link.
<b>(formerly 3.4 in previous EO version)</b>	Removes the section on entry-level skills and remediation, as this policy exclusively addresses general education and not admission or remediation requirements.
<b>4</b>	Removes the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite from math/quantitative reasoning Subarea B4 and adds language describing this requirement. Sample course titles are given as examples of the expanded vision for satisfying the mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirement.
<b>4</b>	Specifies additional appropriate course content for Area E (e.g., information literacy and student success strategies), while personal finance is removed from this Area.
<b>5.3.4</b>	Adds information regarding GE for students who earn ADTs.
<b>5.6</b>	Clarifies reciprocity among CSU campuses for GE courses.
<b>6.2.1.c.1</b>	Requires campuses to provide sufficient sections of GE Subarea A2 written communication and B4 mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses to support completion of these requirements within the first year of freshman enrollment.
<b>6.2.1.c.1</b>	Adds requirement to remove GE status for GE courses not offered within a five-year period.

\*This chart does not reflect all modifications. For example, stylistic changes, numbering changes and reorganization of elements do not appear in this chart.

**Attachment A**  
**Requirements for Lower- and Upper-Division**  
**California State University General Education Breadth**

GE Area	Lower-Division Semester Units	Upper-Division Semester Units	Total Semester Units* Required
<b>Area A English Language Communication and Critical Thinking</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
A1 Oral Communication			
A2 Written Communication			
A3 Critical Thinking			
<b>Area A total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Area B Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning</b>			
One course in each Subarea			
B1 Physical Science			
B2 Life Science			
B3 Laboratory Activity - associated with the course taken to satisfy either B1 or B2			
B4 Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning			
<b>Area B total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area C Arts and Humanities</b>			
At least one course in each Subarea			
C1 Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre			
C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English			
<b>Area C total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area D Social Sciences</b>			
<b>Area D total semester units required:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Area E Lifelong Learning and Self-Development</b>			
<b>Area E total semester units required:</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total GE Units Required</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>48</b>

**Note:**

Students who transfer to the CSU with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) or full CSU GE certification, have completed required 39 lower-division GE semester units. This includes 9 lower-division semester units each in Areas A, B, C and D, and 3 lower-division semester units in Area E. Their remaining required 9 semester units fall into CSU GE Areas B, C and D, and are to be taken at the upper-division level.

\*To determine unit requirements at quarter-based campuses, multiply the semester unit requirement by 1.5.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on AB 1460 (Ethnic Studies) and Education Code 89032**

### **Meeting the Mandate of AB 1460**

#### **How are the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU), campus-based senates, the CSU Ethnic Studies Council and the CSU Office of the Chancellor involved in the implementation process of AB 1460?**

The senates (system and campus) are the faculty bodies charged with curricular responsibilities.<sup>1</sup> Education Code 89032 (Section 2.c) requires that “The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section.” During its September 17-18, 2020 plenary, the ASCSU approved AS-3438-20/AA: *Recommended Core Competencies for Ethnic Studies: Response to California Education Code 89032c*, a resolution recommending to the Chancellor’s Office the acceptance of core competencies previously developed and approved by the Ethnic Studies Council.

The development of courses and decisions about their approval to meet this requirement will take place through campus curricular processes

#### **How has the CSU Ethnic Studies Council been involved in the implementation process of AB 1460?**

In fall 2019, the Ethnic Studies Council created an original draft of the ethnic studies core competencies. These were shared with the ASCSU, who circulated them to campus senates, then included them in resolution ([AS-3403-19/AA](#)) passed during its January 2020 plenary. The Ethnic Studies Council refined the original competencies contained in the ASCSU resolution and re-submitted them to the ASCSU during the September 2020 plenary of the ASCSU. The ASCSU hosted members of the Ethnic Studies Council Steering Committee at the September 16, 2020 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the ASCSU to finalize the core competencies required by this section of Education Code.

As required by Education Code 89032 (Section 2.c) the CSUCO is working with the ASCSU and the Ethnic Studies Council. The ASCSU is the recognized faculty body responsible for consultation on curriculum.

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<sup>1</sup>California’s Higher Education Employee-Employer Relations Act (HEERA) Section 3561 b states that while faculty are represented by the California Faculty Association for collective bargaining,

"The Legislature recognizes that joint decision-making and consultation between administration and faculty or academic employees is the long-accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and is essential to the performance of the educational missions of such institutions, and declares that it is the purpose of this act to both preserve and encourage that process. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to restrict, limit or prohibit the full exercise of the functions of the faculty in any shared governance mechanisms or practices including the Academic Senate of the University of California and the divisions thereof, the Academic Senates of the California State University, and other faculty councils, with respect to policies on academic and professional matters affecting the California State University, the University of California, or Hastings College of Law. The principle of peer review of appointment, promotion, and retention, and tenure for academic employees shall be preserved."



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The ASCSU reaffirmed its role as the appropriate body to consult with faculty disciplinary groups, such as the Ethnic Studies Council, most recently in resolution [AS-3421-20](#).

### **Have the three bodies named in AB 1460 approved the “core competencies”?**

Yes, the approvals can be found at the following links:

- [Council on Ethnic Studies, September 15, 2020](#)
- [Academic Senate California State University, ASCSU 3438-20/AA, September 17-18, 2020](#)
- [CSU Office of the Chancellor September 19, 2020](#)

### **What is the timeline for implementation?**

The law requires each CSU campus to offer courses in ethnic studies by the fall of 2021. Additionally, it requires that students graduating in 2024-25 and beyond shall have met the ethnic studies requirement. In order to meet campus curricular deadlines for the fall 2021 semester, so that students who enter the CSU as first-time freshmen in the fall of 2021, and students intent on transferring to the CSU who begin at the California Community Colleges (CCC) in fall 2021 are able to meet this new requirement, the CSU must move forward with updating Title 5 and the Executive Order on CSU GE Breadth this fall to allow the CSU and CCC campuses the opportunity to do their curricular work in shared governance.

### **What about faculty control of the curriculum?**

Faculty remain in charge of defining and delivering the curriculum. The CSU has consistently maintained that the development of degree program requirements and academic courses is the longstanding purview of duly elected faculty via campus-based senates and the ASCSU, not third-party entities or the state legislature.

The ASCSU and the Ethnic Studies Council, as described earlier, worked collaboratively to establish the core competencies for the ethnic studies requirement. As is called for in the law, once these competencies were approved by the Ethnic Studies Council, they were presented to the Academic Affairs Committee of the ASCSU. These competencies were included in a resolution that was approved by the ASCSU during their September 2020 plenary and then transmitted to the CSU Office of the Chancellor, which accepted these recommended core competencies. The next step in this shared governance process will be for faculty on each campus to revise their campus-based GE programs and approve courses to meet this new requirement based on the core competencies.

### **What are the core competencies for the ethnic studies requirement?**

The core competencies, developed and approved by the Ethnic Studies Council and approved by the ASCSU plenary on September 17, 2020, are listed below. They will be incorporated into the revised Executive Order on CSU GE Breadth, which will be available for campus review on or about October 1, 2020.

1. Analyze and articulate concepts of ethnic studies, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, racialization, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization and anti-racism.
2. Apply theory to describe critical events in the histories, cultures and intellectual traditions, with special focus on the lived-experiences and social struggles of one or more of the following four

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historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans and/or Asian Americans, and emphasizing agency and group-affirmation.

3. Critically discuss the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability and/or age.
4. Describe how struggle, resistance, social justice, solidarity and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues.
5. Demonstrate active engagement with anti-racist issues, practices and movements to build a diverse, just and equitable society beyond the classroom.

### **CSU General Education Breadth**

#### **Why is the new requirement in GE?**

The determination that this requirement would be housed in general education is based on several years of discussion. First, the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force Report, issued in 2016, recommended an ethnic studies section in CSU GE. Second, in the “Findings and Declarations” section of AB 1460, the author calls out the recommendation of the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force Report that ethnic studies be a CSU General Education requirement.

Finally, during her testimony before the California State Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 23, 2019, Assembly member Shirley Weber called for this requirement to be in General Education. On June 25, 2019, in her opening statement at a California State Senate Education Committee hearing, she once again referred to the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force, stating: “In 2016, the number one recommendation of that task force was to make ethnic studies a general education requirement throughout the CSU system. AB 1460 codifies the number one recommendation of the CSU task force report.”

#### **Why is the new ES requirement being placed in lower division?**

The requirement must be in the lower-division to assure that all students have taken the course and that it does not alter existing ADT and major requirements. By law, the CSU may not increase the units required for graduation. This is particularly pertinent to Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs). The CSU cannot add anything to the lower-division 60 units of ADTs that the California Community Colleges offer, unless it is inserted into CSU GE Breadth.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Can the requirement be met with an upper-division course?**

Yes, in certain circumstances it may be met with an upper-division course, but, in order to comply with AB 1460, all campuses must provide lower-division course options in ethnic studies for students. Any campus may offer upper-division courses that meet any lower-division requirement. Campuses should be cautious to not set extra requirements for transfer students. This means that students should not be

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<sup>2</sup> SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) of the Education Code, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440)

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required to meet a GE requirement twice. If a transfer or FTF student chooses to meet this requirement at the lower division, or does so as part of their ADT, they may not be required to do it again at the upper division.

### **Why are new three units for the new ES requirement being removed from “Area D” Social Science?**

The CSU Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requires the completion of 120 units, of which General Education comprises 48 units (39 lower-division units and nine upper-division units). To avoid increasing the total number of units in degree programs, the new three-unit requirement must be reallocated from another area of General Education.

Social Science (“Area D”) had the largest number of units available compared to all other lower-division areas of CSU GE. Although Area C (Arts and Humanities) also has 9 lower-division units, they are split. Three units must be in Arts, three must be in Humanities and the final three units may be in either Arts or Humanities, based on the student’s selection. The addition of a new three-unit ethnic studies requirement will still leave “Area D” with six lower-division units. Additionally, three of the upper-division GE units remain in Social Science.

In July 2020, the CSU Board of Trustees removed three units from lower-division “Area D” and created a new lower-division “Area F;” this is where the ethnic studies requirement will be housed.

### **Isn’t “Area D” already met by the two courses required for U.S. History and American Institutions? What will happen to departments that currently offer these courses in “Area D”?**

Including the U.S. History and American Institutions requirement in Area D is a campus-based decision. Executive Order 1061 does not require that the courses in United States History and American Institutions both be incorporated into CSU GE Breadth or only in “Area D.” On some CSU campuses United States History is in “Area C”.<sup>3</sup>

### **Will double-counting be allowed? Could a course fulfill the new Ethnic Studies requirement and also complete the American history requirement as specified in EO 1061?**

Yes, a course could meet both the “Area F” ethnic studies requirement and the United States History requirement by fulfilling the learning outcomes for both. However, if United States History meets an “Area D” requirement, the student would need to choose the GE area for credit (either F or D). The requirement in American history would be complete no matter which GE area the student selects.

### **Will courses with a focus outside of the United States count towards the “Area F” ethnic studies requirement?**

No, such courses are unlikely to meet the newly established core competencies. In the past, campuses have allowed courses about Asia, Central or South America or Africa to count as meeting their diversity requirement. For the new “Area F” ethnic studies requirement, only courses from the four core departments--that also meet ethnic studies learning outcomes--will meet the GE requirement.

### **What is the difference between a graduation requirement and a CSU General Education Breadth requirement?**

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<sup>3</sup> Title 5 § [40404](#), or [EO 1061](#) *Graduation Requirements in United States History, Constitution and American Ideals*

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Graduation requirements are a broader category than GE requirements. Graduation requirements include things such as the total number of units needed to complete the degree, the number of units required at the upper division, the completion of a specific set of courses for a major and the general education requirements.

Due to transfer requirements between the CCC and the CSU, there are some graduation requirements that are not required of all baccalaureate students at all campuses. For example, a graduation requirement outside of CSU GE Breadth would not be required as part of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and may not be required at another campus. The Title 5 requirement in U.S. History and American Institutions is not in Education Code, as this new Ethnic Studies requirement is, thus the level of flexibility for campuses to meet the requirements is different.

Additionally, including this requirement within GE sets it on the same level as other disciplinary requirements in CSU GE Breadth.

### **How will students who transfer from the California Community Colleges meet this new requirement?**

Beginning in fall 2021, students in the CCC will have courses available on their respective campus that meet CSU GE Area F. This will be possible due to the long-standing process by which we approve CCC courses for the various CSU GE categories (and also the US History and American Institutions courses).

Courses for this new Area F will become a part of this process. Courses will need to meet the same standards that CSU courses do to be approved for Area F.

### **Ethnic Studies**

#### **Is it true that courses included in the newly establish “Area F” of the GE curriculum must be offered by departments in ethnic studies?**

In general, yes, any courses in “Area F” will need to have an ethnic studies prefix (which usually means it is offered by an ethnic studies department), unless it is an approved, cross-listed course (see the next question for additional details). For example, a course offered by a Native American Studies department or program, that met the core competencies, would count as fulfilling this requirement. However, a course on indigenous people that a sociology department offered would not meet the requirement, unless it was an approved, cross-listed course (see the next question).

In the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force Report, as well as in the Findings and Declarations section of AB 1460 and within the newly created core competencies, ethnic studies is defined as “...the interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina/o Americans.” Courses that meet this requirement will need to meet the core competencies developed by the ASCSU and the Ethnic Studies Council. These competencies (outcomes) will appear in the revised executive order. These statewide core competencies will serve as guideposts for the campuses, which use them to tailor their specific SLOs to best serve their specific campus needs.

#### **Is cross listing of courses with non-ethnic studies departments allowed?**

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Yes. If a course is approved via traditional curricular processes for cross-listing (meaning both departments agree to this cross-listing) and the course meets the core competencies and is approved by the campus GE committee for Area F, then the course meets the requirements.

For example, if a course on the “History of African Americans in the United States” is cross-listed between the African American Studies Department and the History Department, and is approved for Area F, a student would receive credit for meeting Area F no matter which section of the course they took.

**Is it true that courses that meet the Area F Ethnic Studies General Education requirement can only be approved by ethnic studies faculty?**

No, general education is under the purview of all faculty on campus via the shared governance process.

The new Area F of CSU GE Breadth in Ethnic Studies is not a disciplinary requirement; it is a General Education (GE) requirement. No one category in GE is the domain of a single academic discipline (e.g., biology faculty do not solely determine courses for the “Area B2” in CSU GE). Although courses for this GE requirement will likely come from a limited number of departments, and will have structured learning outcomes systemwide (core competencies), the GE program is shaped at the campus level by faculty across disciplines in order to ensure the richest and most broad scholarly foundation for all students. This is accepted practice, not only in the CSU, but nationwide, and it has proven successful in encouraging students to explore new disciplines.

Please note, however, that CSU policy does not constrain campuses from including additional faculty in the GE or curriculum approval process.

### **General Questions**

#### **Who can teach these courses?**

The law is silent on personnel issues. Departments will utilize existing practices to identify and appoint faculty qualified to teach courses based on qualifications determined by the appropriate college and department. Campuses should consult their AVP for Faculty Affairs on this issue.