

August 31, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Provost/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs  
Vice Presidents for Student Affairs and/or Enrollment Management

FROM: Alison M. Wrynn, Ph.D.   
Associate Vice Chancellor  
Academic Programs, Innovations and Faculty Development  
Alison Wrynn (Aug 31, 2021 14:32 PDT)

Suzanne Phillips, Ed.D.   
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs and Enrollment Management  
Suzanne Phillips, Ed.D (Aug 31, 2021 14:58 PDT)

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for CSU General Education Policy and Transfer

With the passage of AB 1460 and related policy changes (Education Code 89032), [CSU General Education Policy](#) was revised to include a three-unit lower division Ethnic Studies course as a general education requirement. This memorandum provides additional guidance on campus implementation, particularly as it applies to students who transfer to the California State University (CSU) from one of the California Community Colleges (CCC). This guidance considers catalog rights, continuous and non-continuous enrollment and how the new general education policy will be implemented.

The new General Education policy is **effective fall 2021**. In general, any student who begins their academic work at either a CCC or CSU fall 2021 and beyond will be required to complete the new general education requirements.

Students who began at a CCC or CSU **prior to fall 2021, and maintained continuous enrollment**, will **not** be held to the Ethnic Studies requirement due to their pre-2021 catalog rights.

The following guidance applies to students who attended a CCC, stopped out and **did not maintain continuous enrollment**. If a transcript indicates completion of any of the following, the student is **NOT** required to complete a course in Ethnic Studies prior to graduation:

- Conferral of an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT)
- Fully CSU GE Breadth certified
- Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) certified

If a student stops out before completing any of the above mentioned academic milestones and is admitted to the CSU in fall 2021 or beyond, then they may lose catalog rights to a pre-2021 year and will be required to complete a course in Area F Ethnic Studies after transfer.

CSU campuses can expect to see CSU and IGETC general education certification that includes Area F Ethnic Studies as outlined below. This timeline is contingent on the time needed to make the necessary curricular revisions.

- Beginning fall 2023 – If a student’s transcript indicates CSUGE fully certified, Ethnic Studies is expected and required; it should be completed before transfer as part of CSU GE-certification.
- Beginning fall 2024 – If a student’s transcript indicates full IGETC certification, Ethnic Studies is expected and required be completed before transfer.

### **Technical Implementation**

To implement the new general education pattern, and in keeping with existing policy, the Division of Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) worked with the Common Management Systems (CMS) unit to develop a new PeopleSoft process. The process allows campuses to ensure that continuous enrollment is captured and that the appropriate catalog rights are maintained. Campuses may use this centrally developed modification or their own process, provided that the outcomes are equitable across all campuses. The newly developed CMS modification is designed to provide sufficient logic and flexibility for campuses to use indefinitely, beyond this initial transition period.

Some campuses **offer multiple categories of catalog rights**: one for general education and one for the major. There are instances whereby students may claim pre-2021 catalog rights, but their selected major was established after that date. Therefore, if a new program or major was recently created, it is difficult for campuses to backdate the catalog year to a time before the major existed. To address this, a campus may create an exception to the Ethnic Studies requirement on a student-by-student basis. This is a manual intervention that is not feasible at a system level, but it is appropriate to address individual student circumstances.

Students transferring from **private or out-of-state institutions** will be required to complete Ethnic Studies, as catalog rights pertain only to California public institutions.

Questions regarding admissions may be directed to Assistant Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management Services, Dr. April Grommo at [agrommo@calstate.edu](mailto:agrommo@calstate.edu); questions regarding General Education articulation and transfer may be directed to Assistant Vice Chancellor and State University Dean, Academic Programs, Dr. Melissa Lavitt ([mlavitt@calstate.edu](mailto:mlavitt@calstate.edu)).

- c: Dr. Joseph I. Castro, Chancellor
- Dr. Sylvia Alva, Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
- Dr. Robert Keith Collins, Chair, Academic Senate of the California State University
- CSU Presidents
- CSU Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Programs and Deans of Undergraduate Studies
- CSU Associate Vice Presidents, Enrollment Management
- CSU Directors of Admissions
- CSU Registrars
- CSU Articulation Officers