

FA FRIDAY FACULTY FOCUS – February 17, 2023

As We Brace for Title V Changes, What Does This Mean for Our Local Degrees? (big thanks to Craig Kutil for serving on the Statewide committee looking at local degrees and for coaching me through this article!)

CalGETC ushers in a new era for community colleges by implementing one transfer pathway (for those of you unclear on what CalGETC is or what its impact will be, please see the Faculty Focus from November 18). The transfer path does not guarantee that students will complete an AA degree before transferring, and indeed, many of our students currently transfer without them so that will probably not change. The CSUs in particular are suffering from enrollment losses, so they have no incentive to create barriers to community college students wanting to transfer. Those students that do complete degrees have choices as to what degrees they will pursue: an Associate Degree for Transfer, our local Associates in Arts, or our local Associates in Science.

The Associates Degree for Transfer (ADT) is the degree we offer to directly transfer to a CSU with the first 60 units of a Bachelor degree completed (more than 60 for some STEM degrees). This is a legislated degree – one that guarantees community college students a CSU placement as well as a guarantee they will complete their Bachelors in 120 units (again slightly more for some STEM fields). Since this is considered the first two years of another system's degree, we have no control over what will count to fulfill transfer criteria (for example, only the courses in Transfer Model Curriculum can count for a degree major – we cannot substitute). The parameters for these degrees have been set through years of collaboration between legislative committees, the Board of Governors, and the Academic Senates of both the CSU and CCC systems. Local decision making is extremely limited when it comes to these degrees.

The other degrees, most of which existed prior to the creation of ADTs, are our local degrees – the Chabot and LPC AA and AS degree. While there is more and more state incursion into what criteria is required for awarding these degrees, we do still have some control over that these degrees mean for our students and our communities. It is still possible to reflect our values in these degrees.

Expected upcoming changes we expect (but not implemented until 2026) compared to our current local degree requirements (the chart says LPC, but Chabot has the same pattern):

Proposed Minimum Associate Degree GE Pattern Compared to LPC Local GE Patterns

Associate Degree GE	Units	LPC Associate of Arts GE	Units	LPC Associate of Science GE	Units
English Composition	3	English Composition	3	English Composition	3
Oral Communication and Critical Thinking	3	Communication and Analytical Thinking	3	Communication and Analytical Thinking	3
		Critical Thinking	3		
Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	3				
Natural Sciences	3	Natural Sciences	3	Natural Sciences	3
Arts and Humanities	3	Humanities	3	Humanities	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Ethnic Studies	3				
		Kinesiology	1	Kinesiology	1
		Health	3		
		American Insitutions	3		
				Program-Based GE	3
Total Units	21		25		19
Graduation Requirements					
American Cultures			American Cultures		
Mathematics Proficiency			Mathematics Proficiency		

We can expect two upcoming major changes in Title V (the statutes created by our Board of Governors to operationalize the laws in our Education Code). The first will take effect in Fall 2023 – the degree requirement of Ethnic Studies – this needs our attention right away. We have already responded to the impact of the CSU Ethnic Studies graduation requirement, so in terms of classes, we have the foundation set. However, this new AA requirement will impact our local degrees. As you can see we currently have an American Cultures as a graduation requirement. Some classes we offer count for American Cultures but not for the Ethnic Studies requirement. Most likely students will opt to take the classes that fulfill both requirements, leaving the ones that only qualify as American Cultures struggling more for enrollment. The questions we need to ask ourselves: Should we keep American Cultures or remove it as a graduation requirement? Would keeping it be confusing for students since Ethnic Studies will also be a requirement? Should we replace American Cultures with Ethnic Studies? If yes, then the 3 unit requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences would be affected as most Ethnic Studies courses also count as a social science. That means non-Ethnic Studies social sciences would most likely feel the impact of enrollment loss. Should we make Ethnic Studies its own area (as proposed by the Title V changes committee – yellow column) which would allow for the additional 3 units of social/behavioral sciences? If yes, then that would bring our AA degree up to 28 or more required general education units, and our AS up to 22 or more GE units. Are we ok with that? If not, do we want to eliminate something else? These discussions are critical in this time of struggling enrollments and discipline planning.

The next Faculty Focus will address the other proposed Title V changes that would most likely take effect in Fall 2026.



Senator Portantino Introduces FACCC-Sponsored Bill to help Undocumented Students

<https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/bill-introduced-by-senator-portantino-intended-to-promote-equal-higher-education-opportunities-for-undocumented-students>

Reading for the Week: Our declining enrollments mean declining enrollments for the CSUs and UCs “*What’s next for higher education in 2023*”

<https://www.ppic.org/blog/whats-next-for-higher-education-in-2023/>



Article 19C outlines Distant Education General Working Conditions – Faculty can be obliged to teach online if their program needs demand it, but not more than one course in any given semester.

**Meet your Faculty Association Grievance Officer, Heike Gecox,
Counseling, Las Positas College**



I have been at LPC since 2003 in various positions. I started as a mental health intern in the student health center. I have since become a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and I currently supervise 2 trainees and 3 interns who provide mental health services to our student. I am also a full-time counselor working with our DSPS, international and financial aid students. Several years ago, my son and I have started a tradition of spending Thanksgiving in New York City. We walk Manhattan for a week and have a blast. I was born and raised in Germany and always welcome the opportunity to speak in my native tongue.

Both my son and I are graduates of LPC, a place that is very special to me. I always wanted to come back and work at LPC, and here I am.

See past Faculty Focus Newsletters www.clpcfca.com