



Academic Program Planning  
401 Golden Shore, 6th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

[www.calstate.edu/app/](http://www.calstate.edu/app/)

APP@calstate.edu  
562-951-4722  
Fax 562-951-4982

8/29/14

### Changing a Degree Title or Suggesting a New Code

Chancellor's Office approval is required for changes in degree titles. To propose a title change, campuses submit to Academic Program Planning ([app@calstate.edu](mailto:app@calstate.edu)) a request that includes a rationale for the proposed title change, a table listing the CSU campus degree requirements and degree requirements from comparable CSU programs or programs from other US institutions. There is no prescribed format for the title-change rationale, but the proposal may address disciplinary convention, recruitment issues, employer concerns, or titles used at other CSU campuses or at public or private institutions across the country, for example. The Master Plan and longstanding Trustee policy discourage the proliferation of degree titles and degree terminology, so these proposals are evaluated carefully.

#### Background

In support of the trustee policy prohibiting proliferation of degree terminology, campuses are required to obtain Chancellor's Office approval before implementing a new degree program or changing the title, reporting code, or degree designation (MA, BFA, etc.) for an existing degree program.

Using a master list of degree programs and reporting codes, campuses report to the Chancellor's Office data on applications, enrollments, and degrees granted in degree programs. To ensure consistent record keeping, campuses use the same pairings of generic systemwide degree program titles and corresponding reporting codes.

The required curriculum for each CSU degree program title (and level) is roughly comparable across the system and reflects the Classification of Instructional Programs ("CIP") program definition for each CIP code. Campuses are allowed to use a slightly different campus-specific title, as long as it is reasonably similar to the official title. The program codes, however, remain the same across the system. The CSU Degrees Database has fields for the official "generic" CSU title and a campus-specific title.

#### One Degree Title—One Curriculum—One Code

Campuses are to maintain the degree requirements associated with a degree program approved by the Chancellor's Office; and substantive curricular changes are to be approved by the campus curriculum-approval process. To ensure the

integrity of degree programs, each approved degree title is to be associated with only one set of curricular requirements. Requirements in addition to the core curriculum may be achieved through use of subprogram (an option, concentration, or special emphasis), as noted in Executive Order 1071. The program core shall represent the majority of required units so that the program's student learning outcomes can be achieved by all enrolled students, regardless of subprogram pursued. For more information on the meaning, quality, and integrity of degrees, please see the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Handbook of Accreditation:

<http://www.wascsenior.org/resources/handbook-accreditation-2013/part-iii-wasc-quality-assurance/institutional-report/components-institutional-report/3-degree-programs-meaning-quality-and-integrity-degrees>

**Approved Official Systemwide Degree Titles and Reporting Codes**

The official list of approved systemwide degree titles and their assigned CSU and CIP reporting codes may be found at:

<http://www.calstate.edu/app/documents/HEGIS-CIP2010.pdf>