

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE
AP-002-189

MASTER PROGRAMS: Use of Culminating Experience Units

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 03/13/2019

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 03/20/2019

Academic Senate

Date: 03/27/2019
First Reading

BACKGROUND: Both the Academic Senate Referral AP-008-145 and Title 5, Section 40510 of the California Code of Regulations specify that in Graduate degrees the Culminating Experience requirement can be met by either a comprehensive exam, a thesis or a project. Senate Referral AP-008-145 and Title 5 also specify that a student cannot use more than 6 units for their Culminating Experience. There have been a number of situations in which students end up with excess Culminating Experience units and attempt to use them to replace core or elective coursework. The purpose of this referral is to prevent the potential weakening of the Meaning, Quality and Integrity of Master's programs. This referral proposes to add a sentence in the Graduate Studies Section of the University Catalog under the "General Requirements" heading that reads: "Culminating Experience units cannot be used to substitute for Core nor Elective units."

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Deans, all colleges

Associate Deans, all colleges

Department Chairs, departments with Masters programs

Graduate Coordinators

DISCUSSION:

Before reaching the Academic Programs Committee, this program was reviewed by the Executive Graduate Council, the Academic Programs Office, and the Director of Graduate Studies (Dr. Salomón Oldak). There was a consensus in favor of this proposal among the members of the Graduate Council. The Academic Programs Committee then conducted campus-wide consultation, as well as its own review of the program. During this consultation, no concerns were raised. In discussions by the Academic Programs Committee, it was noted that extra culminating experience units would generally be accrued if work on a project or thesis took longer than initially anticipated, and these situations do not constitute suitable substitutes for other coursework normally undertaken as part of a Master's degree.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends that in the University Catalog, Graduate Studies section, under the "General Requirements" heading between 9. and 10., a sentence be added in the Graduate Studies Section that reads: "Culminating Experience units cannot be used to substitute for Core nor Elective units".