

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-024-178

GRADUATE STUDIES – INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 11/14/2018

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 11/28/2018

Academic Senate

Date: 12/05/2018
First Reading
01/30/2019
Second Reading

BACKGROUND: The Executive Graduate Council; Extended Graduate Council; Dr. Larisa Preiser-Houy, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Salomón Oldak, Director of Graduate Studies have proposed a list of Graduate Institutional Learning Outcomes to provide a common institutional framework for Graduate programs at CPP.

The purpose of proposing the Graduate Institutional Learning Outcomes is to provide a common institutional framework through which graduate programs can demonstrate curricular alignment to the University Strategic Plan, University Academic Master Plans, and other central planning documents. The proposed Institutional Learning Outcomes for Graduate Programs include: Communications, Information Literacy, Evaluation of Theories, Scholarship and Creative Activities. Demonstrating alignment is important for WASC accreditation, as WASC requires that “graduate programs establish clearly stated objectives differentiated from and more advanced than undergraduate programs in terms of admissions, curricula, standards of performance, and student learning outcomes.”¹

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Deans

Associate Deans

Graduate Program Directors/Coordinators

Dr. Laura Massa, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs / Accreditation Liaison Officer

DISCUSSION:

The University does not currently have a set of faculty-approved Graduate Institutional Learning Outcomes (GILOs). A set of GILOs had previously been developed and posted online, but had never been approved by the faculty. This proposed set of Graduate Institutional Learning Outcomes were discussed and were strongly supported in the Extended and Executive Graduate Councils previously. It has been reported to the Extended Graduate Council that all graduate programs on campus can demonstrate alignment of their learning outcomes that were discussed. The Academic Programs Committee then conducted campus-wide consultation, as well as its own review of the proposal and the relevant WASC policies. No concerns were raised. All faculty that provided input indicated that they can demonstrate alignment between their programs' learning outcomes and these institution-wide outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the following list of Graduate Institutional Learning Outcomes.

¹ Standard 2.2b, <https://www.wscuc.org/resources/handbook-accreditation-2013/part-ii-core-commitments-and-standards-accreditation/wasc-standards-accreditation-2013/standard-2-achieving-educational-objectives-through-core-functions>

Students will be able to:

Communications: Excel in written and oral communication, with the ability to convey complex ideas clearly, consistently, and logically.

Information Literacy: Evaluate the validity and comparative worth of diverse information sources related to the relevant discipline.

Evaluation of Theories: Evaluate the major theories and approaches to inquiry specific to the discipline.

Scholarship and Creative Activities: Utilize research and/or scholarship to achieve a relevant product consistent with disciplinary ethics and standards.

These outcomes are intended as broad goals with which all programs can demonstrate alignment through their own, discipline-appropriate learning outcomes. They will not form the basis for an additional set of assessment activities separate from those already conducted by programs, but rather shall be used for institution-level evaluation and interpretation of assessment data provided by programs.