

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-012-256

Early Childhood Studies, B.A. – Non-Teaching Option – Discontinuation

Academic Programs Committee : 11/19/2025

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 3/11/2026

Academic Senate : 3/18/2026

First Reading

BACKGROUND:

This referral requests the discontinuation of the Early Childhood Studies (ECS), B.A. – Non-Teaching Option. The Non-Teaching Option was developed to support students pursuing careers outside traditional classroom teaching, including pathways toward advanced study and professions such as social work, child life, school psychology, and counseling. While the option provided interdisciplinary coursework and a capstone experience, it has not received external funding or sustained institutional support.

The ECS department has intentionally adopted a hybrid model with a strong emphasis on early education and teacher preparation. As a result, the curriculum is not sufficiently aligned with the depth and breadth required to adequately support non-teaching or developmental science career pathways. Limited faculty capacity and resources further constrain the program’s ability to maintain coherence and rigor for this option.

Discontinuation will allow the department to strengthen its primary teaching-focused pathways (Teaching, Multilingual Teaching, and PK-3 Teaching) and align resources with workforce demand and the growing need for qualified early childhood educators.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- College Dean
- Early Childhood Studies (ECS) Department Chair
- Liberal Studies (LS) Department Chair

Consultation with the Dean and department chairs identified no concerns or conflicts.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the referral materials and rationale for discontinuation. Given program misalignment with departmental focus, limited resources, and strategic prioritization of teacher preparation pathways, the proposed action is supported. No issues were raised during consultation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the discontinuation of the Early Childhood Studies, B.A. – Non-Teaching Option.