

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-014-256

Liberal Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program
Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs 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 Liberal Studies (LS), B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program (ITEP) Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs Option.

The LS ITEP Extensive Support Needs Option was developed to address California’s special education teacher shortage through a cohort-based, integrated undergraduate and credential pathway. Initially supported by a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing grant, the program allowed students to complete a B.A. in Liberal Studies alongside a preliminary Education Specialist credential.

Although designed to meet regional and statewide workforce needs, the program has faced significant challenges. The intensive course load, required summer enrollment, and accelerated pacing proved difficult for many students balancing employment and family responsibilities. Students experienced delays, missed credential deadlines, and attrition. Additionally, grant funding that supported advising and program coordination is sunsetting, limiting the department’s ability to sustain program quality.

All core LS and credential courses will continue to be offered through existing non-ITEP options and traditional credential pathways; no courses will be discontinued.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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

Consultation identified no concerns or conflicts regarding the proposed discontinuation.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the referral materials and rationale for discontinuation. Given the structural challenges, funding limitations, and sustainability concerns, the proposed action is supported. The continuation of shared coursework through other LS and credential pathways mitigates curricular impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the discontinuation of the Liberal Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs Option.