

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-016-245

Liberal Studies, B.A. – Pre-Credential Option Name Change

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 3/12/2025

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 11/19/2025

Academic Senate

**Date: 12/3/2025
First Reading**

BACKGROUND:

In CEIS, there are two programs: the Early Childhood Studies Program and the a PK–3rd Grade Credential that causes confusion among students about the Liberal Studies Pre-Credential (current name) option, which provides subject matter preparation for aspiring elementary (K–5) teachers including those interested in teaching through 9th grade with a middle school subject authorization. Renaming it to **Elementary Education Pre-Credential Option** will make the teaching pathways clearer for students pursuing elementary education careers.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Deans and Associate Deans

Teresa Lloro, PhD, Professor & Interim Co-Chair, Liberal Studies Department

Denise Kennedy, PhD. Professor and Chair, Early Childhood Studies.

Christina Chavez-Reyes, PhD, Associate Dean, CEIS.

DISCUSSION:

The AP committee has addressed two concerns. The ECS department has not been consulted during the early stages of college level consultations. During consultation by the AP committee, ECS department expressed the concern about the possible duplication of some grade level courses and how the ECS department might also need to use the term “Elementary Education” for their future plan of PK-3 pre-credential program.

Upon multiple rounds of intra-college discussions, both the ECS department and Liberal Studies department has agreed to the following compromise:

LS: Elementary Education **K-8** Pre-credential Option (current referral modified name, adding K-8 to the name to create distinction with ECS programs)

ECS: Elementary Education PK-3 Pre-credential Option (suggested name, reserved for future ECS usage of the name *Elementary Education*, not as standalone name, but the grade level appended to the name)

There will be some natural overlap between K-3 level, which should be clarified via future program outreach. All current students enrolled under the existing Pre-Credential designation will be grandfathered in and allowed to complete their degree under the current title and expected to phase out by the 2028–2029 academic year.

RECOMMENDATION:

The AP committee recommends the college leadership be proactive in such consultation where there are known possibilities of contentions and help faculty reach consensus. The college has immense potential to grow as a leader in teaching credentials. A college level strategic planning and outreach plan for early childhood to

different stages of K-12 teaching credentials will help to clarify the pathways for the future teachers of the state. The AP committee supports the modified name change of “Elementary Education **K-8** Pre-credential Option”.