

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-033-212

New Self-Support Information Security Global Access Certificate

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 05/18/2022

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 10/11/2023

Academic Senate

Date: 10/18/2023
First Reading

BACKGROUND: The Computer Information Systems (CIS) Department in the College of Business Administration currently offers BS and MS degrees in Information Security. There is high demand to accommodate students coming through the pipeline in need of graduate education, as well as unmet needs within the current cybersecurity workforce.

In collaboration, the Colleges of Business Administration (CBA) and Professional and Global Education (PGE; formerly the Extended University) have proposed a new certificate program in Information Security. This certificate program is a 12-credit certificate that would be completed within one year. The program aims to create learning opportunities for students and professionals to extend their knowledge in information security and expand their career opportunities through this focused educational program. Program participants will also benefit from the program in getting prepared for admission to the graduate program in Information Security at CPP or other institutions. The program is designed primarily for both domestic and international students, as the program has insufficient units to justify a visa.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Associate Deans, all colleges

Senate Budget Committee

Dr. Zhongming Ma (CIS faculty coordinator for Certificate)

Computer Science Department Chair and Faculty

College of Professional and Global Education

DISCUSSION:

After receiving this referral, the Academic Programs Committee conducted campus-wide consultations. During the initial review, concerns of faculty workload, supplanting a state-side program, and issues of hidden pre-requisite courses were raised. The faculty coordinator for the certificate program (Dr. Zhongming Ma) informed the Committee that the certificate courses will be offered to faculty as extra work for extra pay. The funding for this comes from the student tuition since it is a self-support program and a budget between CBA and PGE has been developed and approved.

On the issue of supplantation, Dr. Ma informed the Committee that the self-support program would be separate from the state-side program so there aren't concerns with supplantation of a state-side program. All five courses already exist in the state-side program but will be taught at a different location (CTTi) separate from the state-side courses.

On the issue of hidden pre-requisites, the Committee was concerned about students lacking the pre-requisites for the Certificate program and how the enrollment in those pre-requisites would impact other departments. The CIS Department assumes that many of the students will already have the pre-requisites needed for the Certificate program, but if they do not, there will be options for them to take the pre-requisite courses from Open University, or perhaps a Community College. The students will not be admitted into the Certificate program without the proper pre-requisites.

After consultation, the Academic Programs Committee is satisfied that these concerns have been addressed. During the campus-wide consultation, no concerns were raised from other academic programs. All interactions with individuals involved with the program indicates that everyone understands that this is a separate program from any state-side program.

The Budget Committee did have initial concerns regarding marketing costs, the amount and use of overhead, but the CIS department was able to explain their plans for program management to the satisfaction of the Budget Committee.

There was also a concern about the eligibility of international students, as the program does not have enough units to justify a student visa. Program eligibility criteria were revised accordingly, but the CIS department and budget committee are both satisfied that the program remains sustainable.

This program will serve a need for both the students wanting to get better prepared for careers in information security and for students wanting to apply for information security graduate programs (including here at CPP). The employment of cyber security experts is among the fastest growing nationally and is predicted to increase 31% through 2029. This Certificate program will be important in ensuring the workforce is ready for the increased demand in accounting.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new Self-Support Information Security Global Access Certificate.