

Greetings, Senators,

This report focuses on two curriculum updates: Noncredit Distance Education (DE) Addendum and the California State University Ethnic Studies Course for GE Area F. The Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) discussed both of these topics last academic year and now has more detailed information to share with the Senate.

1. Noncredit Distance Education (DE) Approval Process

- a. Prior to the pandemic, SRJC did not have a process for approving noncredit courses for distance education. Throughout the pandemic, we learned that there is high demand for online noncredit courses at SRJC. In Spring 2021, the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) developed and approved a Noncredit DE Addendum in hopes of obtaining Senate approval for the addendum in early Fall. However, Federal legislation (effective July 1, 2021) related to distance education prompted new legislative proposals at the state level, requiring changes to the Noncredit DE Addendum previously approved by CRC. A summary of these changes is listed on pages 4-5 of the [Chancellor's Office Memo dated June 22, 2021](#).
- b. The suggested timeline below will allow SRJC faculty to request DE approval for noncredit courses for Spring 2022 since the Emergency DE addenda will not be valid in Spring 2022.
 1. 8/23-Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) will discuss and potentially approve a new DE Addendum.
 2. 9/1-Request that new addendum is on Academic Senate Consent Agenda
 3. 9/2-If Senate approves addendum, faculty can complete it and other required paperwork for DE approval for noncredit courses.
 4. 9/8-All paperwork due for DE approval for noncredit courses.
 5. 9/8 to 9/21-DE Reviewers evaluate proposals and forward the approved courses to the Curriculum Office.
 6. 9/21-Place noncredit DE course approvals on 9/27 CRC agenda for approval. Board Approval follows the next month.
 7. Timeline above allows approved Noncredit DE courses to be offered in Spring 2022.

2. California State University (CSU) Ethnic Studies Area F GE Requirement

- a. There are several curricular and technical considerations to be aware of as we move through the process of preparing courses for review for Area F. The information provided below deals with the technical aspects of course approval, such as cross-listed courses.
 - i. Existing courses might be eligible if they meet [3 of the 5 criteria](#) required.
 1. Each existing course can be cross-listed using the selected Ethnic Studies prefix for the cross-listed course.
 - a. Example:
 - i. History 21 and Ethnic Studies 71
 - ii. We are waiting to see if we can resubmit University of California (UC) numbered courses, such as Hist 21 or Soc. 30 for a Fall 2022 approval. (The once-a-year deadline for UC course approval has already passed.) If we cannot, we might consider cross listing them with a CSU number in the short term (e.g. Hist 21 and Ethnic Studies 71) and submit for UC approval in the next annual cycle, Summer 2022.
 - iii. Students who complete an Area F-eligible course (e.g. Hist. 21) in Fall 2021 will receive credit for the CSU Area F requirement as long as that course receives approval for Area F. This is a one-time arrangement applicable to Fall 2021 only.
 - iv. Cluster Tech Review Committee is needed to review Ethnic Studies courses before they go to CRC. Composition of this committee is currently under discussion as Ethnic Studies is not presently assigned to a specific cluster.
 - v. Minimum Qualifications for instructors teaching an Ethnic Studies course (stand alone and cross listed) is up to our local process. The content of the course is key factor in determining minimum qualifications.
 - vi. Ethnic Studies courses need CRC approval by 10/11 CRC meeting; Board of Trustees approval by November Board meeting in order to be submitted to the State GE Review Board by December 3.