

Proposed Revision to EO 1071: Frequently Asked Questions

During the consultation phase, these were the most frequent concerns expressed. Consultation feedback was provided by campus senates, the ASCSU, presidents, provosts, academic vice presidents, and individual faculty.

1. Is the review process changing? This appears to be an additional level of scrutiny beyond “giving notice.”

Answer: No, the process is not changing. This is merely a clarification of the role of the Chancellor’s Office (CO) to ensure that concentrations comply with all applicable policies. Proposals that include all of the required elements will still move through the CO confirmation process without being subject to review of curriculum for coherence, rigor and similar review criteria.

2. Is a reporting requirement (IPEDS) sufficient justification to change curriculum?

Answer: IPEDS reporting is not requiring the change in curricula. Instead, through IPEDS reporting we discovered subprograms operating as degree programs but bearing designations such as “option” or concentration.” Accurately pairing degree requirements with the appropriate CIP code is critical for a number of reasons.

Inaccurate reporting of enrollments and degrees granted can have resource consequences.

Accrediting bodies (such as WSCUC) have placed increased emphasis on the meaning, quality and integrity of degrees (MQID) and are focusing on student learning outcomes and program-level assessment. When the majority of required courses in a major are the same (a core), that provides greater meaning and integrity of the degree, no matter which concentration is pursued. Common student learning outcomes across a degree are required in order to conduct meaningful assessment and program review for ongoing quality improvement.

Consistent titles, codes, US CIP definitions—across the CSU—results in a systemwide achievement of comparable meaning and integrity in the degree.

Students should receive the diploma with the degree title reflecting the majority of required courses.

Program degree requirements that align with the appropriate CIP code are critical to the processing of both undergraduate and graduate student visas, which are reviewed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security—Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

3. Will this policy-update result in the loss of programs?

Answer: Campuses are not being asked to reduce the number of degree programs. Campuses will make local decisions about how to bring high-unit subprograms into compliance.

4. Will you allow all current programs that are out of compliance to remain that way (grandfathered in)?

Answer: This is not possible as it would continue the practice of inaccurate reporting. Instead, campuses may adjust the proportion of courses in the major core and in the subprogram, may discontinue the subprogram, or may propose a new degree program developed from the subprogram.

5. What is the timeline for implementation?

Answer: Existing subprograms will be required to come into compliance by their next scheduled program review. Program changes requiring Chancellor's Office action may be submitted at any time and do not have to be held until the next scheduled program review.

6. Will graduate programs be treated differently than undergraduate programs?

Answer: All degree programs report to IPEDS; therefore, all of them must be treated in the same manner.

7. Do prerequisites classes and courses that come from other departments, count as part of a degree core?

Answer: Yes, as long as the courses are part of the core required of all majors, no matter what their concentration may be. It does not matter which department houses the prerequisites and major core courses.

8. Won't this cause degree programs in many disciplines to lose their accreditation?

Answer: This policy should not affect accreditation, as long as the curriculum meets accreditation standards.

9. What is the process for discontinuing degree programs and subprograms?

Answer: The Chancellor's Office will require the subprograms to be discontinued according to campus policies.

10. What is the timeline for campuses undergoing quarter-to-semester conversion?

Answer: Programs have until their next program review to accomplish the needed changes, which may be 5-7 years from this academic year in which the revised EO 1071 is adopted. If more time is required because of conflicts with quarter-to-semester conversion, the campus AVP may contact the Chancellor's Office to work out a schedule that is more practical.