



Academic Senate
Spring 2021
Resolution 9.01 SP21
Ethnic Studies Degree Requirement

Whereas, the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees, in their “Affirmation of Commitment to Social Justice” attested, “We believe that social justice is practiced when we openly challenge injustice and value diversity. It exists because all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment and support for their human rights, and are entitled to a fair allocation of community resources. When the tenets of social justice are fairly applied, people do not experience discrimination or prejudice nor is their welfare/well-being constrained in any manner”;

Whereas, the academic discipline of Ethnic Studies is a revolutionary project that emerged from the 1968 Third World Liberation Front Student Strikes;

Whereas, Ethnic Studies is a scholarly field within the academy and an intellectual tradition outside and beyond the academy;

Whereas, all SMCCCD graduates should have the analytical tools and perspectives with which to historicize and deconstruct the socially co-constructed and intersecting categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, nationality and (non)citizenship;

Whereas, all SMCCCD graduates should have the opportunity to study these socially constructed and intersectional categories of difference in a course that draws upon a range of methods (historical and archival, ethnographic, sociological, and cultural studies) and examines a variety of materials (from literary and musical works to historical texts and activist discourses) in order to deeply examine the processes whereby these categories of identity and difference are produced, resisted, inhabited, embraced, and transformed across historical time and geographic space;

Whereas, Ethnic Studies is a recognized discipline in the 2019 Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administration in California Community Colleges handbook that involves specific substantive content and exposes students to specific theoretical frameworks;

Whereas, both students of color and white students benefit academically as well as socially from taking Ethnic Studies courses (Dee & Penner, 2017);

Whereas, Cañada College has an existing Ethnic Studies degree requirement, Skyline College has its own Ethnic and Cultural Diversity degree requirement, and College of San Mateo has neither;

Whereas, SMCCCD students move between the three campuses and aligning degree requirements eliminates confusion and obstacles, including lengthy and complicated paperwork processes, for earning a local Associate's Degree;

Whereas, SMCCCD students from all three campuses, identifying and recognizing the value and import of the Ethnic Studies discipline in their personal and educational learning, have repeatedly requested an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement for all local Associate's Degrees in the district;

Whereas, the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (ASCCC) adopted Resolutions 9.03 and 9.04, which urge the California Community Colleges Chancellor and the Board of Governors to add Ethnic Studies to the list of core competencies in California Title V 55063; and,

Whereas, the California Assembly passed AB1460 in 2020, which requires all CSU students to take an Ethnic Studies course before graduation, and in response, the CSU created a new Ethnic Studies transfer requirement for community colleges (Area F);

Resolved, the SMCCCD Academic Senate recommends that the three colleges adopt an Ethnic Studies degree requirement for local Associate's Degrees by Fall 2021 for new incoming students; and,

Resolved, the SMCCCD Academic Senate recommends that local Ethnic Studies degree requirements should only include courses that have the ETHN course prefix with an ethnic studies discipline assignment.

Passed unanimously on February 8, 2021