

Introduction [this is the email to the survey]

The passage of SB850 (Block), signed into law in September 2014, and action by the Board of Governors, in March and May 2015, authorized the California Community College system to create 15 bachelor's degrees offered by pilot community colleges commencing in Fall 2016. The quick timeline required by the law has required the Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to rapidly act to define the parameters of the degrees. To assist in providing guidance, the ASCCC formed the Bachelor's Degree Taskforce, comprised of career technical education (CTE) faculty from the pilot colleges as well as faculty experts in general education and articulation. The Bachelor's Degree Taskforce developed recommendations to address specific issues inherent in creating Bachelor's Degrees such as unit requirements, general education and minimum qualifications for faculty teaching in these new programs. These recommendations will be brought forward to faculty by resolution at the 2015 Fall ASCCC plenary session for deliberation.

In an effort to involve the field and our colleagues as much as possible, the ASCCC has had numerous breakout sessions and meetings since April to discuss the work of the taskforce and receive input. To ensure an exhaustive vetting of the taskforce recommendations, we invite you to provide feedback on the recommendations through this survey, 10 minutes, of the work proposed by the ASCCC Task Force and Executive Committee regarding the academic and professional matters associated with these requirements: Degree Unit Requirements, Minimum Qualifications for Faculty, and General Education Requirements.

1. Please identify if you are:
 - a. Faculty
 - b. Administrator
 - c. Other – please list [text box]

2. Please identify the community college district that is your primary place of employment:
[fill in the box]

Recommendation #1:

Modify Title 5 to define baccalaureate degrees at California community colleges as a minimum of 120 semester units including a minimum of 24 upper division units; and

Ensure that upper division units are defined as requiring lower division knowledge and applying that knowledge as demonstrated measures of critical thinking through writing, oral communication, and/or computation, and allow that upper division may encompass research elements, workforce training, apprenticeship, required practicum, or capstone projects.

Explanation: The taskforce recommends the minimum parameters of a baccalaureate degree offered by the CCC system have at least 120 semester units and at least 24 units of upper division coursework. In addition, upper division units are defined as requiring lower division knowledge and applying that knowledge as demonstrated measures of

critical thinking through writing, oral communication, and/or computation. The taskforce acknowledges that upper division courses may encompass research elements, workforce training, apprenticeship, required practicum, or capstone projects.

3. How do you feel about this recommendation?

- a. Agree
- b. Disagree
- c. Unsure

[Comment Box]

Recommendation #2:

Modify Title 5 §53410 to ensure that faculty teaching upper division coursework adhere to these minimum qualifications as follows:

(e) For faculty assigned to teach upper division courses in disciplines where the master's degree is not generally expected or available, but where a related bachelor's or associate degree is generally expected or available, possession of either:

(1) a master's degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment or equivalent foreign degree plus two years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment and any appropriate licensure; or

(2) a bachelor degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment or equivalent foreign degree plus six years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment and any appropriate licensure.

(f) For faculty assigned to teach upper division courses in disciplines where the master's degree is not generally expected or available, and where a related bachelor's or associate degree is not generally expected or available, possession of either:

(1) any master's degree or equivalent foreign degree plus two years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment and any appropriate licensure; or

(2) any bachelor degree or equivalent foreign degree plus six years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment and any appropriate licensure.

Explanation: All of the disciplines proposed fall into disciplines where no specific degree is required, so this recommendation is important to define the minimum qualifications necessary to teach the courses offered in the upper division. As evident in the language above, the taskforce recommends that equivalency is not an option for minimum qualifications that do not fall on the master's degree list of disciplines. Please notice that disciplines that already require a master's degree as the minimum qualification are not affected by this recommendation, nor are the minimum qualifications to teach any lower division courses changed.

4. How do you feel about this recommendation?

- a. Agree
- b. Disagree
- c. Unsure

[comment box]

Recommendation #3:

Ensure all baccalaureate degrees granted by the California community colleges require either IGETC or CSU-GE Breadth as lower division general education preparation; and,

require six semester units of upper division general education offered by at least two disciplines external to the major – one of which must have an emphasis in written communication, oral communication or computation.

Explanation: The taskforce recommends that in order to earn a baccalaureate degree from the CCCs, students must complete a general education pattern consisting of either IGETC or CSU-GE Breadth to satisfy lower division requirements. In addition, six additional semester units of upper division general education must be completed in disciplines external to the major – one of which must have an emphasis in written communication, oral communication or computation. This total of 43-45 semester units of general education is consistent with the requirements of other states' community college baccalaureate programs and slightly less than the Title 5 requirement of 48 semester units of general education for the CSU system.

5. How do you feel about this recommendation?

- a. Agree
- b. Disagree
- c. Unsure [comment box]

6. Are there any other thoughts you would like to share?

[comment box]

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

John Stankas, ASCCC Secretary
Chair of the Bachelor's Degree Task Force for the ASCCC