TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate Presidents
Ethnic Studies Faculty
Articulation Officers
Curriculum Chairs

FROM: Dr. Aisha Lowe, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Support

RE: Ethnic Studies Course Certification for CSU GE Breadth Area F

This memorandum provides guidance regarding the California State University's (CSU) course review and approval process for the Area F ethnic studies requirement (lower-division CSU general education breadth requirement established to fulfill California Education Code, §89032) and the current course reviews underway.

CSU Area F Ethnic Studies Course Review and Approval

Assembly Bill 1460 was signed into law in August 2020. This legislation requires each CSU campus to offer courses in ethnic studies beginning fall 2021, and requires that "commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies."

To comply with AB 1460, the CSU Office of the Chancellor (CSUCO) created a new General Education (GE) Breadth Area F. As required by AB 1460, corresponding core competencies were established in collaboration among the CSU Ethnic Studies Council, the CSU Academic Senate, and the CSUCO. Given the California community colleges' (CCCs) essential intersegmental collaboration with CSU in support of CCC students' transfer and academic success, all California community colleges are expected to provide the ethnic studies courses students now need to prepare them for transfer to CSU. For a course to fulfill Area F, it must meet three of the five core competencies listed in CSU General Education Policy, and have the appropriate prefix as stated in policy.

Community colleges have submitted ethnic studies courses for CSUCO's review in 2021 and 2022, and have experienced high levels of course disapprovals. When courses are not approved, community colleges can and should take advantage of the resubmission process. **The deadline for current resubmissions has been extended to September 30, 2022**. Courses that were not approved should be resubmitted through the normal ASSIST processes. Community colleges may note in the resubmission when a course that was not approved is identical to a course that has been previously approved. CSUCO has agreed to approve such courses.

Despite the difficulties being faced, most all community colleges have at least one approved ethnic studies course (only seven colleges do not). Moreover, ethnic studies course approval rates are

Chancellor's Office, Educational Services and Support
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.445.8752 | www.cccco.edu

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increasing, indicating the needed course review calibration process is happening. CSUCO will provide a full accounting of this current round of course reviews and approvals in the fall and is working closely with the University of California (UC) to ensure ethnic studies courses approved for Area F are also accepted by UC for the UC Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Area 7 ethnic studies requirement.

Guidance for Effective Ethnic Studies Course Approval

As California community colleges continue to work toward ethnic studies course approvals, the following guidelines are important to keep in mind and should be followed:

- As with all areas of CSU GE Breadth, Area F ethnic studies courses are centrally reviewed and approved for general education by the CSUCO. This is distinct from the campus-based course review for major preparation articulation. Courses that were previously approved for major preparation by particular CSU campuses cannot simply be submitted as-is. All ethnic studies courses being submitted for Area F approval must be reviewed and updated to fulfill the requirements of the AB 1460 ethnic studies core competencies.
- The ethnic studies core competencies (at least 3 of the 5) must be listed (verbatim) within the Course Outline of Record (COR) as stated in CSU GE Breadth Policy. Community colleges can use the CSU Guiding Notes for GE Course Review for additional guidance.
- In addition to stating the core competencies in the COR, there must also be a clear, explicit and definitive link between the competencies and the course content described in the COR.
- Courses submitted for Area F approval shall focus on the four historically defined racialized groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, and Latina/o Americans.
- Courses submitted for Area F approval should include up-to-date textbooks.

When submitting courses for a second review, community colleges should ensure the above stated CSU requirements are implemented and all feedback provided by the CSU reviewer is incorporated and responded to.

As our systems navigate the first substantial GE revision in decades and a new process for core competencies, we request patience and flexibility. CSU is committed to supporting the community colleges and ensuring students have access to the courses they need to transfer. The CSUCO will continue to offer webinars and other support for the community colleges as they develop their COR for submission. Please take advantage of these opportunities. As concerns arise, please share them with the CCC Chancellor's Office (at EthnicStudies@cccco.edu), as we will continue to collaborate with CSUCO and provide support.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please email EthnicStudies@cccco.edu.

cc:
    Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor
    Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Deputy Chancellor
    Marty Alvarado, Executive Vice Chancellor, ESLEI
    CCCCO Staff