

Draft 10/30/19

**Resolution of the San Diego State University Senate:
Our Community Need for Ethnic Studies**

Whereas: the SDSU University Senate has confirmed its commitment to creating a more welcoming environment for all of our students through recent resolutions focused on Pell Grant, African American, Native American, LGBTQIAA+ students; as well as the establishment of the Division of Diversity and Innovation.

Whereas: Ethnic Studies creates a more welcoming environment for all of our students by providing courses that play an important role in building a more inclusive democracy. Research confirms that students of color and white students benefit academically as well as socially from taking Ethnic Studies courses.¹

Whereas: Ethnic Studies programs and departments were established throughout the State of California over 50 years ago after students of color demanded that universities institute Ethnic Studies departments.

Whereas: The Academic Senate of the CSU reaffirmed its support of the discipline of Ethnic Studies with the January 23-24, 2014 resolution, *In Support of Ethnic Studies in the California State University*.²

Whereas: the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force prepared the January 2016 *Report of the California State University Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies*,³ which recommended that an Ethnic Studies course become a general education requirement throughout the California State University system.

¹ Christine E. Sleeter, The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies A Research Review

<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NBI-2010-3-value-of-ethnic-studies.pdf>;

The Benefits of Ethnic Studies Courses

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/09/san-francisco-state-finds-evidence-ethnic-studies-students-do-better>;

The Causal Effects of Cultural Relevance: Evidence From an Ethnic Studies Curriculum:

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w21865.pdf>.

² AS-3164-14/AA/FA "In Support of Ethnic Studies in the California State University"

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2013-2014/3164.pdf>

AS-3380-19/FA/FGA/Ex "In Support of Ethnic Studies Programs in the CSU"

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2018-2019/3380.pdf>

³ Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/diversity/advancement-of-ethnic-studies>

Whereas: The CSU failed to implement the CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force Report's recommendation for an Ethnic Studies course as a graduation requirement.

Whereas: The 2019 bill, AB 1460 (Weber), *California State University Graduation Requirement: Ethnic Studies*⁴ was turned into a two-year bill that is on track to resume its efforts for passage in January 2020.

Whereas: Ethnic Studies is a discipline composed of interdisciplinary fields of study that specialize in the comparative study of race and processes and institutions of racialization. Moreover, as a discipline, Ethnic Studies is grounded in knowledge produced from distinct epistemological perspectives of groups whose socio-historical experience of land and labor were critical to the building of the United States: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanos/Latinos.⁵ Over the last five decades, our discipline has developed methodologies for the study of power, empire, nation-building, migrations, and intersectional analyses of race, class, gender, culture and sexuality.

Whereas: SDSU has historically underserved its Asian American, and specifically its Filipino, student population, in terms of teaching and research in the field of Asian American Studies, student services, and community outreach.

Whereas: SDSU University Senate Officers and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, with the support of the Division of Diversity and Innovation, sponsored Ethnic Studies town halls on September 17, 2019 and October 29, 2019. These educational sessions were co-sponsored by the departments of Chicana and Chicano Studies, American Indian Studies, Africana Studies, and the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies.

Whereas: There is concern that curriculum decisions should not be mandated by the State Legislature and instead, in alignment with SDSU's commitment to creating a more inclusive environment for all students, SDSU should be a leading CSU campus in implementing the 2014 CSU Ethnic Studies Task Force's Ethnic Studies requirement.

⁴ AB: 1460 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1460

⁵ Blauner, Robert. 1987. "Colonized and Immigrant Minorities," in *From Different Shores: Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*, ed. by Ron Takaki, pp. 149-160. Oxford University Press. <http://majorsmatter.net/race/Readings/Blauner%201987.pdf>; Rubén G. Rumbaut. 2001b. "Conclusion – *The Forging of a New America: Lessons for Theory and Policy.*" In *Ethnicities: Children of Immigrants in America*, edited by Ruben Rumbaut and Alejandro Portes, pp. 310–19. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Therefore, be it resolved that the SDSU University Senate urge CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate of the CSU, President de la Torre, the SDSU Administration and Auxiliaries, the SDSU Student Government, appropriate Senate and campus committees, and all members of the campus community to support and, where authorized and appropriate, to enact the following (in accordance with the annual review of enrollment management practices, student support, and faculty hiring and retention efforts):

1. Beginning with the 2020–21 academic year, SDSU shall require, as a new undergraduate graduation requirement (distinct from the existing GE Diversity Requirement), the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in Ethnic Studies. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement.
2. In order to minimize the impacts on current curricula and graduation requirements, this three-unit Ethnic Studies requirement can:
 - a. Be fulfilled through a lower division class in Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano/a Studies, or Asian American Studies (within the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies), except lower division Ethnic Studies classes that also fulfill the Oral and Written Communications Requirements for General Education. Students can satisfy the Ethnic Studies requirement through Ethnic Studies classes that also satisfy the American Institutions or Area E requirement.

OR

- b. Be fulfilled by taking an upper division class in Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano/a Studies, or Asian American Studies (within the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies). Upper Division classes taken for Ethnic Studies Requirement can also satisfy upper division GE Explorations in Social and Behavioral Sciences or Humanities if the class already meets this requirement.
 - i. Classes from Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano/a Studies, and Asian American Studies (within the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies) that currently meet the GE Diversity Requirement will no longer do so and instead will count for the Ethnic Studies Requirement.
3. Other specifics of the Ethnic Studies Requirement will be determined after seeking guidance from the Ethnic Studies departments (including the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies). Such guidance, to be received by December 31, 2019, shall include reflections on:

- a. The Ethnic Studies Task Force Report and other relevant updates and reports, as well as campus context, “What is to be included as Learning Outcomes specific to Ethnic Studies as derived from current best practices in the field of Ethnic Studies?”
 - b. What best practices should be encouraged for SDSU to adopt in their course evaluation and approval processes for meeting the Ethnic Studies outcome requirements in order to maximize consistency and integrity of the requirement.
 - c. Given learning outcomes, will all courses in Ethnic Studies (with the exception of those already excluded) be included as part of the requirement?
4. This graduation requirement shall not apply to a post baccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university, if the student has satisfied either of the following:
 - a. The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.
 - b. The student has completed an Ethnic Studies course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.
5. Beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, SDSU takes the steps to grow the appropriate administrative support for the expansion of Ethnic Studies to be able to adequately support the new undergraduate requirement, to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Growing Asian American Studies, including a Filipino American Studies program at SDSU in collaboration with Asian American faculty, students, staff, and community and the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies.

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