

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

GEAR Course and Program of Study Certification Process

31-20/21-ICC – April 27, 2021 – Second Reading

RESOLVED: The University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost that the ICC shall be charged to implement the attached processes for certification of all General Education and All University Requirements (GEAR) courses, including requirements for Area F as mandated by AB 1460 and EO1100 (revised), and programs of study that meet GEAR ; and it be further

RESOLVED: The University Senate charges the ICC with developing a systematic process for GEAR Program assessment and reporting over AY 2021/2022-2022/2023; and it be further

RESOLVED: This resolution supersedes #08-08/09-EP (revised).

RATIONALE for GEAR (Re)Certification:

In order to bring the current GEAR course offerings into alignment with both the new GEAR PLOs and a systematic and sustainable assessment plan, the University Senate charged the ICC with developing a new GEAR program certification and recertification process in 2019/2020. This process is proposed as detailed in the document attachment to this resolution.

Following the adoption of new institutional learning outcomes (ILOs) in AY 2018-19, the Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC) and GEAR Curriculum and Assessment Committee led a collaborative effort to develop program learning outcomes (PLOs) for the GEAR program that aligned with the ILOs. These GEAR PLOs were passed in AY 2019/2020. During the 2018 site visit, the WSCUC team identified improving GEAR assessment as a key component to contribute to a faculty-developed university assessment plan so that effective assessment is consistent across the institution.

Throughout AY 20/21, discussions of the structure of the HSU university-wide general education requirements and alignment with ILO1 and ILO2 have occurred in the ICC. With the long history of DCG as a student-initiated requirement and the nuances of reorganizing the university-wide general education requirements in a way that is supportive of the intention of those requirements as well as responsive to the needs of the general education Areas A-F, American Institutions, and major programs of study, these discussions will continue into the future with

input from stakeholders before additional specific changes to GEAR are recommended by the ICC.

Approval of the proposed reorganization to GEAR included in this document recognizes the immediate changes required for the GEAR program structure. Additional adjustments to improve the structure and assessment of the GEAR program will continue through consultation and collaboration with the faculty body.

RATIONALE for Area F Certification Process:

Proposals for any and all cross-listed courses come to the ICC as collaborative proposals from partnering departments. As required by EO 1100 (revised), all partnerships at HSU for Area F cross-listed proposals must include either Ethnic Studies or Native American Studies: These are the only two departments provided for in EO 1100 for course cross-listing possibility. These GEAR certification processes for Area F will support clarity on curricular work to be done over summer 21 and fall 21 on Area F course proposals.

The addition of Area F, including the addition of three units for Area F and the reduction of Area D by three units, is required by EO 1100 to be in place for AY 21/22. To meet that deadline, the ICC collaborated with the HSU Ethnic Studies Council to recommend a set of courses for emergency designation as Area F courses for AY 21/22. These emergency designations were specified as one-year designations: all courses with emergency designations in Area F will also be resubmitted and reviewed by ICC in order to provide a strong slate of approved Area F courses for AY 22/23 and beyond. AB 1460 was signed into law on August 17, 2020. In response, changes to Title 5 and subsequent amendments to CSU Executive Order 1100 were made with respect to CSU General Education Breadth Requirements to include a system-wide addition of 3 units of Area F, Ethnic Studies Requirement, and reduction of three lower-division units associated with Area D, Social Sciences Requirement. Area F units may be offered at the lower or upper division, with the intention that there are adequate offerings of Area F in the lower division. While every CSU campus is responsible for offering general education Areas A-F in alignment with Title 5 and EO 1100, each campus has the freedom to add additional university wide requirements (e.g. DCG) and structure their programs in a way appropriate to the institution. At HSU, general education Area A-F requirements are housed in the General Education and All University Requirements (GEAR) Program. Approval of the proposed reorganization included in this document is a formal recognition that the structure of the HSU GEAR Program has been updated to align with the changes to Title 5 and EO1100.

The introduction of Ethnic Studies as a system-wide requirement in EO1100 included requirements for five core competencies and specific departments to house these courses. At HSU, these departments are Critical Race and Gender Studies (CRGS) and Native American Studies (NAS). EO 1100 specifically states:

"To be approved for this requirement, courses shall have the following course prefixes: African American, Asian American, Latina/o American or Native American Studies. Similar course prefixes (e.g., Pan-African Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Ethnic Studies) shall also meet this requirement. Courses without ethnic studies prefixes may meet this requirement if cross-listed with a course with an ethnic studies prefix."

Attachments:

[HSU GEAR Requirements and Course/Program of Study Certification](#)

[Area F Policy](#)

[EO1100](#)

[AB1460](#)