

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Cannabis Studies Minor
010-23/24-ICC December 12, 2023 - Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Cannabis Studies Minor detailed in proposal [22-1944](#) be approved.

RATIONALE: Cannabis Studies (CST) students explore the historical, cultural, social, political, and legal contexts of cannabis through social and environmental justice frameworks. Students in our interdisciplinary major will find an engaged faculty from 18 academic fields who will prepare students to be stewards of social change in complex policy landscapes. Committed to the goals of liberal arts degrees, Cannabis Studies students will develop skills in critical and analytic thinking, writing, communication with diverse communities, as well as critical engagement with science and research. These skill sets are valued across areas of employment and advanced study and position our graduates for a broad range of professional pathways inside and outside those related to Cannabis: public policy and law, equity and justice advocacy, human services and regulatory agency work, research, and Masters or Doctoral degrees. The Cal Poly Humboldt Cannabis Studies major does not include training or curriculum in cultivating, processing, or selling cannabis.

A minor in Cannabis Studies would go well with just about any major offered by Cal Poly Humboldt, since public and private sector professional outcomes often require advanced knowledge in specific knowledge areas that do not, at this point, include cannabis studies. Many students are very interested in cannabis studies but still want in-depth training in more traditional majors, allowing them more flexibility in their career paths beyond the concentrations currently offered by the Cannabis Studies major. Many students will want to try out Cannabis Studies curriculum before committing to getting a degree in a brand-new field, so knowing that they can walk with at least a minor will incentivize enrollment in Cannabis Studies classes. In this way, the minor can also serve as a gateway to the major. Finally, given current administrative guardrails, the major cannot at this time offer industry-specific curriculum related to professional studies (for example, business) or most CNRS-related training (analytic chemistry, for example) but if they are able to pair this minor with professionally relevant majors will increase the overall recruitment power of the university in other majors.

This minor will provide Cal Poly students flexibility to add a specialization in cannabis studies in whatever degree paths they choose. It will also provide undeclared students an opportunity to try out cannabis studies curriculum and decide for themselves whether they want to pursue the major without losing time towards graduation while making that decision, because they will at

least gain a minor rather than sacrifice limited elective scope in their undergraduate journey. This minor will also help recruiting for other majors and programs that prospective students can pursue at other universities, since only at Humboldt can they bundle those generally found majors with something only found here

Cannabis Studies Minor Learning Outcomes

1. Students will apply an intersectional analysis to explain the sources of social justice challenges relating to cannabis prohibition and legalization
2. Students will apply an intersectional analysis to develop potential remedies for social justice challenges relating to cannabis prohibition and legalization
3. Students will evaluate the sustainability of cannabis production and regulation strategies
4. Students will identify, access, evaluate, and use needed information to support the development of regulations and/or programs that emphasize sustainability and/or equity
5. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of research evidence regarding the relationship between cannabis and specific communities and ecosystems
6. Students will produce a written policy analysis project in which they identify their interdisciplinary context and purpose, competently develop content, and cite sources and evidence for their claims

Requirements for the Minor (15 units)

- CANN 120 (3) Introduction to Cannabis Studies

- And at least one of:
 - CANN 202 (3) Humboldt and Cannabis [LD GE Area E]
 - Or
 - CANN 240 (3) Global Cannabis

- And at least one of:
 - CANN 325 (3) Cannabis and Social Equity
 - Or
 - CANN 335 (3) Cannabis and Environmental Sustainability

- And complete 6 additional units of electives from any 3-unit course in the major with a CANN prefix, inclusive of special topics offerings.