



Definitions of Undergraduate Concentrations and Emphases

RES 232403

AAC

RESOLVED: That the CSUB Academic Senate affirm that undergraduate programs follow the CO Policy on Subprograms which states that a subprogram has a required core that shares more than half of its units with the parent degree program (see guidelines in Rationale below).

RESOLVED: That CSUB only recognize **concentrations** and **emphases** on degrees.

RESOLVED: That the following definitions of concentrations and emphases be used:

- A **concentration** is a subprogram within a major that includes at least 12 distinct units of study (not shared across all subprograms offered in the major).
- An **emphasis** is a subprogram within a major that includes 7-11 distinct units of study (not shared across all subprograms offered in the major).

RESOLVED: That these definitions of subprograms be implemented in the 2024/2025 Campus Catalog and all other subplan names be changed to comply with this policy.

RESOLVED: That the Office of Academic Programs work with departments/programs which currently have subprograms to ensure alignment with this policy.

- Programs with subplans needing only a name change to emphasis or concentration be allowed to do so without curriculum committee review by the 2024/2025 catalog.
- Programs not aligned with the CO Policy on Subprograms should work with the Office of Academic programs and their school curriculum committee to comply with the policy by the 2025/2026 catalog.

RATIONALE: Implementing these definitions will provide clarity and consistency in the use of the terms “concentration” and “emphasis” across programs and put CSUB subprograms in alignment with CSU policy.

CO Policy on Subprograms

Academic Senate

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Definitions Discipline-specific required curriculum may be achieved through a subprogram (typically referred to as an option, concentration, or emphasis) with a required core that shares more than half of its units with the parent degree program (see CSU Policy 1071). The CSU does not make systemwide distinctions between options, concentrations, and emphases, as distinctions may vary by campus.

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