

Title: Defining Ethnic Studies and its Four Core Disciplines

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Whereas, the completion of an Ethnic Studies course (i.e., African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Latina/o American Studies, or Native American Studies) becomes a graduation requirement for all California State University (CSU) baccalaureate degrees starting Fall of 2021 due to the passage of AB1460, and California Associate degrees by Fall of 2022 due to the adoption of ASCCC resolution 9.03, and

Whereas, Ethnic Studies departments were autonomously established in 1968, becoming part of the curriculum of the University of California System (UC), California State University System (CSU), and the California Community College System (CCC) as evidenced in the establishment of departments, programs, and curriculum in course catalogs, schedules, and offerings, with faculty officially listed in the CCC Chancellor's Office "Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in California Community Colleges" handbook, and

Whereas, with the recent passage of AB 1460 misunderstanding and infringement by non-Ethnic Studies faculty have arisen in the CCC system about the definition of Ethnic Studies attempting to reduce it to a "concept" and confusing it with a "social justice" concept; such confusion has allowed for attempts at encroachment upon Ethnic Studies by disciplines whose theoretical foundations and competencies lie in other disciplines with different foundational histories, frameworks and epistemologies, and

Whereas, the recognition of Ethnic Studies as clearly defined and valid disciplines allows for the growth of Ethnic Studies disciplines within the CCC system in ways that align with current graduation requirements being established by the CSUs that recognize the autonomy of Ethnic Studies departments, programs, or combined administrative units with multiple departments; as distinct disciplines and departments or programs conceived and referred to as a shared initiative, therefore

Resolved, that the ASCCC recognize for the purposes of graduation and general education requirements, that Ethnic Studies is defined as an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race, ethnicity and culture in the United States, with specific emphasis on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Latina and Latino Americans. Additionally, the ASCCC recognizes that Ethnic Studies is offered through Ethnic Studies departments and programs, with disciplines focusing on the four autonomous core groups including, Chicana/o Studies, Latina/o Studies, La Raza Studies, African American Studies, Black Studies, Africana Studies, Native American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Pacific Islander Studies, Filipino

Studies, and Central American Studies, each having distinct epistemologies, theories, and methodologies that center a critical Ethnic Studies lens and present this definition through a position paper by the Spring 2022 Plenary,

Resolved that the definition of Ethnic Studies be written into the Program and Course Approval Handbook to support ASCCC Resolution 9.03.

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