

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3020-11/APEP/AA (Rev)
March 17-18, 2011

Grade Minima for CSU General Education Courses in the "Golden Four"

- RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) support a minimum grade of C (2.0) in the "Golden Four" CSU General Education areas (Written Communication/English Composition, Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking) for both native and transfer students; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU encourage the CSU Board of Trustees to wait for faculty input prior to enshrining such grade minima requirements into Title 5 (as opposed to transfer admissions, which is already policy albeit not in Title 5); and be it further,
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU request that campuses without a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) or better to receive General Education credit for courses in the "Golden Four" of CSU General Education consider such policies; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU use communications from the campus senates to inform potential actions to endorse changing the criteria in Title 5 for General Education certification requirements; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to: the General Education Advisory Committee; CSU Campus Senate Chairs; Directors of Campus General Education Committees; Leadership of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges; CSU Board of Trustees; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Academic Support, CSU; CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer.

RATIONALE: Completion of CSU GE curricula is a requirement of all CSU students. It is a CSU eligibility requirement to complete the "Golden Four" of CSU GE curricula prior to admission for all transfer students. Many, but not all, campuses of the CSU require a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) or better (as opposed to a "C-" (1.7) or no minimum grade standard) in the "Golden Four" as a campus requirement for native students. [All transfer students must have a "C" (2.0) or better in the "Golden Four." An eventual statewide requirement of a "C" (2.0) or better in Golden Four courses would create greater parallelism between requirements for native and transfer students.]

It is noted that the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges already has weighed in positively on encouraging a grade minima of a C (2.0) or better as a required element of "Transfer AA" degrees (see attachment).

It is the intention that the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee would help inform ASCSU action prior to encouraging any such change in Title 5 GE requirements.

Feedback to the ASCSU on this issue could be as straightforward as submitting a statement of existing campus policy or could be a more inclusive commentary of the status of arguments for and against grade minima in the Golden Four.

Approved Unanimously – May 5-6, 2011

Resolution 9.09 from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges 42nd Fall Session Resolutions (Final Resolutions) [<http://asccc.org/events/2010/11/fall-plenary-session>]

**9.09 F10 Golden Four Grades in New Transfer Degrees
Michelle Pilati, Rio Hondo College, Executive Committee**

Whereas, SB 1440 (Padilla, 2010) has been signed into law, with one of its primary goals to decrease student accumulation of units as they complete a degree and prepare to transfer;

Whereas, Resolution 4.03 S10 recognized that a "transfer degree" was imminent and called for the Academic Senate to "strongly encourage all local senates to ensure that students are provided with the degree options that meet their needs, be that aligning degree requirements with transfer institutions or offering degrees that serve as preparation for work"; and

Whereas, The California State University currently requires completion in the areas of the "Golden Four" with a minimum grade of "C" for transfer admission (i.e., A3--critical thinking, A1--communication, A2--English composition, and B4--quantitative reasoning) but not included in SB 1440;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges strongly urge requiring a minimum grade of "C" in the "Golden Four" in any associate degree for transfer.

MSC Disposition: Local Senates

Assigned: Relations with Local Senates and Curriculum Committees