

Draft CSU, Chico Response to Questions from ASCSU Resolution [AS-3397-19/AA](#) “Towards Implementation of an Ethnic Studies System Requirement”

Prepared by CSU, Chico ASCSU senators Rick Ford and Elizabeth “Betsy” Boyd following consultation with EPPC and FASP on 12 September and 17 October 2019. Endorsed by affirmation by the CSU, Chico Academic Senate on 24 October 2019.

- a. Considering the CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies Report and campus context, “What learning outcomes specific to ethnic studies as derived from current best practices and definitions of ethnic studies are to be included?”
Response: Campuses should have flexibility to develop their own SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes) as narrow or broadly as they decide. The campus favors local flexibility in the definition of “ethnic studies.”
- b. Consideration of the tradeoff in having the ethnic studies requirement as a stand-alone graduation requirement versus as a required GE overlay (e.g., separately, within the major, or upper- or lower-division GE or parts of both?).
Response: It should not be a single, narrowly-defined course requirement as proposed in [AB 1460](#). Chico favors developing an ILO (Institutional Learning Outcome) for ethnic studies as part of the campus response to the recent WASC recommendation to build ILOs. The new ILO associated with ethnic studies could be realized with a graduation overlay similar to the Chico State U.S. Diversity and Global Cultures requirements, and not necessarily a GE overlay. Interdisciplinary, double-count opportunities would be encouraged, similar to the diversity requirements. At Chico the U.S. Diversity requirement is a graduation requirement in addition to and not part of GE, but we allow qualified courses in GE to satisfy both GE and diversity requirements. Chico currently embeds ethnic studies SLOs in many courses satisfying GE and diversity requirements.
- c. Should implementation allow for campus-specific additions to the requirement (consistent with the spirit of requirement)?
Response: Chico is strongly in favor of policies allowing for campus autonomy regarding implementation of the Ethnic Studies recommended requirement in the ASCSU Ethnic Studies Task Force report.
- d. What best practices should be encouraged for campuses to adopt in their course evaluation and approval processes for meeting the learning outcomes specific to ethnic studies in order to maximize consistency and integrity of the requirement?
Response: Chico has developed local procedures and would prefer to use those, but with campus leadership committing to providing sufficient processing and assessment resources. Resource flexibility to support ethnic studies should be encouraged generally. The campus should ensure that appropriate faculty are engaged in the course evaluation and approval processes.
- e. What would be the earliest feasible and appropriate date for implementation?
Response: Fall 2022 would be the earliest, but fall 2023 is more realistic.