

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-010-256

Early Childhood Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program
Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs Option – Discontinuation

Academic Programs Committee : 11/19/2025

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 3/11/2026

Academic Senate : 3/18/2026

First Reading

BACKGROUND:

This referral requests the discontinuation of the Early Childhood Studies (ECS), B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program (ITEP) Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs Option.

The ITEP pathway was developed to address California’s need for qualified special education teachers through an intensive four-year undergraduate model requiring 133 units. Over time, the program has presented significant challenges for students, including heavy unit loads, reliance on summer enrollment, financial constraints, missed credential deadlines, and scheduling barriers. These factors contributed to delayed graduation and student attrition.

Additionally, the expiration of grant funding and concerns regarding post-graduation salary placement due to fewer post-baccalaureate units further impact program sustainability and student equity. Discontinuation will allow the department to focus resources on its remaining teaching pathways while maintaining program quality and alignment with workforce demand.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- College Dean
- Early Childhood Studies (ECS) Department Chair
- Liberal Studies (LS) Department Chair

Consultation with the Dean and department chairs identified no concerns or conflicts.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the referral materials and rationale for discontinuation. The program’s structural and financial challenges, combined with equity considerations and limited workforce demand for extensive support placements relative to other credential areas, support the proposed action. No issues were raised during consultation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the discontinuation of the Early Childhood Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program Education Specialist: Extensive Support Needs Option.