

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-011-256

Early Childhood Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program
Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate 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

4/15/2026

Second Reading

BACKGROUND:

This referral requests the discontinuation of the Early Childhood Studies (ECS), B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program (ITEP) Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate 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.

Financial constraints, the expiration of grant funding, and concerns regarding post-graduation salary due to fewer post-baccalaureate units further impact program sustainability and student equity. Despite the program’s ambitious goals, its structure has not sufficiently supported the diverse needs of the student population. Discontinuation will allow the department to focus on developing more sustainable and equitable teacher preparation pathways.

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 structural, financial, and equity-related challenges associated with the program 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: Mild to Moderate Support Needs Option.