ACADEMIC SENATE
Executive Committee
REFERRAL FORM

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

Date:	**11/19/2025**
To:	**Academic Programs Committee**
From:	Academic Senate Executive Committee
Subject:	Academic Senate Referral
Classification	**AP-015-256**
Title of Referral:	**Liberal Studies, B.A. - Integrative Teacher Education Program Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs Option Discontinuation**
Background:	See attached referral request form. Additional background provided by the Executive Committee: None.
Recommended resources:	See attached referral request form and supporting documentation. Additional resources recommended by the Executive Committee: None. For the Committee's Report on this referral, please list in separate sections, the resources recommended, and resources actually consulted. If a resource was not consulted, briefly state why.
Review and recommend:	Review and recommend as appropriate.
Date required for presenting committee report to the Executive Committee:	**3/11/2026**

Your Name: Ashley Ly

Your Email: atly@cpp.edu

Title of Referral: Footwear Design and Merchandising Minor Discontinuation

Names and Titles of Proponents:

Keywords: Integrative, Liberal, Studies, Teacher, Education, Program, Specialist, Mild, Moderate, Needs

Is there a deadline by when this referral needs to be considered by the Academic Senate?

Deadline Date:

Justification for Deadline:

Background:

Some portions of the following were extracted from the CPP Integrated Teacher Preparation Program ITEP Proposal and ITEP Implementation Grant application.

Cal Poly Pomona's Mission and Vision includes a commitment to career readiness, and embracing local and global challenges. These are clearly demonstrated through the LS ITEP goals of creating a pipeline for students to be Special Education teachers in a comprehensive program to meet regional and state needs for them.

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) for Mild Moderate Support Needs Education Specialists (ES) in the Liberal Studies (LS) Department was created to address California's growing teacher shortage needs by preparing undergraduate students to pursue careers as education specialists through an intensive program. ITEP Programs at CPP emerged in 2016 when LS and the Education Specialist Credential Programs designed these options using a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) grant. This collaboration resulted in a fully integrated cohort-based program where students complete undergraduate subject matter coursework, while completing selective credential courses, and enter and complete the special education credential program in their junior and senior years. Students complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in LS plus a preliminary Education Specialist credential in the Mild/Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist option. This option was delayed due to CPP semester conversion and did not receive official program approval from the university until March 2020.

The LS ITEP Mild/Moderate Support Needs Option was developed to address Special Education teacher needs regionally and for the state. Projections for Education Specialist teachers over 10 years as reported by the California Department of Education showed that over 55% of the statewide needs for new Special Education teachers would occur within the CPP service area. In Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino counties the Special Education teacher shortage was estimated to be 20,712. Additionally, the LS ITEP option served as an important recruitment and collaboration opportunity with local feeder community colleges especially Mount San Antonio College, Citrus College, and Chaffey College. The LS ITEP option served an important need both regionally and statewide.

The courses in the LS ITEP Mild/Moderate Support Needs program are central to the curriculum of the Liberal Studies department and mostly shared with the other 2 non-ITEP options. The additional courses for ITEP are the teacher credential courses that are central to their teacher credential program. All ITEP option undergraduate courses will continue to serve the LS Pre-credential, and General Studies (non-teaching) options. Teacher credential programs will continue to serve traditional credential students. Thus no courses are being closed or discontinued.

The LS ITEP option was initially funded by a $50,000 grant from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. This grant provided funds for principal leads, advisors, supporting faculty, collaborating with community college partners, and student grants.

The quality of the program has been compromised due to many unforeseen variables. The original grant received to support the program is sunsetting and the quality of the program will continue to diminish without continuing funding. Students in the program had difficulties keeping up with the course load that is expected each term and in summers. The heavy course load and unforgivable pace of the program did not mesh well with a student population that works at least 20 hours and has family obligations. Students dropped out, changed options, missed the application for the credential program and missed deadlines enrolling in Education courses. These issues compromised timely progress for ITEP students. Additionally, student funding was also an issue because the program required summer courses and students did not have summer funding to pay for these courses. Finally, as mentioned, the grant funding which supports various components of the program will end soon and this constrains departmental ability to support ITEP students. In particular, a dedicated advisor will no longer be supported.