

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-015-256

Liberal 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 Liberal Studies (LS), B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program (ITEP) Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs Option.

The LS ITEP Mild/Moderate Support Needs Option was created to address California's special education teacher shortage through a cohort-based, integrated undergraduate and credential pathway. Supported initially by a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing grant, the program enabled students to complete a B.A. in Liberal Studies alongside a preliminary Education Specialist credential.

Although developed to meet significant regional and statewide workforce needs, the program has encountered substantial challenges. The intensive course load, required summer enrollment, and accelerated pacing proved difficult for students balancing employment and family responsibilities. Students experienced attrition, missed credential deadlines, and delayed progress. Additionally, the grant funding that supported advising and program coordination is sunseting, limiting the department's ability to sustain program quality.

All core LS and credential courses will continue to be offered through existing non-ITEP and traditional credential pathways; no courses will be discontinued.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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

Consultation identified no concerns or conflicts regarding the proposed discontinuation.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the referral materials and rationale for discontinuation. Given the structural challenges, funding limitations, and sustainability concerns, the proposed action is supported. Continuation of shared coursework through other LS and credential pathways mitigates curricular impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the discontinuation of the Liberal Studies, B.A. – Integrative Teacher Education Program Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs Option.