

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

**S16-17, University Policy, Academic Certificate Programs:  
Review and Approval Process**

**Legislative History: Rescinds S12-5, S13-10**

At its meeting of May 9, 2016, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Mathur for the Curriculum and Research Committee. University Policies S12-5 and S13-10 provide the review and approval process for the current certificate process at SJSU. However, problems have arisen with undergraduate and graduate admissions, the use of Open University within certificates, and the review process timeline of certificate proposals within committees. Therefore, this policy replaces S12-5 and S13-10 and requires that all certificate programs at SJSU be reviewed and approved under the new process outlined in the attached guidelines, and that all existing certificate programs that predate the adoption of this policy also be reviewed and approved under these guidelines within two years.

**Approved and signed by Interim  
President Susan W. Martin on  
May 17, 2016**

**University Policy  
Academic Certificate Programs: Review and Approval  
Process**

**Rationale:**

Executive Order #806 from the Chancellor's office provided a framework for offering certificate programs and encouraged the development of such programs. The existing certificate policies, S12-5--Policy Recommendation, Review and Approval Process for Academic Certificate Programs and S13-10--Policy Recommendation, Modify the Review and Approval Process for Academic Certificates, provide the review and approval process for the current certificate process at SJSU (including earning certificates through Open University). As described in Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 40400 provides that the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the faculty of a campus, shall issue a certificate to a student who

has completed the prescribed course of study. After implementation of our certificate policies in the last three years, problems have arisen with undergraduate and graduate admissions, the use of Open University within certificates, and the review process timeline of certificate proposals within committees.

**Resolved:** That the following be adopted as policy; and be it further

**Resolved:** That all certificate programs at San José State University must be reviewed and approved under the process outlined in the attached guidelines; and be it further

**Resolved:** That, within two years, certificate programs that predate the adoption of this policy must be reviewed and approved under the attached guidelines; and be it further

**Resolved:** That only certificates from approved certificate programs can be awarded and posted on transcripts.

### **Certificate Guidelines** **Types of Certificate Programs**

1) Certificate programs are defined as any program in which some form of recognition from San José State University is awarded to participants. There are two basic kinds of certificate programs, Academic and Other (defined below) but only the former is the subject of this policy.

2) Academic certificate programs

a) **Definition:** Certificate programs are classified as “Academic” if students receive academic credit for any courses in the program.

b) Types of Academic certificate programs

i) Basic (undergraduate level)

(1) **Definition:** Basic certificate programs provide opportunities for students to pursue specialized, often pre-professional, focused educational objectives that may be separate from a degree program.

(2) **Jurisdiction:** Basic certificate programs are under the jurisdiction of the Undergraduate Studies (UGS) Committee and administered by the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP).

ii) Advanced (graduate level)

(1) **Definition:** An advanced certificate program offers post-baccalaureate students coursework leading to a specific, applied, focused goal.

(2) **Jurisdiction:** Advanced certificate programs are under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Studies and Research (GS&R) Committee and administered by GUP.

3) Other certificate programs

- a) **Definition:** Certificate programs are classified as “Other” if no academic credit or grade is required to be awarded for completion of courses in the program.
- b) **Jurisdiction:** College of International and Extended Studies (CIES) oversees these certificates in consultation with the AVP of GUP.

### **General Guidelines for Academic Certificate Programs**

- 1) Self-supporting certificate programs, both basic and advanced, credit and non-credit, will be administered by CIES, but curricular reviews will be conducted through normal curricular review processes and overseen by GUP.
- 2) State-support certificate programs must be credit bearing and must go through the curricular review process overseen by GUP.
- 3) Academic certificate programs should establish at least one advisor or director to oversee certificate programs within the unit.
- 4) Certificate programs that are classifiable as “Academic” that do not meet the criteria for this policy must be discontinued or go through a review process prior to Fall 2018.

### **Specific to Academic Basic Certificate Programs**

#### **Requirements**

- 1) Basic certificate programs must include a minimum of 9 units and maximum of 18 units of coursework. Programs may require that all prerequisite coursework has been completed prior to enrolling in the basic certificate program. At least 6 units must be completed at SJSU.
- 2) Basic certificate programs may include lower-division and upper-division courses numbered 1 through 199 (excluding individual studies, directed reading, supervision, and credit/no-credit courses).
- 3) A clearly stated assessment plan with learning outcomes must be included in the certificate proposal.
- 4) Basic certificates are available to matriculated students (regular or special session status).
- 5) A maximum of 33% of basic certificate units (e.g., 3 units for a 9-unit certificate) can be completed through Open University at SJSU with approval from the department or school.
- 6) Unless otherwise stated in the catalog, courses taken as part of an SJSU Academic Certificate program can be applied to an approved major, minor, or emphasis program where one is required for the student’s degree. Unless otherwise stated in the catalog, courses taken for a major or minor may be applied to a basic certificate program upon approval from the basic certificate program advisor/director.
- 7) Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 in basic certificate coursework in order to be awarded a certificate. However, departments or comparable units may elect to set more stringent standards to ensure the quality of certificate holders with respect to the program.

8) The advisor/director of the program is responsible for verifying a student's satisfactory completion of the academic requirements established for the program and for forwarding a copy of the certificate completion form to the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar records the completion of the program on the student's transcript.

### **Specific to Academic Advanced Certificate Programs**

#### **Requirements**

- 1) Advanced certificate programs must include a minimum of 9 units and maximum of 18 units of coursework.
- 2) Advanced certificate programs must be comprised of courses numbered 100 through 296 (excluding individual studies, directed reading, supervision, and credit/no-credit courses).
- 3) A clearly stated assessment plan with learning outcomes must be included in the proposal.
- 4) With the approval of the department or school, units may be applied to both an advanced certificate program and a graduate degree program offered by the department.
- 5) All advanced certificate programs must be constructed solely with courses taken through San José State University.
  - a) Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all advanced certificate coursework, with no less than the grade of "C" in any course. A maximum of 4 units of coursework with a grade of "C" can count toward an advanced certificate.
  - b) A maximum of 4 units of coursework may be repeated. The grade used for the GPA for the advanced certificate is the average of the initial grade and the grade upon repeating the course.
  - c) Advanced certificates may be available to matriculated (regular or special session status) and non-matriculated students (i.e., taken through Open University).
  - d) A maximum of 30% of any graduate degree program units (e.g., 9 units for a 30-unit Master's degree) can be completed from another institution and/or units from Open University (including advanced certificate courses) at SJSU with approval from the department or school.
  - e) The choice of grading requirements may have implications for transferability to degree programs.
- 6) These guidelines constitute minimum standards for advanced certificate programs; departments may propose additional requirements for approval by the GS&R Committee.
- 7) Departments/programs offering advanced certificate programs must have their advanced certificate students complete an intake form and submit an official transcript(s) (noting the completion of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an accredited and/or recognized institution from a foreign country). Students must have an undergraduate

GPA of at least 2.5 (where A=4). A department or program can propose more restrictive requirements subject to approval by the GS&R committee.

a) Non-matriculated students who complete an advanced certificate program solely through Open University are required to send copies of this documentation to CIES wherein this information will be retained and tracked by CIES.

Matriculated advanced certificate students that go through a formal university admissions review will have the said documentation retained and tracked at the Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations (GAPE) office within Enrollment Services.

b) Departments/programs offering advanced certificate programs may specify subject matter and/or coursework prerequisites for entrance into the certificate program. Such prerequisites must be listed in the university catalog. Prerequisite courses or equivalent experience must demonstrate current and appropriate preparation as determined by the program. All other grading regulations of the graduate school apply to the courses in the certificate programs (e.g., the prohibition against taking graded classes pass/fail).

c) Where appropriate, some form of portfolio presentation, performance audition, or other evidence of specific competence may be required by departments. Such criteria will also be listed in the catalog.

8) The advisor/director of the certificate program is responsible for verifying information in the student's intake form and the student's satisfactory completion of the academic requirements established for the program and for forwarding the certificate completion form to GAPE. After a review and evaluation, GAPE then records the completion of the program onto the student's transcript.

### **Process for Proposing and Reviewing Academic Certificate Programs**

1) All courses in a certificate program must undergo the normal course approval process prior to approval of the certificate course package.

2) Proposal Content:

a) SJSU College Dean Curricular Proposal Approval Form(s).

b) Brief statement of purpose.

c) Clearly stated learning outcomes mapped to coursework.

d) Catalog copy, which includes the following:

i. Brief statement of purpose.

ii. Admissions requirements.

iii. Course requirements.

iv. Any prerequisites for the certificate program.

v. Total number of units.

e) GPA needed to receive the certificate if other than a minimum of 2.0 for basic certificates and 3.0 for advanced certificates.

f) Program advisor.

g) For advanced certificates: number of units applicable (if any) to a degree and/or major depending upon matriculation status (with the caveat that the units may not be uniformly applied but require advisor consent).

h) For advanced certificates: if students are allowed to complete certificate courses through Open University, then the department/program must provide a justification for this pathway. The justification establishes that sufficient space will be available in the courses required for the certificate program.

i. This justification must comply with Executive Order #1099 which allows OU enrollment in state-supported courses on a space available basis after enrollment opportunities have been provided to state-support matriculated students.

ii. The justification must also comply with Executive Order #805 which states "enrollment or potential enrollment of non-matriculated students in state supported courses shall not be the basis of the addition for a course that would otherwise be cancelled because of low enrollment of regular matriculated students".

iii. Departments/programs must go through a recertification process every five years that re-evaluates the justification for certificate completion through Open University. These recertification requests will need approval by the college deans, the Chair of GS&R, and the Provost. GUP will oversee this recertification process.

### 3) Submission process

a) Academic certificate programs (either basic or advanced) may be proposed by department, school or college curriculum committees.

b) Proposals may be submitted, reviewed, and approved at any time during the academic year.

c) For entry into the catalog, the approval must be registered with GUP according to published catalog deadlines.

### 4) Review process for new proposals

The reviewing bodies are responsible for timely review and approval of academic certificate programs:

a) Proposals from either department or college level curriculum committees are submitted to the appropriate department chair(s) or school director(s) for review.

b) Upon approval, the department or school reviews are then submitted with a copy of the proposal to the appropriate curriculum committee(s) and college dean(s) for review and approval.

c) Upon approval of the college deans, a copy of the proposal (along with reviews from departmental/school and deans) is submitted to the Chair of the appropriate operating committee.

i. If the program contains any 200 level courses, the materials are referred to the Chair of the GS&R Committee for review.

ii. If the program does not contain any 200 level courses, the materials are referred to the Chair of the UGS Committee for review.

iii. During duty days, within one week, the committee Chair will determine if the Committee needs to review the proposal. If no full committee review is required, the proposal and accompanying reviews are submitted to the Provost via the appropriate office (GS&R for programs with 200 level courses or UGS for proposals with 100 level programs) with a statement

from the Chair specifying that a review from their committee was not necessary.

d) If review by the appropriate operating committee is necessary, the Chair of the operating committee will send recommendations from the committees, along with the proposal and accompanying reviews, to the Provost via the GUP office (GS&R for programs with 200 level courses or UGS for proposals with 100 level programs).

e) The Provost makes the final decision on whether or not to approve the certificate program.

5) Review process for existing certificate programs

a) Substitution, deletion, or addition of courses to the program will need to go through the minor program change process in the GUP office.

b) Certificates involving multiple programs will be assigned to a home department under which to be reviewed.

**Approved (C&R):** May 5, 2016 (electronic vote)

**Vote:** 11-0-0

**Present:** Anagnos, Bacich, Backer, Buzanski, Clements, Heil, Mathur, Matoush, Schultz-Krohn, Sibley, Stacks

**Absent:** Sarras

**Financial Impact:** Certificate programs have the potential to increase revenue if students enroll through special session.

**Workload Impact:** As certificate programs are developed or adopted:

1. The development of certificate proposals will require one faculty member to oversee each program.
2. Proposals will increase the number of materials for review and approval for curriculum committees, Chairs/Directors, Deans, UGS or GS&R, and the GUP office.
3. CMS and Enrollment Services may have increased workload to matriculate certificate students.