

ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND RESOURCE PLANNING IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES

Basic (Core) Undergraduate Programs
July 1980*

6. Basic (CORE) UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

In developing the original planning policies for the CSUC, the Board of Trustees recognized that certain academic programs at the undergraduate level were so fundamental to the University they should not be required to meet the “need and demand” criteria established as prerequisites offering other programs. The assumption of a “core” is equally critical to both campus and system reviews where discontinuation is being considered. Such programs are identified as basic core undergraduate programs. The following list is adapted with alteration from the Trustees’ 1963 list of subjects.

Recommendation XI

The following disciplines are the only ones wherein need and demand should not be the preeminent criteria for offering undergraduate programs. In evaluating these undergraduate programs, qualitative criteria regarding program integrity should be paramount.

Humanities and Fine Arts

Art

English

Foreign Languages

Music

Philosophy

Speech/Communication

Theatre Arts/Drama

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Biology

Chemistry

Geology

Mathematics

Physics

Sociology and Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology

Economics

Geography

History

Political Science

Psychology

Sociology

Other programs comprised of the above disciplines which an individual campus may define as basic to its mission, such as ethnic and/or interdisciplinary studies programs.

7. GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Certain attributes of graduate education – including increased emphasis on scholarship, rigor and structures supportive of them – suggest that qualitative criteria are of equal importance to need and demand in reviewing graduate programs. The use of qualitative criteria as a major factor in decisions to delete, retain or add programs argues against a minimum complement of master’s degree programs which would be standard to each campus. Graduate programs should not be automatic offerings of every department at each campus, but should be located only where all relevant criteria can be satisfied.