

# Academic Regulations

## Academic Regulations

California State University, Fresno is authorized to grant the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Business Administration, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Physical Therapy, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, and Master of Social Work degrees. California State University, Fresno offers an Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in School Psychology and a doctoral degree (D.P.T.) in Physical Therapy (jointly conferred with the University of California). California State University, Fresno also offers a doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership. See *Kremen School of Education and Human Development* for public school credentials for which the university is authorized to recommend candidates.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Additional Requirements.** Courses from one or more departments or programs that are required in support of the major. Such courses are not included in the minimum 2.0 grade point average required in the major for graduation and may be waived or substituted at the discretion of the major department or program. Additional requirements normally may be applied toward a minor. Additional requirements may also be applied toward General Education unless specifically prohibited by the major department.

**Certificate.** A set of interdisciplinary courses comprised of a minimum of 12 units focusing on a special area of study. Students are not required to be matriculated or be undergraduates. Certificates are awarded upon completion of the program regardless of catalog year or degree status. The university awards three types of certificates. They include the Certificate of Completion, the Certificate of Special Study, and the Certificate of Advanced Study. Consult the index for a complete list of certificates available.

**Certificate of Advanced Study.** A certificate program of special study at the postbaccalaureate level.

**Concentration.** A specialized area of study within a major. The concentration does not appear on the diploma. Concentrations may or may not appear within

majors that have also approved formal options. The term concentration is often used interchangeably with the terms emphasis, specialization, or track.

**Concurrent Enrollment.** The term *concurrent enrollment* is used to describe several different types of enrollment:

1. **Open University Enrollment.** Non-matriculated students may enroll in regular California State University, Fresno classes through the Continuing and Global Education.
2. **Concurrent Enrollment at Other CSU Campuses.** CSU students may attend two CSU campuses simultaneously. This type of enrollment is not often used by California State University, Fresno students because of the distance to other CSU campuses. (See the registrar for details.)
3. **Concurrent Enrollment at a Non-CSU College or University.** While enrolled at California State University, Fresno, students may enroll for additional courses at another institution outside the CSU system. The courseload in the combined enrollment program may not exceed the maximum unit load restrictions for California State University, Fresno.

See also *Intrasystem and Intrasystem Enrollment Programs*.

**Core.** A common set of courses within a major or minor that all students are required to complete.

**Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS).** DARS is a tool that assists in the advising process. Students can print their own DARS report through self-service. The DARS report shows the student's progress in a chosen degree program, using courses taken at California State University, Fresno and transfer institutions. The DARS report displays how courses apply toward the student's declared major, General Education, and degree requirements. It also displays a list of approved courses for each requirement to be completed.

**Double-Counting.** Allowing one course to fulfill two separate requirements concurrently; e.g., allowing one course to fulfill both a major requirement and the upper-division writing skills requirement, or allowing one course to fulfill both a major requirement and General Education requirement.

**Electives.** Courses/units a student selects to complete the total unit requirement for the baccalaureate degree and/or to complete requirements for the major.

**Grade Point Average (GPA).** The grade point average is a measure of academic scholarship and performance which is computed by dividing units registered into grade points earned. Three separate GPAs are computed:

1. Cumulative GPA for all baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate units by degree objective
2. Cumulative GPA for total California State University, Fresno units
3. GPA for that semester only

A minimum of a *C* average (2.0 GPA) for units in the major, all California State University, Fresno units, and total units is required for a baccalaureate degree. (See *Grade Symbols and Grade Points, Degree Requirements*.) Master's degree students have a higher minimum GPA requirement. (See *Graduate Studies — Advancement to Candidacy, Grade Requirements*.)

**Major.** Set of required courses from one or more departments designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue a specific career and/or advanced study. A student must earn a 2.0 grade point average in all courses required for the major, except "additional requirements," in order to graduate. Some majors are subject to more stringent grading requirements. (Minimum Title 5 requirements: *B.A.* — 24 units of which 12 must be upper division exclusive of General Education; *B.S.* — 36 units of which 18 must be upper division exclusive of General Education.)

**Minor.** In addition to academic majors, the university offers a number of minors. A minor is a formal set of courses in a designated subject area distinct from a student's major. The intent of a minor is to provide a condensed and cohesive academic experience, in addition to a major. Minors consist of a minimum of 12 semester units, at least 6 of which must be upper-division residence units. Minors must be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Minors offered by academic departments and programs are listed on the *Degree Programs* page. Detailed