

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

Resolution on Guidelines on Concentrations within Majors

#09-14/15-October 21, 2014 (ICC) – Second Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost the attached “Guidelines on Concentrations within Majors, 9/30/2014” developed by the Integrated Curriculum Committee be adopted for use by the ICC.

RATIONALE: The initial charge to the ICC included developing clear criteria and processes for making curricular decisions.

Currently the terminology used to describe subdivisions of a major is very inconsistent across campus. The terms “option,” “concentration,” “pathway,” “foci,” and “emphasis” (and a few others) are used interchangeably – and none of these terms have ever been defined. These guidelines are intended to create some consistency – which should increase clarity and comprehension for students, faculty, and staff.

Guidelines on Concentrations within Majors

11/4/14

Definitions

- 1) A **Concentration** is a significant subdivision of a Major that appears on student transcripts but not on the diploma.
- 2) An **Emphasis** is a subdivision of a Concentration or a Major that does NOT appear on student transcripts.
- 3) These guidelines refer only to formal divisions within the Major. Programs *may* continue to organize curriculum into smaller categories of alternative courses (for example, “select 2 courses from this category” or “take either this group of courses or that group of courses”) without formally naming these groups of courses.
- 4) In general, Majors should not have any named formal subdivisions further than Emphases unless those subdivision are essential to student learning and understanding of their progress through the degree program.

Implementation

- 1) By the Fall 2016 catalog, consistent terminology should be in place with “Concentration” used for divisions of degrees that appear on transcripts, and “Emphasis” for subdivisions/divisions that do not appear on transcripts.
- 2) In the early Spring of 2015, all Majors with subdivisions of any type will submit to the ICC revised catalog copy showing use of the appropriate terminology.