

CSU Executive Order #405  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Chancellor  
400 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California 90802

Executive Order No.:405

Title: Graduation Requirements in the United States  
History, Constitution and American Ideals

Effective Date: November 15, 1982

Supersedes: No prior Executive Order

This Executive Order is issued pursuant to Section 40404 of Title 5 of the California Administrative Code. Its purpose is to establish guidelines for the administration of Section 40404 by prescribing the minimum subject matter elements to be included in courses or examinations designated as meeting the requirement of Section 40404. This Executive Order also describes requirements and procedures whereby other accredited institutions may certify that the requirements of Section 40404 have been satisfied.

I. Content of Course and Examination Designated as Meeting  
Requirements of Section 40404

A. Any course or examination which addresses the historical development of American institutions and ideals must include all of the subject matter elements identified in the following subparagraph of this paragraph I.A. Nothing contained herein is intended to prescribe the total content or structure of any course.

1. Significant events covering a minimum time span of approximately one hundred years occurring in the entire area now included in the United State of America, including the relationships of regions within that area and with external regions and powers as appropriate to the understanding of those events within the United States during the period under study.
2. The role of major ethnic and social groups in such events and the contexts in which the events have occurred.

3. The events presented within a framework which illustrates the continuity of the American experience and its derivation from other cultures including consideration of three or more of the following: politics, economics, social movements, and geography.

B. Any course or examination which addresses the Constitution of the United States, the operation of representative democratic government under that Constitution, and the process of California State and local government must address all of the subject matter elements identified in the following subparagraph of this paragraph I.B. Nothing contained herein is intended to prescribe the total content or structure of any course.

1. The political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of the United States political institutions and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted.

2. The rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under the Constitution.

3. The Constitution of the State of California within the framework of evolution of Federal-State relations and the nature and processes of State and local government under the Constitution.

4. Contemporary relationships of State and local government with the Federal government, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitutions of both the State and nation, and that political processes involved.

## II. Certification

Students transferring from other accredited institutions of collegiate grade will be deemed to have met the requirements of Part I if the president of a regionally accredited institution or designee certifies that all requirements of Title 5, Section 40404 and the guidelines of this Executive Order have been met by satisfactory completion of course(s) or examination(s) at the baccalaureate level. Such certification shall be recognized by any campus of The California State University.

## III. Procedures for Certification

The procedures for certification shall be those established for certification of General Education-Breadth Requirements (see Executive Order No. 342) modified as follows:

1. Certification means that the entire requirement has been met. Partial certification is not authorized.
2. Certification addresses satisfaction of the requirement only. It does not address credit for the units completed. When baccalaureate course credit or general education-breadth credit is involved, certification for those purposes shall be according to established procedures for those purposes (see Executive Orders 167 and 342).
3. A list of courses and examinations to be used for certification shall be appended to preliminary and final general education course lists provided for in Executive Order 342 together with a statement that such courses and examinations cover all subject matter elements set forth in Part I of this Executive Order.

#### IV. Disputes

When disagreements arise, the procedures in the Chancellor's Executive Order concerning certification of General Education-Breadth Requirements (see Executive Order 342, Part V) shall be utilized to achieve resolution.

#### V. Effective Date

This Executive Order is effective immediately. Students presently enrolled, however, who enrolled in courses or completed examinations prior to this date, which would have met the requirements of Section 40404 at that time, shall be deemed to have satisfied these requirements.