

Assembly Higher Education Committee
Preparing K-12 Teachers for Ethnic Studies Requirement – Part 2
Oversight Hearing – October 26, 2022
Background Information

1) *What is Ethnic Studies?*

- a) The *History Social – Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve*, defines Ethnic Studies as the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity with an emphasis on the experience of people of color in the United States.

2) *Do K-12 Districts already offer Ethnic Studies Courses?*

- a) The State Board of Education adopted the [Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum](#) on March 18, 2021. Education Code required the curriculum to include examples of courses offered by local education agencies that have been approved as meeting A-G admission requirements for the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC).
- b) According to the latest data available from the California Department of Education Data Quest, in 2018-2019, there were 314 K-12 schools who offered, in total 1,057 courses in Ethnic Studies. 20,499 students attended these courses in the 2018-2019 academic year.
 - i) As of 2022, of the Ethnic Studies courses offered by K-12 districts, 399 were listed as approved A-G courses or meeting the requirements for admission to the CSU and UC.

3) *Existing Graduation Requirements versus A-G requirements:*

- a) As established in Education Code Section 51225.3, the State of California has various state-wide minimum graduation requirements. These requirements are considered the foundational requirements for graduation from high school in the state of California. Nothing in Education Code nor in California Code of Regulations precludes a K-12 district from establishing graduation requirements in addition to those listed in the chart below.
- b) In the late 1980s, the CSU Trustees and the UC Boards Regents agreed to a 15-unit high school preparatory course pattern requirement for first-time, first-year students seeking admission to the CSU and the UC. Since the early 2000's, the CSU and the UC have maintained the same minimum course requirements, known as the A-G requirements, which are displayed in the chart below.
- c) Since the introduction of the A-G requirements, some K-12 districts have elected to adopt the A-G requirements as the standard graduation requirements in order to promote a college-going mentality among students. In the 2017-2018 school year, the latest academic year available on Data Quest, of the 439,211 students who graduated, 64.4% attended college.
- d) State Mandated Graduation Requirements and Existing A-G Requirements:

High School Subject Area	State Mandated Requirements	UC A-G Requirements	CSU A-G Requirements
English	Three Years	Four years of approved courses	Four years of approved courses
Mathematics	Two years, including Algebra I, beginning in 2003–04. <i>(EC Section 51224.5)</i>	Three years, including algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra. Four years recommended.	Three years, including algebra, intermediate algebra, and geometry.
Social Studies/Science	Three years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics, and one semester of economics.	Two years of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government; and one year of world history, cultures, and geography.	Two years, including one year of U.S. history or U.S. history and government and one year of other approved social science.
Science	Two years, including biological and physical sciences.	Two years with lab required, chosen from biology, chemistry, and physics. Three years recommended.	Two years, including one year of biological and one year of physical science with lab.
Foreign Language	One year of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	Two years in same language required. Three years recommended.	Two years in same language required.
Visual and Performing Arts	One year of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	One year of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.	One year of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
Physical Education	Two years	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Electives	Not Applicable	One year in an approved academic course.	One year in an approved academic course.
Total	13	15 <i>(7 in the last two years of high school)</i>	15

- i) Currently, if a student were to complete an Ethnic Studies course it would count towards the elective category of the A-G requirements.

4) *Changes in Teaching Credential Authorization since May 2022*

- a) Currently, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) has not authorized an individual credential for Ethnic Studies. To obtain the appropriate credential to teach Ethnic Studies, a teacher would have to obtain a Single Subject Credential in either Social Science or English, depending upon the Ethnic Studies course.
- b) In June of 2022, the CTC Board adopted regulations which would permit a student who obtained an Ethnic Studies degree to have met the subject matter competency for a social science credential.
- c) Currently, only a teacher with a Social Science Single Subject Teaching Credential is qualified to teach Ethnic Studies; however, there is no guarantee this individual took courses in Ethnic Studies as this is not a requirement for a social science credential. According to the CTC Approved Institutions and Programs, there are currently 24 subject matter preparation programs in Social Science offered by Institutions of Higher Education; including 19 CSUs and 4 private/independent universities.