CAL STATE LA

MEMO

Date: October 7, 2026

To Jessica DeShazo, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Ben Vincent, Chair, Educational Policy Committee

CC: R. Roquemore, G. Menezes, C. Pugh, M. Hillstrom

Subject: EPC26-04 Proposed Policy Modification: Second Baccalaureate Degree – Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook

The goal of this policy modification is to update references to “regionally accredited” institutions in the faculty handbook in accordance with current terminology across the CSU.

Background and Context: On September 13, 2026, EPC was made aware of a memo from Brent Foster, Assistant Vice Chancellor of the CSU, reminding all campuses that any references to “regionally accredited” institutions in any campus policies and outward-facing communications should be replaced with “institutionally accredited colleges and universities.” Though not explicitly referenced in this memo, we believe that these revisions are recommended due to rule changes by the federal government that no longer recognize regional accreditation. EPC surveyed policies in Chapter IV and Chapter V of the faculty handbook and found only one policy that explicitly references regional accreditation, which occurs in Chapter IV and pertains to second baccalaureate degrees. Revisions to this policy were discussed on September 23, 2026.

Summary of Discussion: Discussion pertaining to the proposed policy revisions was brief, and mainly centered on whether there would be practical consequences to changes in the language. It was suggested that the updated language could be perceived as more inclusive of students matriculating from out of state. The proposed revisions were approved by EPC on September 23, 2026. This topic was agendized again on October 7, 2026, and EPC passed a motion to provisionally approve all revisions to any curricular or instructional policy in the faculty handbook referencing “regionally accredited institutions” and replace that phrase with “institutionally accredited colleges and universities.” Therefore, any relevant policy that was missed by our initial screen has EPC approval for this specific revision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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SECOND BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

(Senate: 12/2/69, 4/23/74, 8/11/87, 10/27/98, 2/19/13, 10/14/15 [EA]; President: 12/31/69, 4/24/74, 7/25/88, 2/1/99, 6/24/13, 1/27/16; Editorial Amendment: 8/01)

Students seeking a second baccalaureate degree from Cal State L.A. other than nursing, may qualify for graduation with the approval and recommendation of the faculty upon completion of the following:

1. Residence and scholarship requirements then in effect;
2. A major program as specified by the major department/division/school;
3. Completion of a minimum of 30 semester units in residence beyond the requirements of the first degree. The student must complete 30 semester units in residence, which must include at least 24 units in upper division courses, at least 12 units in the second academic major, and 9 units in General Education if applicable;
4. Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR);
5. General Education and other University requirements as appropriate:

In the case of a post-baccalaureate student pursuing a second baccalaureate degree, the General Education requirements and the GWAR shall be satisfied if the student previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from an INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY institution accredited by a regional accrediting association or if the student completed equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the Admissions Office and Undergraduate Studies.

A student who completes a baccalaureate degree from other than AN INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY a regionally accredited institution will be required to complete the following requirements if equivalent academic preparation was not completed as part of the first degree as determined by the appropriate campus authority:

1. Breadth requirements for Executive Order 1100 with a minimum of 12 semester units in each of three areas (including 3 upper division units in each): natural sciences and math, humanities, and social sciences. Course by course articulation or comparability will not be required. Sub-blocks (B1, B2, B3) will not be considered; i.e., the GE block as a whole will be evaluated.
2. Statutory requirements, i.e., U.S. history and California state and local government.

Nursing Students seeking a second baccalaureate degree:

Students who have been admitted to the baccalaureate nursing degree program who have previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from AN INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, may qualify for graduation with the approval and recommendation of the faculty upon completion of the major program, as specified by the School of Nursing.

Post-baccalaureate nursing students who have not previously earned a baccalaureate or higher degree from AN INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association may qualify for graduation with the approval and recommendation of the faculty upon completion of the major program as specified by the School of Nursing and an academic preparation equivalent to an accredited baccalaureate that includes the following requirements:

1. Residence and scholarship requirements then in effect;

2. Completion of a minimum of 30 semester units in residence beyond the requirements of the first degree. The student must complete 30 units in residence, which must include at least 24 units in upper division courses, 12 units in the second academic major, and 9 units in General Education if applicable;
3. Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR);
4. General Education and other University requirements as appropriate.

A student who has earned a baccalaureate degree from other than AN INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY a regionally accredited institution will be required to fulfill the following requirements if they were not completed as part of the first degree as determined by the appropriate campus authority:

1. Breadth requirements for Executive Order 1100 with a minimum of 12 semester units in each of three areas (including 3 upper division units in each): natural sciences and math, humanities, and social sciences. Course by course articulation or comparability will not be required. Sub-blocks (B1, B2, B3) will not be considered; i.e., the GE block, as a whole will be evaluated.
2. Statutory requirements, i.e., U.S. history and California state and local government.