

May 12, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Asian and Pacific Islander (ASCCC API) Caucus expresses our strong support for the inclusion and affirmation of Filipino Studies as a vital component of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) discipline. Filipino American experiences, histories, and contributions are deeply interwoven into the broader AAPI narrative, and their study is essential to a comprehensive and inclusive understanding of the field. Filipino Americans represent one of the largest Asian American populations in the United States, with a long-standing history of migration, labor, resistance, and cultural innovation. From early 20th-century labor movements to contemporary struggles for equity and representation, the Filipino American community has made significant contributions to the social, political, and cultural fabric of the nation. For example, Filipino American students were an integral part of the Third World Liberation Front movement that played a pivotal role in the origin of Ethnic Studies over a half a century ago.

Ethnic Studies is the collective term used when referring to the four racialized core groups foundational to the establishment of America. There are distinct and diverse identities within each of the four racialized groups. Filipino Americans are one of the distinct populations among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Filipino Studies was introduced to the academe during the strike at San Francisco State College Strike for the inclusion of Ethnic Studies¹ and since then has had long standing roots in California Community Colleges, for example:

- Filipino Studies has been taught in the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) for over 30 years.
- City College of San Francisco has a long-time established Philippine Studies Department

Explicitly identifying Filipino Studies as a distinct population and identity within the AAPI community and discipline ensures the representation of a diverse and nuanced spectrum of experiences that challenge monolithic conceptions of Asian and Pacific Islander identities. It affirms the necessity of interdisciplinary and intersectional scholarship that reflects the lived realities of Filipino Americans and acknowledges their rightful place within academic inquiry and public discourse. The recognition of Filipino American Studies in the ASCCC Minimum Qualifications (MQ) Handbook as part of one of the diverse identities of Asian American Pacific Islander Studies is a necessary step to correct past Institutional Centered Compromises and Colonization (ICCC)². We, the ASCCC API Caucus, urge the full

¹ Agents of Change Documentary

² Institutional Centered Compromises and Colonization (ICCC) term authored by Dr. Thekima Mayasa, San Diego Mesa College Black Studies Professor

ASCCC body to support Filipino Studies as one of the distinct populations of the AAPI community and within Ethnic Studies overall by updating the ASCCC MQ Handbook description of AAPI. Furthermore, we urge our CA public university partners to update and broaden their scope of review of transfer general education curriculum to include the Filipino Studies subject area prefixes as recognition of the unique identities within the AAPI community. Doing so upholds our collective commitment to equity, inclusivity, and historical accuracy in Ethnic Studies education.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a stylized "Martin".

Pablo Martin, ASCCC API Caucus Chair

The ASCCC API Caucus Members