

ASCCC Disciplines List Revisions Form

## Disciplines List Title Asian American Studies Date September 2025

**This proposal is for a**

 New discipline

Revision to existing discipline

✔

## Reason for the proposal

 Create a new discipline

Update language in existing discipline to reflect new terminology  Make minimum qualifications in existing discipline more restrictive  Make minimum qualifications in existing discipline less restrictive

✔

# PROPOSAL LANGUAGE

(If this is an existing minimum qualification, please include the original language and change using strikeouts and *italics*).

Asian American Studies Master’s degree in Asian American Studies

OR Master’s degree in Ethnic Studies AND Bachelor’s degree in Asian American Studies

OR the equivalent

***\*\* The Asian American (AA) Studies discipline recognizes Filipino Studies as a subgroup and unique population and people under AA Studies. Therefore, related subject indicators shall also be recognized (e.g. FILI subject indicator).***

# PROPOSAL EVIDENCE

Any Disciplines List proposal must have the following evidence, which is essential because it provides the rationale about why the change is needed as well as inform the field that the research has been completed to ensure that the change is necessary. *A lack of documentation about the need of Discipline List Revision may cause the proposal to be delayed or rejected by the Executive Committee.* Please use the following check list to ensure all you have conducted all necessary research.

## Required investigation of the following and statement of findings:

Contacted an associated professional organization to determine support of proposal

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* Academic Senate for CA Community Colleges (ASCCC) Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Caucus
* CA Community Colleges Ethnic Studies Faculty Council (CCCESFC) (Pending)

 Included evidence of degrees within the proposed revision of the discipline or new discipline.

* This proposal is to revise the Asian American (AA) Studies discipline description to include the addition of Filipino Studies as a subject area that recognizes a unique population and people under AA Studies.
* Evidence comes from the ASCCC Minimum Qualifications Handbook and discipline list where Asian American Studies, the newest of the four core autonomous discipline areas of ethnic studies is included.
* Additionally, it should be noted that there are several CCCs and universities where minor degrees or certificates in Asian American Studies have a specific focus on Filipino Studies:
* **City College of San Francisco (CCSF) Certificate in Critical Pacific Islands & Filipina/o/x Studies** – This award specifically addresses Filipino Studies.
* **College of San Mateo (CSM)** offers Ethnic Studies classes with a Filipino American focus, contributing to their growing Ethnic Studies program.
* **San Francisco State University (SFSU)** offers a **Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies** with an option of Filipino American Studies as an emphasis. Of particular importance, SFSU led the development of Filipino Studies since the Third World Liberation Front student strikes in 1968.
* **California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)** provides courses and emphases in Filipino American Studies in their Asian American Studies programs.
* **California State University, Northridge (CSUN)** provides courses and concentrations in Filipino American Studies in their Asian American Studies programs.
* **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** offers a Pilipino Studies minor covering class, labor, gender, migration and other issues related to the experiences of Filipino people.  A first in the University of CA (UC) system , the minor is distinct from Asian American Studies. Filipino American courses through the Asian American Studies Department. The department also supports dedicated faculty research in the field.

 Provided a list of the titles of the degrees and programs to document the need for a new or revised discipline using the below criteria:

* Minimum of three degrees
* Regionally accredited institutions (all public institutions in California)
* Disciplines in the Master’s List requires evidence of the availability of masters degrees
* Disciplines in the Non-masters List requires evidence of the availability of degree, certification, and/or professional experience, if necessary
* Filipino Studies is a **distinct interdisciplinary field** rooted in ethnic studies and examines the complex history of colonization, U.S. imperialism, labor migration, identity formation, and resistance movements in Filipino and Filipino American communities. As noted above a minor in Pilipino Studies will be offered at UCLA effective Fall 2025. Additionally, there there are several CCCs and universities where degrees or certificates in Asian American Studies have a specific focus on Filipino Studies. Please see CCC and universities listed in previous item.
* Provided statewide need documented by evidence to show a change is necessary and not merely a response to a unique need of one college, district or region. Demonstrated a balance of need across the state and included a discipline seconder from another district.

This proposal to revise the discipline description for AA studies aims to more accurately distinguish one of several unique populations under the AA Studies discipline. The proposal would also address the underrepresentation of Filipino American experiences in the CCC curriculum and faculty hiring, strengthening and advancing equity, cultural relevance, and academic rigor within the AA Studies discipline.

Filipino Americans represent one of the largest subgroups of Asian Americans in California, and the second-largest immigrant group in the state. According to U.S. Census and California Department of Education data, Filipino students constitute a significant portion of the CCC student body.

Referencing the list of CCCs and universities above, it is evident that Filipino Studies has evolved as a distinct, interdisciplinary field of academic inquiry grounded in ethnic studies, postcolonial theory, migration studies, and critical pedagogy.

Additionally, Filipino Studies as a distinct subgroup of Asian American Studies supports the implementation of CA’s equity laws and goals:

* AB 1460 (Weber) - CSU Ethnic Studies GE requirement
* CA Title 5 CCC Ethnic Studies GE requirement
1. Explained the impact of proposal across the state using a list the pro and con arguments and including refutation of the con arguments

Pros:

* Clarification and a more accurate description to the Asian American Studies that includes Filipino Studies will only strengthen the implementation of CA’s equity laws and goals:
* AB 1460 (Weber) - CSU Ethnic Studies GE requirement
* CA Title 5 CCC Ethnic Studies GE requirement
* This clarification shall also be a step toward decolonization of the CCC curriculum which currently could appear as implying that all Asian Americans should be called the same and not recognized for their own unique and rich culture, traditions, lived experiences, and agency.

Cons:

* Provided other evidence such as significant changes to the field that requires a change to the Disciplines List.

As evidenced in the list below, CCCs and universities are responding to their community needs and demographics within their communities by creating courses, awards, student clubs, research opportunities and other academically rigorous programs in Filipino Studies. As faculty who are engaged in the curriculum development process, we have an intimate understanding of the time it takes to create new and emerging curricula and awards. However, it is important to represent and respond to the needs of CA’s changing student body in higher education and the ultimately prepare students to engage in CA’s diverse workforce and economy.

**CCC**

* + **City College of San Francisco (CCSF)**
	+ **College of San Mateo (CSM)**
	+ **San Francisco State University (SFSU)**

**CSU**

* + **California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)**
	+ **California State University, Northridge (CSUN)**

**UC**

* + **University of California, Davis**
	+ **University of California, Irvine**
	+ **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
	+ **University of California, San Diego**

Provided a ½ page written rationale to be included in public documents.

Ethnic Studies is the collective term used when referring to the four racialized core groups foundational to the establishment of America. The four distinct groups are African American, Latina/o American, Native American, and Asian American. Additionally, each group has its respective academic discipline area. Furthermore, within Asian American Studies, there are distinct and diverse identities. Filipino Americans are one of the distinct populations among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.  This proposal aims to further advance and clarify the overall ethnic studies disciplines in order to ensure the representation of a diverse and nuanced spectrum of lived experiences as well as challenge existing monolithic conceptions of Asian and Pacific Islander identities. An update to the ASCCC MQ Handbook disciplines list description will more accurately reflect the lived realities of Filipino Americans and acknowledge their rightful place within academic inquiry. We respectfully urge the ASCCC to support Filipino Studies as one of the distinct populations and subgroups of the AAPI community and within Ethnic Studies overall by updating the ASCCC MQ Handbook description of the Asian American Studies discipline as part of our CCC commitment to equity, inclusivity, and academic inquiry in higher education.

# SUBMISSION

Once a proposal is received by the Senate Office, it is reviewed by staff to ensure that all the information is complete and includes the revision, contact information, appropriate signatures and rationale. The Senate Office will also check to ensure that the proposal has not previously been considered and rejected by the delegates at a plenary session or, if it has, it is supported by a new rationale. The proposal is then sent to the S&P Chair to review the Senate Office information and to ensure that the proposal meets the initial requirements of the Disciplines List review process as well as to verify that the proposal is not being submitted to deal with a district-specific problem that does not apply broadly. If there are any concerns with the proposal, the S&P Chair, working with the S&P Committee, will immediately follow up with the initiator.

## The contact person (or a designee) will be required to attend hearings where the proposal is presented. These hearings are typically held at the ASCCC plenary sessions. It should be noted that the contact person is responsible for investigating and documenting the need for changes to the Discipline List.

Please reference the **Disciplines List Handbook** for information about the process including the role of the initiator, the Standards and Practices Committee, the Executive Committee, and the delegates.

Contact person Mara Palma-Sanft

(author of proposal)

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Seconder Name Iolani Sodhy Gereben

(must be from another District)

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## Signature of College Academic Senate President

 By signing this document, the Senate President is certifying that the required investigation and statement of findings have been sufficiently addressed.

College San Diego Miramar College

Email Date

approved by College Academic Senate

**OR**

Organization President Date Approved by Org. President Phone

**RETURN FORM TO:** The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges One Capitol Mall, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95814 Email: **disciplineslist@asccc.org**