

California State University, Stanislaus  
Office of Academic Programs

**Procedure for Submitting Proposals for New Degree Major Programs**

**◀ Pilot Program ▶**

The California State University allows campuses to offer a limited number of pilot programs without prior approval of the Chancellor's Office or California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC). Campuses may offer one or two per campus per three-year period. Pilot programs must receive provost and presidential approval prior to proceeding with developing a proposal.

A pilot program may be established only under the following conditions:

1. It can be established as a pilot program only if it meets the criteria for fast-track programs; that is,
  - a) it can be offered at a high level of quality by the campus within the campus's existing resource base, or there is a demonstrated capacity to fund the program on a self-support basis;
  - b) it is not subject to specialized accreditation by an agency that is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors, or it is currently offered as an option or concentration that is already recognized and accredited by an appropriate specialized accrediting agency;
  - c) it requires no major capital outlay project to be adequately housed;
  - d) it is consistent with all existing state and federal law and trustee policy;
  - e) it is a bachelor's or master's degree program;
  - f) the campus has a thorough review and approval process for pilot degree programs, through which the program has passed.
2. A pilot program is authorized to operate only for five years. If no further action is taken by the end of the five years, no new students can be admitted to the program (the campus would be obliged to make appropriate arrangements for students already enrolled in the program to complete it);
3. The campus must notify the Chancellor's Office of the establishment of the program and its curricular requirements prior to program implementation.
4. It can be converted to regular-program status and approved to continue to operate indefinitely if the following conditions are met:
  - a) the campus committed the resources necessary to maintain the program beyond five years;
  - b) a thorough program evaluation (including an on-site review by one or more experts in the field) shows the program to be of high quality; to be attractive to students; and to produce graduates attractive to prospective employers and/or graduate programs, as appropriate;
  - c) approval by the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor is required after review and comment by the Chancellor's Office and CPEC.
5. A pilot program can be implemented without its having been projected on the campus Academic Plan. It would require the acknowledgment, but not the prior approval of, the Chancellor's Office and CPEC, and it would be identified as a pilot program in the next annual update of the campus Academic Plan.
6. A "pilot program" option allows a new degree program to be implemented within a year of its inception if
  - The pilot program proposal has received all campus approvals during the fall term, and
  - The pilot program proposal is printed in the University Catalog.

**Procedure for New Degree Major Program Proposals**

Please follow the *Template for Submitting Proposals for New Degree Major Programs* ( [E](#) ).

**Approval Procedure**

Please follow the *Approval Timeline for New Degree Programs* ( [M](#) ).

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