

Reference Number: F00-149

Senate Approval Date: Friday, September 01, 2000

POLICY FOR ARTICULATION OF UPPER-DIVISION AND LOWER-DIVISION COURSES

A.S. Policy F00-149

(formerly S87-149)

At its meeting of November 7, 2000, the Academic Senate approved the following revised policy for articulation of upper-division and lower-division courses:

1. Policy

For the purposes of formal articulation, a lower-division course offered at a community college should not be considered an equivalent to an upper-division course at SFSU. If a community college seeks an equivalency and provides required evidence supporting this request, the SFSU department offering such an upper-division course should evaluate the evidence consistent with the conditions for upper-division courses adopted by the Senate (S87-136), and should either

a) deny the equivalency and provide explanation of the differences; or

b) grant the equivalency and renumber its course as a lower-division course; or

c) conclude that courses are "alike but not equivalent." This means that the courses are similar in content but dissimilar in requirements and levels of instruction. The student who has completed the course at the community college will not have to repeat the course at SFSU but units earned can only be counted as lower-division units.

2. Rationale

Community colleges have been seeking to establish formal equivalencies between some of their lower-division courses and SFSU's upper-division courses, using signed, written agreements. This policy provides three options to deal with such requests depending on the degree of similarity between the courses at a community college and SFSU. When courses are similar in content, requirements, and instruction level, then both should be numbered as lower-division courses. When courses are similar enough in content but different in requirements and levels of instruction, then it is in the best interest of the student that a waiver be granted so he/she will not have to repeat the course at SFSU. However, the student must still gain sufficient upper-division experience to satisfy all upper-division requirements of the major and the degree.

3. Implementation

Community college requests are submitted to the University Articulation Officer. The Articulation Officer ensures that all necessary supporting documents are in place and then forwards the request, together with a copy of this policy, to the relevant department. The department makes a decision based on this policy and informs the Articulation Officer of the decision in writing. The Articulation Officer informs the community college of the department's decision.

If the department selects option c), the written agreement should clearly indicate that the community college course does not earn upper-division credit at SFSU. The department's advising materials and/or program worksheets should also state clearly that students must still satisfy all graduation requirements, including upper-division unit requirements for the major and the degree at SFSU.

4. Review

The policy shall be reviewed by the Academic Policies Committee three years after its implementation.

****APPROVED BY PRESIDENT CORRIGAN ON NOVEMBER 15, 2000****
