

Program Research & Recommendation

New Program Proposal Form

New Program Title:	Associate Degree in Ethnic Studies
Initiator:	Deb McCabe, Chair
First Semester Intended to Offer:	Fall 2026

Type of Program

Use AS for any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field and for all CTE programs. Use AA for all others.

- AA-T/AS-T
- AA/AS (18 units minimum w/o GE)
Vocational programs must be approved by NFN
- CA-Certificate of Achievement (16 units minimum)
Vocational programs must be approved by NFN
Non-vocational programs are not eligible for Financial Aid and will not be shown in CCC Apply, CAP tool, or Degree Planner
- CA-Certificate of Achievement (8 units minimum)
Only needed if required on a student's official transcript; All others use Certificate
Vocational programs must be approved by NFN
Non-vocational programs are not eligible for Financial Aid and will not be shown in CCC Apply, CAP tool, or Degree Planner
- Certificate – Certificate in... (15.5 units maximum)
Not chaptered, not FA eligible, will not be shown in CCC Apply or student's official transcript
Non-vocational programs will not show in CAP tool or Degree Planner
- Noncredit Certificate of Completion (*Leads to job; minimum 2 courses*)
- Noncredit Certificate of Competency (*Bridges to credit coursework; minimum 2 courses*)

Program Codes

TOP Code:	2203.00
CIP Code:	05.0200
What COI will this program be in?:	Social/Behavioral Sciences & Communication

Program Description

Ethnic Studies is the interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, and Chicano/a/x and Latina/o/x Americans. Students explore systems of power and resistance, the impact of colonization, and ongoing movements for racial and social justice. The Ethnic Studies curriculum is designed to sharpen critical thinking, deepen cultural awareness, and empower students to become agents of change in their communities and beyond. By examining historical and contemporary inequities impacting American society, students will be prepared to make valuable contributions in their personal, communal and professional lives.

Program Learning Outcomes (4)

Understand and describe the foundations of Ethnic Studies, its major concepts, theories, frameworks, research methods, and evolving developments.

Identify and analyze systems of power and resistance, such as white supremacy, racism, colonialisms, and other forms of oppression in historical and contemporary contexts.

Examine the historical roots, similarities and solidarities in the struggle for social justice among different racial and ethnic groups.

Engage in critical thinking and act as agents of change with a focus on racial and social justice.

Program Courses

Course No.	Title	Units
	CORE (9 units)	
ETHS 1	Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3
ETHS 10, 20, 30, 40	<small>Two of the intro area courses. Intro to Chicana/o Studies, Intro to Native American Studies, Intro to African American Studies, Intro to Asian American Studies</small>	6
	List A - Choose 3 (all new courses)	
ETHS #	Race and Ethnicity in Education	3
ETHS #	Race and Ethnicity in Law and Policy	3
ETHS #	Race and Ethnicity in Media	3
ETHS #	Storytelling Cultural Productions	3

How does the program align with the College Mission Statement, District Educational Plan, and Strategic Plan?

The Ethnic Studies degree provides students with a strong foundation of knowledge and critical thinking skills related to diversity, equity and inclusion, which are essential values in California higher education. Taffye Clayton, writing for Higher Education Today, described diversity, equity and inclusion as "mission critical" for institutions of higher education. Working with a community of practice formed by the American Council on Education, she described the lessons that were learned, including that higher education institutions need to "prioritize and institutionalize DEI as a core competency." She also referred to DEI as a "core value" and "foundational principle for education" (Clayton, 2021).

Explain how the program is appropriate to the Community College mission of providing the first two years of a baccalaureate degree?

The courses that comprise the Ethnic Studies degree are introductory level. They provide students with first- and second-year levels of information, reading skills, critical thinking skills, and written analysis skills. Students earning a degree in Ethnic Studies will be well suited for upper division work upon transfer, regardless of their major or emphasis.

How does the proposal demonstrate need for the program?

Many students today are seeking careers and educational paths that allow them to make a tangible difference as agents of change in their communities and the world. Dr. Valeria Chepp, social justice program director for Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, ties the growing student interest in social justice programs to events like the murder of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. According to Chepp, there is growing student interest in developing "the ability to critically analyze their social world through a justice lens and learn how to change the world around them, so it is more just and equitable." "Students are 'on fire,' she says. "They are so hungry for this" (Weisman, 2021).

California is especially motivated to provide Ethnic Studies education to its students. As of July 2021, California Community College students were also required to meet an ethnic studies graduation requirement to earn an Associate Degree, and starting in fall 2021 California State University students were required to complete a 3-unit course in Ethnic Studies as part of their Baccalaureate Degree. In addition, in October 2021, Governor Newsom passed Assembly Bill 101, which mandates Ethnic Studies as a high school graduation requirement by the year 2025.

Annual Completers: How many students do you anticipate completing this program each year?

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What are the impacts on existing programs (enrollment, staffing, section offerings)?

It is difficult to answer this question since the Ethnic Studies General Education requirement is so new. However, faculty report great student interest and engagement, and some students are already choosing to take more than one ETHS class even though it does not provide any additional GE credit. Chico State, where the majority of our students transfer, is solidifying an Ethnic Studies major. UC Davis and Sacramento State Universities already have well-established programs. If we had to guess, we may eventually have annual completers similar to Communication Studies.

Enter the number of new faculty positions, both part- and full-time. If existing faculty are sufficient, enter zero (0) 2

Is there sufficiency of institutional resources to support the long-term vitality of the program?

We will need to add perhaps two more faculty in the coming year to support both the Ethnic Studies General Education requirement and our new program requirements. We currently have only one Associate Faculty member who is qualified to teach Ethnic Studies introductory classes.

New Equipment needed (include cost)

None

New/Remodeled Facilities (include cost)

None

Library Acquisitions (include cost)

None

Is the program compliant with all applicable laws, regulations, and curriculum standards?

Yes

Will the program be eligible for Financial Aid (CA's with vocational TOP and degrees)?

Yes

Distance Education - Indicate the extent to which the courses associated with the degree are conducted via distance education _____0%, X _____1-49%, _____50-99%, _____100%

For Career Education Programs: Provide labor market information (LMI) and other employers demand documentation demonstrating that there are jobs and careers available for program graduates

Signature: Deb McCabe

Date: 8-29-25

Contact Information: Deb McCabe mccabede@butte.edu 530-828-4665

Return Form to Scheduling Center for processing: Centersh@butte.edu