

PETITION TO DISCONTINUE THE BACHELORS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DEGREE.

This is a petition to discontinue the Bachelors of Vocational Education pursuant to APM 214 *Standards and Procedures for Reviewing an Undergraduate Program for Discontinuation*.

Background. The Bachelors of Vocational Education degree (BVE) was instituted by state statute (Swan Bill-Education Code sections 89220-89223) in 1943 prior to the existence of the CSU system. California State University, Fresno is one of 5 CSU campuses offering the BVE degree. The program was to prepare teachers and to provide existing vocational teachers a path to a bachelor's degree. It contained an option to earn up to 40 units of academic credit based on the evaluation of demonstrated work experience. Review was conducted by a state Board of Examiners. It has been discovered that the Board of Examiners that has been in operation was not constituted according to statute and has been out of policy and legal compliance. The CSU and the California Department of Education have agreed that BVE programs and student work are CSU concerns and CSU does not have to interact with the Board of examiners and the CSU is asking that all five campuses discontinue the programs. Legislation to revoke the BVE Education Codes will be written this year. The CSU is conferring with the campus relative to developing a bachelor's degree program in Career and Technical Studies.

The Bachelors of Vocational Education is housed in the Department of Industrial Technology in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. The campus has not been admitting students to this degree for 9 years. Rather, students have been encouraged to enroll in the Industry and Technology Teaching Credential Waiver program. There are no students currently enrolled in the BVE program. Courses that were used for the BVE program are existing courses used in other campus programs.

Standards to be considered under APM 214.

Accreditation is not a prerequisite. Since no students are enrolled, the program is no longer making "an integral and significant contribution to the university's overall academic mission", nor is it advancing "the programmatic needs of the college/school and university". The university was relying on the Board of Examiners to certify some academic credit and this has been called into question on some campuses where some credit being used in the program may not have met "the standards of the discipline". We do not believe that was the case with any of the students going through our campus program.

Curriculum

Courses that were offered on campus and used in the curriculum have defined student outcomes and learning objectives and were offered in a timely fashion. Curricular offerings predominantly served other programs. Discontinuation will not impact the offering of these courses. The department previously concluded that the Industry and Technology Credential Waiver program was a better way to meet the needs of students. The department is working with the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to explore whether a bachelor degree in Career and Technical Studies should be developed.

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Undergraduate Students

One of the reasons the department has not enrolled students in the BVE program recently is the small number of students. While existing courses have strong intellectual content, it is difficult to build esprit de corps in a program with only a few students. Since all of the courses were being offered already, the issue of resources was a minor concern although it did require faculty attention to work with the few students.

Faculty and Other Resources

The program has the faculty and other resources needed to support its undergraduate curriculum and provide an appropriate schedule of courses. As noted above, since the courses are already offered for the Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology, discontinuation of the BVE will not have a significant impact on faculty. Since the suspension of the program six years ago, no time has been devoted to recruiting. Some time was spent advising students since the program was suspended, but that will stop with dissolution.

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