



ICW Working Definition of “Area of Emphasis”

In 2007, the term “area of emphasis” was added to the CCC vernacular when Title 5 regulations relating to associate degrees were modified and there was an interest in allowing colleges to develop degrees that were based on something broader than a major. While “area of emphasis” was only loosely defined, often this option was used to create degrees with little structure beyond the required general education. Many colleges, for example, created areas of emphasis that consisted of courses in a given general education area.

As a consequence of Senate Bill 440 (Padilla, 2013) and its requirement that TMCs in areas of emphasis be developed, it is necessary to create a definition of area of emphasis. This definition must work in the framework of associate degrees for transfer which require that a TMC offer enough specificity that CSU departments can deem the TMC “similar” (i.e., a student who completes a TMC---aligned degree at the CCC would be able to complete the degree at the CSU in 60 units).

At the January 30, 2014 ICW meeting the following working definition was adopted:

An area of emphasis is an interdisciplinary TMC that is developed to serve multiple majors at the CSU. Such a TMC may not have a clear department of origin at the CCC and would be designed to prepare the student for an array of majors at the CSU.

The ICW is currently working on identifying potential groups of related disciplines to convene for the purpose of creating an area of emphasis. Efforts are currently underway to convene faculty to develop areas of emphasis in TMCs that have been given the working titles “health science/exercise science” and “ethnic studies”.

Another option being considered is a STEM area of emphasis.

Revised and adopted at January 30, 2014 ICW.