Converting Pilot Programs to Regular Program Status

The California State University allows a limited number of degree programs that meet certain criteria to be established as “pilot programs,” without review beyond the campus level. Pilot programs are proposed to the Chancellor’s Office and may be authorized to admit students for up to five years, at which point the program must be phased out or converted to regular-program status. Conversion requires that the campus submit a pilot-conversion proposal to the Chancellor’s Office, which includes a thorough program evaluation, including an on-site review by one or more experts in the field. Additionally, the proposal should address faculty resources, facilities resources, enrollments, quality, societal need (including labor-market demand), student demand, appropriateness to institutional mission, costs, and preparation of graduates for employment and/or graduate education. The campus may use the traditional implementation proposal format. Campuses electing not to convert to regular status are expected to submit a letter of discontinuation, including program teach-out provisions.

Conversion of a pilot program is subject to review and comment by CPEC staff.

Pilot Program Criteria

(a) The program 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; and

(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 can be adequately housed without a major capital outlay project;

(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 program has been subject to a thorough campus review and approval process.