**Proposal for having students follow the catalog in effect at the time of initial matriculation, for all general education and major requirements**

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| Source of the Proposal | The Course and Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate |
| Level of degree | Associate and Baccalaureate |
| Consultations | Academic Affairs, Curriculum Coordinator, Registrar’s Office |
| Date Effective | Fall 2021 |
| Current policy | “Requirements in this Catalog were approved effective fall 2020. The “Grandfather” clause is designed for students who matriculated in a program, major, or curriculum prior to that date. This provides that students may meet degree requirements in effect the year of their matriculation in a particular program, curriculum, or major provided the student has not had an interruption in matriculation exceeding four consecutive fall and spring semesters.Students changing major or curriculum are subject to the requirements in effect the year of the change.” |
| Rationale for change | Implementation of this policy will eliminate the confusion of the current practice of having a student following two separate catalogs – one for general education (matriculation term) and one for major/minor (term of declaration).  The majority of our students initially enter CSI in the Associate Division, which limits their options in the first year (FY) for what majors they are eligible to declare.  In addition, advisement of FY students is based on the catalog in effect at the time they matriculate at CSI. If the FY student defers declaration of a baccalaureate-level major until their sophomore year, they run the risk of the major requirements changing and the coursework they took in the FY no longer being applicable.  Our readmitting students (700+ for Fall 2018) face this same scenario of prior coursework potentially no longer being applicable to their degree, especially when they have been out of school for four or more consecutive semesters.The opt-in option, currently processed on an individual basis by the Registrar’s Office, would give all students the option of following “newer” requirements.  (For those in licensure leading/accredited programs this would be the better option because the curriculum was adjusted to make the students better prepared for the licensing exam or entry into graduate school.)For those students in baccalaureate majors who apply for an en-route associate’s degree, there would be no more ambiguity about which catalog requirements they would be evaluated under: eligibility for the en-route associate’s degree would be based upon the degree requirements in effect when they first matriculated at CSI.  |
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| Objectives | * Ensure consistency of academic guidance provided by advisors
* Permit proper utilization of the Degree Maps, which are based on a single catalog and inclusive of the general education and major requirements in effect when the student enters CSI
* Eliminate confusion resulting from the usage of two different catalogs to complete degree requirements
* Provide consistency, equity, and fairness for students during their academic career at CSI
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| Expected impacts on enrollment | None are anticipated, as this proposal serves to bring students under one set of catalog requirements, and does not change any other College policies related to admissions, program eligibility, or other academic matters. |
| Expected impacts on classwork/registration | Students would be able to fully utilize all coursework taken during their time at CSI, even when they change their major, add a second major, or make additional changes to the academic programs they are pursuing.  |
| Expected impacts on retention/success/graduation rates | The ability to fully follow the four-year/eight-semester Degree Maps in place at the time of matriculation will allow students to complete all of their degree requirements in a timely fashion, even if they change their major. Being able to have their catalog (essentially their academic contract with the College) honored may increase the number of students who opt for the en-route degree while also pursuing their bachelor’s degree credentials. |
| Changed policy (From🡪To) | “Requirements in this Catalog were approved effective fall 202~~0~~. ~~The “Grandfather” clause is designed for students who matriculated in a program, major, or curriculum prior to that date. This provides that students may meet degree requirements in effect the year of their matriculation in a particular program, curriculum, or major provided the student has not had an interruption in matriculation exceeding four consecutive fall and spring semesters.~~~~Students changing major or curriculum are subject to the requirements in effect the year of the change.”~~Requirements in this Catalog were approved effective Fall 202x, and all students first entering CSI this term must follow the degree requirements outlined in this catalog for the duration of their undergraduate academic career at the College. Students who matriculated in an undergraduate program, major, minor, or curriculum prior to Fall 202x must follow and meet the degree requirements in effect the year of their matriculation at the College. Students may opt into following newer catalog requirements by submitting an official written request to the Registrar’s Office, after consultation with their academic advisor.If a student fails to enroll for at least one credit for more than four consecutive fall/spring semesters, or takes a formal leave for the same period, their catalog status will be reset to follow all requirements in place at the point of their re-matriculation. |