



# Faculty Senate

## Academic Department Definition

Approved: October 8, 2024

**Academic Department:** An organizational unit within a division composed of one or more interrelated disciplines (as defined by the Statewide Academic Senate Disciplines list and per Title 5 minimum qualifications) for purposes of budgeting, planning, reporting, personnel hiring and evaluation, and provision of instruction and/or services. Academic departments at Cerritos College have the following characteristics: they are composed of academic employees, offer courses within their associated discipline(s), carry out a single program review report per cycle, oversee one annual unit plan per cycle, and have the potential to offer their own degrees or certificates.

Academic departments generally have at least one full-time academic employee whose primary assignment is within the department. However, an academic department that is vital for the college to offer necessary area-specific courses, programs, and/or services but lacks a full-time academic employee who meets the minimum qualifications within the discipline, or whose primary assignment lies outside the department, is overseen by full-time faculty members from associated academic departments who teach contributing courses to the department's degree and certificate programs. While the academic department may be overseen by non-discipline faculty in this situation, only faculty who hold a valid department FSA or meet state minimum qualifications and local discipline standards may teach courses specifically offered within the academic department.

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### NOTES:

#### [AP 4021 Program Viability \(Cerritos College\)](#)

- **Definition of a Program** - A program is a course or group of courses that lead to transfer, a degree option, a certificate, a credential, or exists under a single TOP code.

#### [ASCCC - Glossary of Terms](#)

- **Academic Discipline** - A curricular subject matter area designated by the Board of Governors (relying on the work of the ASCCC) and used in establishing Minimum Qualifications for faculty.
- **Academic Employees** - Those persons who are employed in positions for which the Board of Governors has established Minimum Qualifications. The term generally includes faculty (including librarians and counselors) and academic administrators.