

**Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate
Resolution: F18-E
Using C-ID Descriptors as a Standard for Determining Unit Values at
Modesto Junior College**

Proposed by: the MJC Academic Senate Executive Committee

Whereas: The MJC Academic Senate recognizes that unit load can present major roadblocks to student completion and success;

Whereas: Over the past 5-years, we have engaged in an important but extremely contested discussion over what constitutes an appropriate unit load for any given course.

Whereas: Student load is a result of student behavior AND course, program, and institutional design.

Whereas: [SB1440](#) and the [Program and Course Approval Handbook](#) (PCAH) lay out requirements for offering [Associate Degrees for Transfer](#) (ADTs) that require no more than 60 semester units with no additional local requirements;

Whereas: At the state-level disciplines created [transfer model curriculum](#) (TMC's) that often account for all major and General Education (G.E.) units in such a structured and restrictive way that to meet the 60 unit maximum that courses used as major requirements must be double-counted as general education courses;

Whereas: Courses with higher unit values make it difficult to meet the requirements for [TMCs](#) and have historically caused delays in the development and acceptance of ADTs through the community college system;

Whereas: An important goal of the California Community College Chancellor's Office "[Vision for Success](#)" is reducing "excess" course credits, which aims to "Decrease the number of units accumulated by students earning associate degrees to an average of 79 units." (p. 2, 11, 12, 16);

Whereas: The vast majority of MJC's students are part time students, averging 3 to 4 completed units per semester, and higher unit courses make it difficult for students to take more than one class in a given term;

Whereas: The MJC Academic Senate recognizes the responsibility of faculty to design curriculum that meets the above requirements;

Whereas: The MJC Academic Senate is cognizant that we must balance course goals with additional efforts for students and institutional resources being allocated to achieve those goals;

Whereas: The MJC Academic Senate emphasizes that curriculum and unit value discussions are student-centered, but that some flexibility in curricular and unit design is a desired quality that best serves our students.

Whereas: State laws, rules, and regulations, and YCCD Board Policy recognizes faculty as experts in their disciplines and entrusted with determining curricular matters within their discipline as the Academic Senate depends on discipline faculty to make determinations on issues of equivalency, on determining minimum qualification, on issues of hiring, as with writing course outlines of record for that discipline, etc.;

Whereas: On [April 16, 2015](#) (also see [April 2, 2015](#)) the Academic Senate upheld the Curriculum Committee's Curriculum Review Process for settling disputes over courses with contested unit values, but did not create a policy or standard that actually states the faculty position regarding unit values;

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the official position the Academic Senate is that the C-ID descriptor **WILL** be used as the standard for courses intended for general education, and setting the unit value on a C-ID descriptor in the "minimum unit" field as the standard for that course at MJC;

Therefore: Be it further resolved, that the official position the Academic Senate is that the determination of discipline faculty shall be observed for courses solely within the ADT(s) of their discipline, provided that **at least** two courses of comparable unit **value are offered at** CSUs **OR** UCs;

Therefore: Be it further resolved, that in cases where a course meets a major requirement in two or more ADTs, that the discipline writing or reviewing the course outline of record **MUST** obtain the written permission of any other affected discipline before it can determine a unit value above the minimum units stated on the C-ID descriptor for that course;

Therefore: Be it finally resolved, that in the above cases where the discipline experts make a determination that a **TWO-THIRDS** vote of the Curriculum would be required to overturn that determination, unless there is a federal or state education law or regulation which would make the high credit-unit value course non-compliant.