



July 26, 2018

Dr. Michael Flores
 President
 Palo Alto College
 1400 West Villaret Boulevard
 San Antonio, TX 78224-2499

Dear Dr. Flores:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2018, notifying the Commission of the closure of the discipline-specific Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degree programs, effective fall 2016.

Palo Alto College has decided to eliminate all of its discipline-specific A.A. and A.S. degree programs, replacing them with a single Associate of Arts degree beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year. This generic A.A. degree program requires completion of 42 credit hours of general education courses, plus an additional 18 hours of academic transfer courses. The transfer courses may be chosen from 11 fields of study approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This new configuration allows students pursuing a bachelor's degree greater flexibility in selecting courses that have guaranteed transferability to another institution.

The discipline-specific A.A. and A.S. degree programs to be closed are:

Associate of Arts Programs	Associate of Science Programs
Advertising/Public Relations	Agriculture
Business	Biology
Criminal Justice	Chemistry
Dance	Computer Information Systems
Digital Art	Computer Science
Drama	Engineering
Economics	Geology
English	Mathematics
Humanities	Pre-Nursing
Journalism/Mass Communication	Pre-Professional
Kinesiology	
Liberal Arts	
Mexican-American Studies	
Music	
Political Science	
Psychology	
Radio and TV Broadcast Journalism	
Social Work	
Sociology	
Spanish	
Speech Communication	



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A detailed teach-out plan was provided. Students who began pursuing a discipline-specific A.A. or A.S. degree program before fall 2016, were notified of the closures and were given a five-year time limit for completion, or the option of transferring into the generic A.A. program. They were asked to meet with academic advisors to develop individualized sequencing of courses for each semester. Courses will be scheduled in a manner that expedites completion of students' programs of study without additional expense or hardship.

Faculty have been informed of the closures and will not be negatively impacted since they will fulfill their assigned teaching duties in the field of study courses which continue to be offered.

The Commission approves the late closure of the discipline-specific Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs as listed above. When an institution closes a program or instructional site, it has an affirmative obligation to seek closure approval from the Commission at the time the closure decision is made and prior to the cessation of instruction. The closure date is the date students are no longer admitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Sightler".

Kevin W. Sightler, Ph.D.
Director of Substantive Change

KWS/SKO:efk

cc: Dr. Beatriz Joseph, Vice President of College Services
Dr. Denise Y. Young