

**California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
Academic Senate**

Academic Programs Committee  
Report To  
The Academic Senate  
AP-020-234

**English, B.A. – Applied Language Studies Subplan/Option Name Change to Applied  
Linguistics Subplan/Option**

**Academic Programs Committee**

**Date: 02/08/2024**

**Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded**

**Date: 10/30/2024**

**Academic Senate**

**Date: 11/06/2024  
First Reading**

## Background

The APLS (Currently Applied Language Studies; proposed name – Applied Linguistics) is a sub-plan within the English BA that allows students to focus on the scientific study of the uniquely human phenomenon of language and address everyday concerns related to language use. In addition to the Major Core classes required of all undergraduates pursuing a BA in English at Cal Poly, the sub-plan offers a specific set of courses dedicated to studying the structure of human languages, the mental and social processes involved in acquiring both first (native) and additional languages, and the interaction between language and society. This program is particularly geared toward the applied side of the scientific study of human language. While it provides theoretical foundations for understanding how human languages function at the sophomore and junior levels, most upper-division courses emphasize researching and solving real-world language-related problems.

## Resources Consulted:

We consulted with CLASS associate deans, the Department Chair, and relevant faculty in the Department. There were no objections. We got responses back from the Dr. Griswold the relevant expert from the Department and the CLASS Associate Dean Dr. Davila, all in favor of the change.

Key points of contact in consultation:

Dr. Brianne Davila, Associate Dean, CLASS (badavila@cpp.edu)

Dr. David T. Horner, Associate Dean, CLASS (dhorner@cpp.edu)

Dr. Kent Dickson, Chair, English and Modern Languages (kldickson@cpp.edu)

Dr. Olga Griswold, Faculty, English and Modern Languages (ovgriswold@cpp.edu)

## Discussion

The name Applied Language Studies is not a common term in the field for programs of this nature. Only a few programs use this title, such as a minor at UC Berkeley, a concentration at Old Dominion University, and a program at the University of Waterloo, which is located outside the US and focuses specifically on language pedagogy. In contrast, the name Applied Linguistics is much more widely recognized in the field, with numerous programs across the nation. Undergraduate programs in California with this name include UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, Biola University, Ashford University, and CSU LA. This name change proposal will help align the program with common practice and the standard nomenclature used in the field. This will also make it more visible and recognizable to students, particularly new admits, and likely improve student recruitment through increased transparency.

The Academic Programs Committee conducted a campus-wide consultation; no concerns were raised.

## Recommendations

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the name change from “English, B.A. – Applied Language Studies Subplan/Option Name Change” to “Applied Linguistics Subplan/Option.”