

**Joint Statement from CUSP and OAA on
Program and Concentration Titles in Undergraduate Programs
September 2015**

Context

The co-chairs of CUSP and senior members of the Office of Academic Affairs met with staff from the SUNY Provost's Office in late May 2015 to clarify SUNY expectations and NYSED regulations relating to academic program titles and concentration titles. We have summarized the conclusions of that conversation below. We are sharing this statement to inform faculty and staff involved in the development of new academic program proposals. In the coming year, CUSP and OAA will work with GSPC on a new academic program development policy that can incorporate these points.

Parameters for Program and Concentration Titles

1. For our registered undergraduate programs that are defined as broad areas of study with individually designed concentrations, we do not have to register concentration titles. The longstanding position of SUNY is that these programs were registered as umbrella programs within which concentrations can be designed and named without registration. These umbrella programs are designed to support the development of individually designed concentrations.
2. When we seek to register new programs, we should follow SUNY and New York State Education (NYSED) procedures for the registration of new programs instead of the procedures for disaggregation of a program from an existing program, which is also referred to as "new from old." These new programs, which are pre-designed, differ substantially in curricular approach from the umbrella area of study programs with individualized concentrations; we should, therefore, not treat the new programs as being disaggregated from area of study program registrations.
3. The proposal template for new program registrations requires that program and course level learning outcomes be defined. The new program template also gives us the capacity to state explicitly that these outcomes can be met by a variety of learning activities and modes of study.
4. Concentration titles in individually-designed program should not be identical to titles of separately registered, pre-designed programs, nor should they be re-statements of essentially the same title, e.g., "studies in psychology" instead of "psychology." This distinction offers us the opportunity to highlight our capacity for individualization through judicious use of concentration titling in individual degree programs. Using different titles for individualized concentrations and for pre-designed program will make program choices cleaner and clearer for students, and will avoid potential financial aid issues. As pre-designed program proposals are developed, CUSP and OAA will work with the program developers to clarify what title options remain available in the area of study related to the program.