

Student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

We recognize that the decision to discontinue certain academic majors is a significant change. This FAQ document is designed to provide affected students with information and resources to navigate the transition.

- **Why is Sonoma State University discontinuing select majors?**

The decision to discontinue certain majors was made after a thorough review of the university's financial priorities and long-term sustainability. While this decision is difficult and impacts students, faculty, and staff, we are committed to supporting all affected students through this transition to ensure they achieve their academic and personal goals.

- **Which majors are being discontinued and when will the changes take effect?**

Majors to be eliminated: Administrative Services Credential in Education Leadership; Applied Statistics BA; Art History BA; Art Studio BFA; Executive MBA; Dance BA; Earth and Environmental Sciences BA; Economics BA; Education Leadership MA; English MA; French BA; Geology BS; Global Studies BA; History MA; Interdisciplinary Studies BA and BS; Interdisciplinary Studies MA and MS; Philosophy BA; Physical Science BA; Physics BA; Physics BS; Public Administration MPA; Spanish MA; Theatre Arts BA; Women's and Gender Studies BA.

Minors identified for elimination: Art History, Economics, French, Geology, German Cultural Studies, Global Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Museum and Gallery Studies, Paleontology, Philosophy, Queer Studies, Theatre Arts, Women's and Gender Studies

Changes will take place for Fall 2025. Students in majors that are closing can follow a pathway to graduate in their current major if they are within 60 units of completing all requirements for graduation by the end of Spring 2025 so they can follow a pathway to graduating within two years (by the end of the Spring 2027 semester).. Students who are not within 60 units of graduation or are otherwise unable to follow a pathway to graduating within two years will be required to change majors by May 22, 2025 (the end of the Spring 2025 semester).

- **My program is merging with another program. Can I stay in my major?**

Yes. Students who are in a program that is merging with another are advised to remain in their major. Once the new program becomes active, you will be given the option to either remain in your program or change to the new program.

- **My program was listed in the President's Message to campus. What do I need to do right now?**

Each student's educational path is unique so you may need to consult several offices on campus to get all the answers you need. It may be best to start with talking to your advisor, either your professional or your faculty advisor. Professional academic advisors will be available to provide advising support for students in majors that are closing. Please see University Advising or advisors in your College for the following:

- General academic advising
- Major exploration at Sonoma State
- ARR Review of requirements
- Guidance on appropriate points of contact for major specific questions, teach out plans and graduation timelines.

Find your advisor: <https://advising.sonoma.edu/find-your-advisor>

For new Fall 25 Applicants:

- **I applied to a major for Fall 25 that was listed in the President's Message to campus as being eliminated. What happens next?**

As a first step, we will change your major to Undeclared. There are many majors you can choose from. We can also provide you with advising to help you consider and select an alternative major. When you are ready to select a new major, use the program name as shown on our list of [non-impacted majors](#) and then send an email to admissions@sonoma.edu with your name, your new major, and your SSU ID number by **May 1**.

You can still change your major after May 1, but we will need an official change of major form after that date.

If you are not ready to select another major, you can remain in Undeclared as a first-time, first-year student until you reach 60 units, or as an upper division transfer student through your first semester at SSU.

- **I applied to a major for Fall 25 that was listed in the President's Message to campus as identified to be merged with another similar major. What happens next?**

There is nothing that you need to do right now. Your major will be changed automatically to the new merged program in the coming months. If you prefer to select a different major, please review the list of [non-impacted majors](#). We can also provide you with advising to help you consider and select an alternative major. When you are ready, send an email to admissions@sonoma.edu with your name, SSU ID number and your new major by **May 1, 2025**.

You can still change your major after May, but we will need an official change of major form after that date.

You can also choose to list your major as Undeclared. As a first-time, first-year student, you can be undeclared until you reach 60 units. As an upper division transfer student, you can be undeclared through your first semester at SSU.

- **I applied to a major for Fall 25 that was listed in the President's Message to campus as being eliminated or merged and I am no longer interested in attending SSU for Fall 25.**

We would love for you to join our Seawolf family and would be happy to talk with you about your decision. If, however, you have decided to enroll elsewhere, please send an email to admissions@sonoma.edu with your name and SSU ID number requesting that your application be withdrawn. If your request is received before May 1 and you have not attended an orientation session, you can request a refund of application fees or an enrollment deposit. This process can take up to six weeks. Withdrawals after **May 1** and or/ after attending an orientation session will follow the university's refund policy.

Several CSU campuses will continue to be open during the spring 2025 semester. To see the list of open CSUs, go to the Cal State website at the following link:

<https://www.calstate.edu/apply/Pages/application-dates-deadlines.aspx>

Scroll down and choose a level and entry term, then hit submit. The list will populate below.

- **Will I be able to finish my current degree program?**

Yes, in some cases. Students who are within 60 units of graduation by the end of Spring 2025 can finish their current degrees. Students who are not within 60 units of graduation or are otherwise unable to follow a pathway to graduating within two years will need to change majors by May 22, 2025 (the end of the Spring 2025 semester).

- **I am in a major that is closing. I will not be within 60 units by the end of Spring 2025, but I'm very close, and I know I can follow the teach-out plan (available by March 30). Can I remain in my major?**

Students who are not within 60 units of graduating and have not changed their major already will be aided in transferring to a related major at the end of the Spring 2025 semester. If you would like an exception, please consult with your advisor to confirm you can follow the teach-out plan (available by March 30), then contact academicprograms@sonoma.edu to make the exception request.

- **How do I make sure I understand how many units I have left to complete my requirements?**

Please work with your advisor or faculty in the major you are interested in to ensure an accurate understanding of your progress to date. You can find your advisor here: <https://advising.sonoma.edu/find-your-advisor>. Contact universityadvising@sonoma.edu with any additional advising questions.

- **Can I switch to another major at Sonoma State?**

Yes, students are encouraged to explore other majors that align with their interests and career goals. You can contact your assigned advisor to work with you to identify other major options and ensure a smooth transition. Find your Advisor at <https://advising.sonoma.edu/find-your-advisor>.

- **What support will be available to help students who may need to choose a new major?**

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor. Additionally, Academic Programs will be hosting a workshop on Selecting a Major on April 2.

- **Will additional majors be cut in the future?**

There are no plans for additional academic program cuts.

- **For those programs being eliminated, such as Art History or Dance, will students still have access to classes in those disciplines?**

Yes, students will have access to courses in the programs being eliminated during the "teach-out" phase through Spring 2027.

- **My major is not being cut, but I'm interested in taking a course in a program that is being cut. Will those courses continue to be available?**

Yes, a variety of general education and service courses will continue to be taught including some in the disciplinary areas affected by program eliminations.

- **When will teachout plans be made available?**

Teachout plans will be available to students by March 30, 2025, ahead of Fall registration which opens on April 14.

- **I am in a minor that is being discontinued. Can I still complete my minor?**

Yes, students who are planning to complete a discontinuing minor will need to consult with the teach-out plan for the related major (available by March 30) and take care to enroll in the final offerings of the courses required for the minor.

- **What if I want to transfer to another institution?**

While we encourage you to explore alternate majors here at Sonoma State, we understand you may decide to transfer. We are here to help but also encourage you to work directly with the institution you are considering transferring to for specific transfer requirements and academic advising.

For help requesting transcripts and other necessary documents, please order official transcripts on the Registrar's website [Transcripts | Office of the Registrar at Sonoma State University](#) or contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@sonoma.edu.

- **Are there still CSU campuses accepting transfer applications?**

Yes. Many CSU campuses are still open and accepting transfer applications. We encourage students to explore their options by visiting the [CSU Application Dates & Deadlines page](#), which provides a full list of campuses, deadlines, and eligibility details.

- **Will my financial aid or scholarships be impacted?**

Each student's situation is unique. For specific questions about your financial aid and scholarships please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@sonoma.edu or (707) 664-2389 or go to the [Financial Aid Office Hours](#)

- **Will a fee be charged to petition to add or drop a class after the deadline this Spring semester?**

This semester students have until February 4, 2025 to add or drop a course online. From February 5, 2025 to February 17, 2025, students can withdraw from a course with a W online or petition to add a course by completing a Petition to Add [form](#). A fee will not be charged to students who petition to add a course or drop with a W online during this timeline.

- **What academic and advising support will be available during this transition?**

Professional academic advisors will be available to provide advising support for students in majors that are closing. Please see University Advising or advisors in your College for the following:

- General academic advising
- Major exploration at Sonoma State
- ARR Review of requirements
- Guidance on appropriate points of contact for major specific questions, teach out plans and graduation timelines.

Find your advisor: <https://advising.sonoma.edu/find-your-advisor>

- **What resources are available for emotional support?**

We understand that this transition can be challenging. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is available to provide support.

- **Schedule an appointment:** caps@sonoma.edu
- **Crisis support:** Call (707) 664-2153
- **Will Sonoma State provide career guidance for students in discontinued majors?**

Yes, the Career Center will offer drop-in and one-on-one appointments to help students in discontinued majors explore new career pathways and opportunities. Contact the Career Center at Careercenter@sonoma.edu or (707) 664-2153 for more information.

- **Who can I contact for more information?**

- University Advising General Advising Support: (707) 664-2730
- CAASE General advising Support: (707) 664 -2427
- Financial Aid Questions: Financial Aid Office (707) 664-2389
- Emotional Support: Counseling and Psychological Services caps@sonoma.edu

We are here to support you during this transition and ensure you have the resources needed to achieve your academic and career goals.

For questions not answered in this document, please send an email to questions@sonoma.edu.

- **Are these cuts a sign that SSU will be going away in the near future?**

Absolutely not. SSU has no plans to close. Indeed, the goal of making these cuts is to preserve the long-term financial stability of the University.

Can I withdraw from the University and receive a tuition refund?

Students wishing to withdraw from Sonoma State are directed to the Office of the Registrar's [Withdrawals webpage](#). Students may also contact the Office of the Registrar for guidance on their particular circumstances.

Please note that all Student Charges/Fees refunds are determined by the last date of attendance and you will note this date on the Withdrawal form. The sooner the form is completed, the less charges would be owed for fees since charges and refunds are prorated from the first day of school through the 60% point of the term, which is April 3, 2025 for Spring 25. If you believe that your Student Charges/Fees should be fully refundable, an appeal demonstrating exceptional circumstances can be emailed for a refund request exception of the Refund of Mandatory Student Charges and Fees policy to Elizabeth O'Brien at elizabeth.obrien@sonoma.edu.