



March 8, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Porterville College Academic Senate extends its support for Porterville College's application for the Modern Police Science Baccalaureate Degree currently in process. As the representative body of the faculty of Porterville College, and under the authority bestowed upon us in Title V of the California Code of Regulations to make recommendations in academic and professional matters in the areas commonly known as the '10+1' - including curriculum, degree requirements, and educational program development - we hereby recommend the proposal for a B.S. in Modern Police Science for Porterville College. Our Academic Senate believes that this baccalaureate program will address an important need in our local community and will provide a valuable educational and career opportunity for our students.

AB 89 (2021), the Peace Officers Education and Age Conditions for Employment Act of California, expanded the minimum standards for employment in law enforcement requiring officers to possess a baccalaureate degree in Modern Police Science starting in 2025. This means increased need and demand for a baccalaureate program in Modern Police Science. The ASCCC Modern Policing Degree Task Force noted that the California Community Colleges train most law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMTs in the state, making Porterville College an ideal location for such a baccalaureate. The nearest Modern Police Science baccalaureate program is located over 50 miles away, making it difficult for Porterville area students – many of whom are severely limited in transportation access, time, and expense - to attend. The ability to hire individuals for a career in law enforcement who are from the local community, as well as trained locally, would help build more trust between law enforcement and community members. Porterville College would be an excellent site for a Modern Police Science baccalaureate program and the Porterville College Academic Senate supports this effort.

Rebecca Baird
President, Porterville College Academic Senate