The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

SUBJECT: Report on Prerequisites and Corequisites		Item Number: 4.5	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	*[signature]* Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	*[signature]* Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item provides a report to the board on districts that have established prerequisites, corequisites, and advisories for academic year 2013-14.

BACKGROUND: In 2011, the Board of Governors updated its regulations related to prerequisites and corequisites. These changes allowed campuses to use content review without prior statistical validation to establish prerequisites and corequisites only under certain circumstances and with strong engagement on the local campus.

RECOMMENDEDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: As stated in section 55003(i) of title 5, "By August 1 of each year districts choosing to establish prerequisites, corequisites or advisories shall submit to the Chancellor's Office in the manner specified by the Chancellor the prerequisites and corequisites that were established during the prior academic year. Districts shall also specify the level of scrutiny, i.e., content review as defined in subdivision (c) of section 55000 or content review with statistical validation as defined in subdivision (e) of this section, used to determine whether the prerequisite or corequisite was necessary and appropriate for achieving the purpose for which it was established."

The specific requirements are:

(c) A district governing board choosing to use content review as defined in subdivision (c) of section 55000 to establish prerequisites or corequisites in reading, written expression or mathematics for degree-applicable courses not in a sequence shall first adopt a plan specifying:

> *(1) the method to be used to identify courses to which prerequisites might be applied;*
> *(2) assurance that courses are reasonably available to students when prerequisites or corequisites have been established using content review as defined in subdivision (c) of section 55000. Such assurance shall include sufficient availability of the following:*
>> *(A) appropriate courses that do not require prerequisites or corequisites, whether basic skills or degree-applicable courses; and*
>> *(B) prerequisite or corequisite courses;*
> *(3) provisions for training for the curriculum committee; and*
> *(4) the research to be used to determine the impact of new prerequisites based on content review.*

With this in mind, surveys were developed in 2012 and 2013 to collect the necessary information on the number and process by which prerequisites and corequisites were established between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 and July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. The results from those surveys were presented to the Board of Governors in September 2012 and 2013 respectively. The survey was edited and conducted again to collect the information for this past year, July 1, 201 and June 30, 2014.

This past academic year, there were 3,983 prerequisites and corequisites established. The type of prerequisites or corequisites are: In Sequence (e.g., French 1, French 2, etc.), Out of Sequence (e.g., Intermediate Algebra prerequisite for Physics), Program Requirements (e.g., TB test, union membership), and Other.

At the time of approval of the regulation change, the Board of Governors was most interested in the category of "Out of Sequence." The concern was that there would be a rush to establish new prerequisites and that there would be major impact on students. The second chart of numbers below shows that of the 1008 prerequisites or corequisites established that were "Out of Sequence," 683 were established using Content Review Only.

Staff

LeBaron Woodyard, Dean
Academic Affairs Division

Table 1, **Course Sequencing and Level of Scrutiny**

Year	Course Sequencing			
	In a Sequence	**Out of Sequence**	**Program Require-ment**	**Other**
2011-12	2,291	284	NA	216
2012-13	3,809	1,256	416	73
2013-14	2,656	1,008	212	107
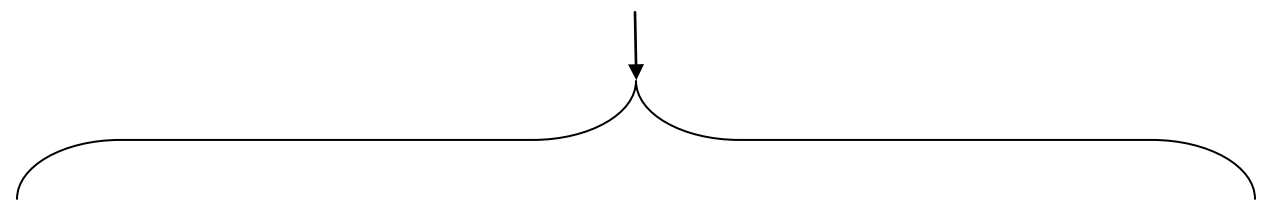
Year	Level of Scrutiny (Out of Sequence)						
	Content Review only	**Cont. Rev. + Statistical Validation**	**Req. by Statue or Reg.**	**Closely related Lec./Lab course**	**Req. by 4-yr. institution**	**Req. communica-tion/ computa-tional skill**	**Other**
2011-12	39	239	NA	NA	NA	NA	106
2012-13	683	165	32	215	72	72	17
2013-14	546	132	25	172	58	61	14

After reviewing the data provided in the surveys from the campuses, it appears that colleges are moving towards Content Review Only as the Level of Scrutiny for Out of Sequence prerequisites and corequisites. In the 2011-12 academic year, 39 of 284 (less than 14 percent) of the courses were Content Review Only. In the 2012-13 past academic year, not only did the number of total pre- and/or corequisites increase (2,479 to 5,554), the subcategory of Out of Sequence increased (284 to 1,256), but the percent of Out of Sequence courses using Content Review Only increased significantly to 683 out of 1,256 (over 54 percent).

 In 2013-14 the overall number of courses created decreased which reduced the overall number of courses out of sequence as well. As cited previously in the September 2013 report, many colleges have changed their process of establishing prerequisites or corequisites. While many colleges have changed their policies since 2011 and are using primarily Content Review, other colleges continue to use their policies that were established prior to 2011.

Chart 1, **Descriptions of Prerequisite and Corequisite Courses Created in California Community**

Colleges by Percentage in 2013-14, describes the percentage of courses created in a sequence, out of sequence, program requisite and other. There were over two-thirds of the courses created in a sequence with one out of four courses created out of sequence.
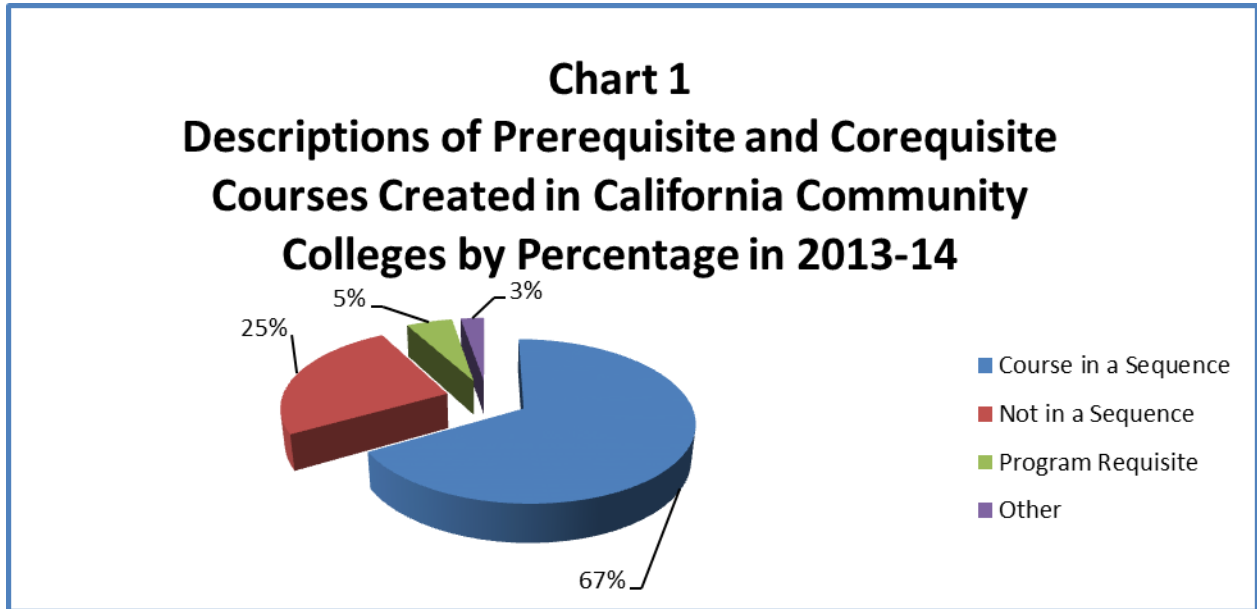
Chart 1
Descriptions of Prerequisite and Corequisite Courses Created in California Community Colleges by Percentage in 2013-14

- Course in a Sequence: 67%
- Not in a Sequence: 25%
- Program Requisite: 5%
- Other: 3%

Chart 2, **Types of Prerequisites Created by California Community Colleges in 2013-14,** identifies the number of prerequisites, corequisites, and pre/corequisites created by colleges. Eighty-three (83) colleges responded to the survey. Over 81 percent of the courses created were prerequisite courses. The average number of prerequisites created was 40 courses per college. Of the 83 colleges reporting two colleges reported they did not create any prerequisites. The list of colleges reporting is included in Appendix A. There were 29 colleges that failed to report by August 1, 2014.

Chart 2
Type of Prerequisites Created in California Community Colleges in 2013-14

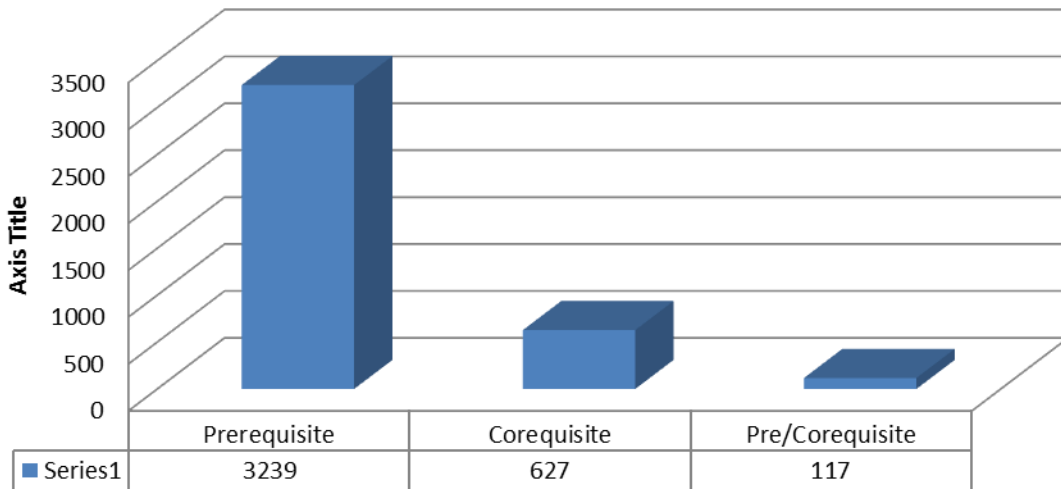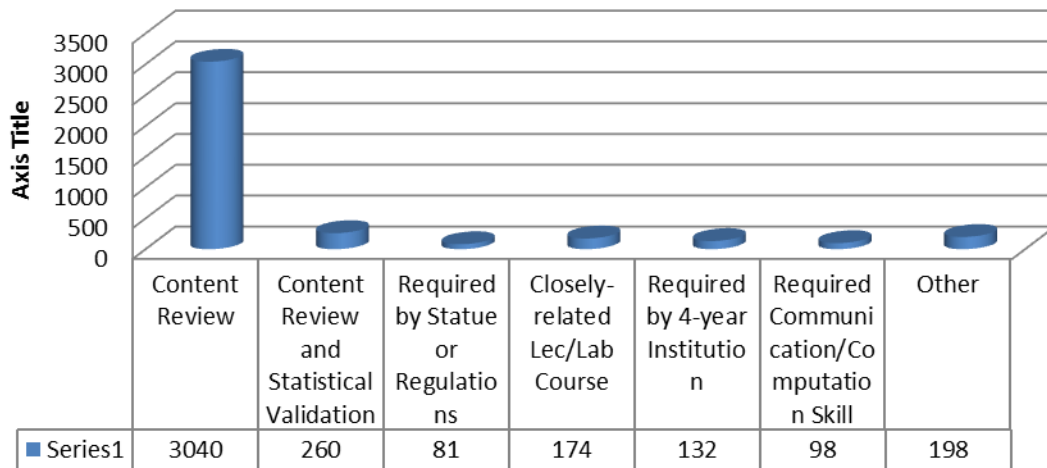|	Prerequisite	Corequisite	Pre/Corequisite
Series1	3239	627	117

Chart 3, **Level of Scrutiny of Prerequisites/Corequisites Created by California Community Colleges in 2013-14**, shows that three out of four courses were created by content review with the remaining five methods accounting for only 25 percent combined. The smallest method was those required by Statue or Regulations which accounted for only 1.2 percent of all course created.

Chart 3
Level of Scrutiny of Prerequisites/Corequisites Created by California Community Colleges in 2013-14

Series1	Content Review	Content Review and Statistical Validation	Required by Statue or Regulations	Closely-related Lec/Lab Course	Required by 4-year Institution	Required Communication/Computation Skill	Other
	3040	260	81	174	132	98	198

This was the third year for the Chancellor's Office to establish a survey of this nature. In addition, Chancellor's Office will continue to conduct a webinar early in the fall term to better inform colleges in how to establish pre- and/or corequisites for those colleges that have not yet changed their policies. The data gathered with this survey provides enough information to establish that the process provided in title 5, section 55003(i) is being followed and the campuses are properly establishing prerequisites and corequisites, but it would be helpful to have further specific information in order to extract broader policy recommendations.

Appendix A - List of Colleges Reporting by August 1, 2014 on the number of Prerequisites/Corequisites created in 2013-14.

Alameda College
Allan Hancock College
American River College
Bakersfield College
Berkeley City College
Butte College
Cabrillo College
Cañada College
Cerritos College
Cerro Coso College
Citrus College
Coastline College
College of the Canyons
College of the Desert
College of the Redwoods
College of the Sequoias
Columbia College
Contra Costa College
Cuesta College
Cuyamaca College
Cypress College
DeAnza College
Diablo Valley College
El Camino College
Evergreen Valley College
Feather River College
Folsom Lake College
Foothill College
Fresno City College
Gavilan College
Glendale College
Golden West College
Grossmont College
Hartnell College
Imperial College
Irvine College
LA City College
LA Mission College
LA Trade Tech College
LA Valley College
Lake Tahoe College
Las Positas College
Long Beach City College
Los Medanos College
Mendocino College

Merced College
Mira Costa College
Modesto Junior College
Monterey Peninsula College
Moreno Valley College
Mt San Antonio College
Mt. San Jacinto College
Napa Valley College
Norco College
Ohlone College
Orange Coast College
Oxnard College
Palomar College
Pasadena College
Porterville College
Reedley College
Rio Hondo College
Riverside City College
Sacramento City College
Saddleback College
Saddleback College
San Bernardino Valley College
San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Joaquin Delta College
San Jose City College
San Mateo College
Santa Ana College
Santa Monica College
Santa Rosa College
Santiago Canyon College
Shasta College
Sierra College
Siskiyous College
Skyline College
Ventura College
Victor Valley College
West Hills Coalinga College
West Hills-Lemoore College
West LA College
West Valley College
Woodland College
Yuba City College