





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: July 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Stand-Alone Credit Course Approval		Item Number: 2.2	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:		Consent/Routine	
	Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:		Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item is a second reading of proposed regulations amending California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55100 *Course Approval*, authorizing local districts to approve stand-alone courses. The purpose of the reinstatement of this regulation is to authorize community college districts to locally approve credit courses that offer nondegree applicable credit courses and degree applicable credit courses that are not part of an approved educational program (commonly known as “stand-alone” courses) without separate approval by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

BACKGROUND: Assembly Bill 1943 (1995-96 Reg. Sess.) signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2006 (AB 1943), amended California Education Code sections 70901 and 70902. AB 1943 allowed California community college districts to offer credit courses that are not part of an approved educational program without prior approval by the Board of Governors. These courses are commonly referred to as “stand-alone credit courses.” The provision was effective Fall 2007 through December 31, 2012. In 2011, California Education Code sections 70901 and 70902 were amended by AB 1029, which extended the delegated authority for a period of one year.

California Education Code section 70901(d) authorizes the Board of Governors to delegate any power vested by statute in the Board of Governors to the Chancellor, or any officer, employee, or committee of the California Community Colleges, or any community college district, as the Board of Governors may designate. The proposed regulations would delegate the authority to review and approve stand-alone courses to local community college districts consistent with California Education Code section 70901(d).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for approval and adoption. The Board of Governors is asked to adopt the following resolution:

Be it Resolved

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, acting pursuant to Education Code sections 66700, 70901(c) and 70901.5, hereby:

- approves the proposed regulation changes;
- directs the Chancellor to file the regulations with the Secretary of State and submit the regulations to the Office of Administrative Law for printing unless the Department of Finance determines the regulations would create a state-mandated local program cost and is unable to certify to the Board of Governors and the Legislature that a source of funds is available to reimburse that cost as set forth in Education Code section 70901.5(a)(6);
- authorizes the Chancellor to take any necessary ministerial action to process these regulations; and
- adopts the regulations effective thirty days after filing with the Secretary of State and submission of the regulations to the Office of Administrative Law.

ANALYSIS: The reinstatement of title 5, section 55100 *Course Approval* provides authority to community college districts to approve credit courses, commonly known as “stand-alone” courses. This type of course is not attached to an educational program, thus stand-alone. This allows the colleges an opportunity to develop credit courses that respond to emerging community needs in a timely manner. Additionally, this authority allows colleges to be responsive in providing credit course opportunities to better serve community college students and communities including those workforce needs as stated in the Taskforce on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy.

The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for approval and adoption. Notice of the proposed regulations was published on May 9, 2016 to begin the 45-day public comment period. A re-notice of the proposed title 5 changes was issued on June 27, 2016. The notice(s) specified the process to comment on the proposed changes. No public comments were received at the public hearing held by the Board of Governors on May 16, 2016. No public comments were received during the properly noticed public comment period.

ATTACHMENT: Revised California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55100 *Credit Course Approval*.