





# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: July 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Academic Record Symbols and Grade Point Average - Satisfactory Progress (SP) Grade (Public Hearing)		Item Number: 3.1	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	X
Approved for Consideration:	 Erik Skinner, Interim Chancellor	Action	
		Information	

**ISSUE:** This item is a first reading to revise California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55023 *Academic Record Symbols and Grade Point Average*. The purpose of the revision is to add a new evaluative grade of Satisfactory Progress (SP) in order to track the progress of students enrolled in noncredit courses and provide students with additional feedback on their progress.

**BACKGROUND:** The current grades available for noncredit courses are limited to Pass and No Pass; however, because students can take multiple terms to complete a single noncredit course, they may not earn either a Pass or No Pass in a given term. Thus, there is no mechanism to collect data on students who are making progress in their noncredit courses, nor for students to see that they are making progress. This change provides the SP grade as an option for colleges with noncredit courses, but its use would not be mandatory. This change is the culmination of multiple discussions at the Systems Advisory Committee on Curriculum, as well as Academic Senate resolutions 14.01 and 14.02, which incorporate the work and support the recommendations of the Noncredit Accountability Task Force and the Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE).

**RECOMMENDATION:** The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading and public hearing. The Board of Governors must hold a public hearing for receipt of comments, both written and oral, which are offered concerning the proposed action. It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to the Board of Governors for adoption at its September 19, 2016 meeting.

**ANALYSIS:** The addition of SP provides colleges another option for evaluative grades for non-credit courses. The option of the SP grade allows colleges to more accurately report student success as this reporting would be based on noncredit practitioner input and on student learning (rather than student attendance); this, in turn, allows another means for documenting students as they move from noncredit to credit programs. Finally, the SP grade provides students with a tangible measure of their progress that allows them to monitor their progress, both of which are supported by current educational research and can be an encouragement for students to matriculate in various higher education programs. A two-year pilot study to determine the pros and cons of officially reporting success in noncredit coursework found overwhelming support for noncredit progress indicators, including the addition of the SP grade; this support was also shown in a survey of California noncredit practitioners.

Attachment: Revised California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55023 *Academic Record Symbols and Grade Point Average*