





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE: March 21-22, 2016

SUBJECT: Regulations Authorizing the Establishment of the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook		Item Number: 2.7	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item is a second reading of new regulations that would authorize the establishment of the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook. The proposed regulations would authorize the Chancellor to prepare and maintain a handbook of baccalaureate degree pilot program requirements including, but not limited to, admissions, curriculum, student services, and financial aid. The handbook would be incorporated by reference into title 5 and would prevail when there is a conflict with other provisions of title 5 for purposes of administering the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program.

BACKGROUND: The Academic Affairs Division has been working with the 15 colleges selected to participate in the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program on issues related to the implementation of their baccalaureate programs. Many colleges have been seeking guidance on the implementation of the pilot program as it relates to the requirements of title 5. The Chancellor’s Office has determined that the best way to help colleges implement their pilot program is to develop a handbook that colleges can use to ensure they are following legal requirements and best practices. The proposed regulations would incorporate the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook by reference into title 5, consistent with the approach used for the Program and Course Approval Handbook (PCAH) found in title 5, section 55000.5. **(Background cont’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:

- approve and adopt the proposed regulations;
- 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 the 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
- the regulations will become effective 30 days after filing with the Secretary of State and submission of the regulations to the Office of Administrative Law.

(Background cont'd)

The pilot program handbook concept was vetted through monthly phone calls held between the 15 pilot colleges, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and staff in the Academic Affairs and Student Services Division of the Chancellor's Office. A workgroup was formed to work on the development of the handbook. Members of the workgroup include staff from the Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Fiscal Divisions of the Chancellor's Office, representatives from ASCCC, and three representatives from the 15 pilot colleges (college president, chief student services officer, and program director). A member of the Board of Governors assisted the workgroup after the January 2016 Board meeting. The handbook was distributed to the 15 pilot colleges for review and input. The workgroup met several times to discuss input received and to finalize the handbook. The Chancellor's Office Legal Division has been actively involved with the workgroup throughout the process and has completed a thorough legal review of the handbook.

The proposed regulations would incorporate the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook by reference into title 5. This would give the provisions of the handbook the force of law, as if they were fully set forth within the text of title 5 itself.

By incorporating the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook into title 5 by reference, the proposed regulations provide a degree of flexibility and assurance for the colleges participating in the pilot program. The existing provisions of title 5 applicable to California Community Colleges are generally geared toward programs that award traditional two-year associates degrees. Each of the 15 colleges participating in the pilot program is now offering a four-year baccalaureate degree. Many program requirements, including requirements related to admissions, curriculum, student services and financial aid are different for a four-year program than they would be for a traditional two-year program. The creation of a Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook places the new requirements for the pilot programs into one convenient document. The handbook also allows the Chancellor's Office to respond quickly to issues that arise or changes that need to be made as the pilot programs begin to offer baccalaureate degrees for the first time. From an administrative perspective, it is much more efficient to create a handbook for the pilot program than to separately

modify and amend each and every provision of title 5 that would be necessary for the pilot programs to operate. This is especially true since the pilot program, as currently authorized by statute, is limited and temporary in nature. In the event that the program is approved or expanded in the future, the Board of Governors may consider a different and more permanent regulatory approach.

The Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook is included for your review.

The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for approval and adoption. The Board of Governors held a public hearing in January. No public comments were received during the hearing and no public comments were made during the public comment period of January 5 through February 18, 2016.

Attachment: Proposed text of title 5, section 55009 (Attachment 1)