





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Regulations Governing Standards and Criteria for Courses; Approval of Credit Courses and Programs; Conditions for Claiming Attendance (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:	 Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	

ISSUE: This item is a first reading of proposed regulations amending the following provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 5: section 55002 Standards and Criteria for Courses; section 55002.5 Credit Hour; section 55100 Credit Course Approval; section 55130 Approval of Credit Programs; and section 58050 Conditions for Claiming Attendance. The purpose of the amendments are to support the streamlining of the curriculum approval process by giving local authority to community college districts to approve credit courses and programs with the exception of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) for their respective colleges.

BACKGROUND: The streamlining of curriculum processes constitutes the intersection of a number of key initiatives and projects currently in progress in the California Community College system. Some projects have been in response to the needs of the field, such as the development of the new Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI). Other efforts have been in response to legislation focused on statewide initiatives, such as the Online Education Initiative, the Student Success Taskforce, and Strong Workforce Program, including clarification of the processes for regional consortia and regional curriculum projects. **(Background cont.)**

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading. 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 for adoption at its July 17, 2017 meeting.

(Background cont.)

Additional efforts have been undertaken through the work of the California Community College Curriculum Committee (5C), formerly known as the System Advisory Committee on Curriculum (SACC), including the delineation of authority and the movement toward local Curriculum Chair/Chief Instructional Officer certification.

A work group was convened during Fall 2016 to examine existing curriculum processes and suggest options for streamlining these processes. This work group was comprised of representatives from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Instructional Officers, college curriculum specialists, and the Chancellor's Office (Academic Affairs, Finance and Facilities, Legal, Student Services and Special Programs, and Workforce and Economic Development). The work group reviewed the history of the curriculum approval process within the California Community College system, laws and regulations impacting the curriculum approval process, financial issues surrounding curriculum and its approval, issues impacting student services and curriculum, and finally, potential unintended consequences.

The most significant factors for an examination and streamlining of curriculum processes in the California Community College system include:

1. Interest in increasing local control of the curriculum approval process.
2. Requests for more efficient curriculum approval process from the Chancellor's Office, including the Board of Governors Strong Workforce Task Force Recommendation #8, which states:

"Evaluate, revise and resource the local, regional, and statewide CTE curriculum approval process to ensure timely, responsive, and streamlined curriculum approval."
3. Shifting roles of authority for the Chancellor's Office for curriculum review and approval.

As curriculum processes are streamlined, there will be new responsibilities for Chief Instructional Officers and Curriculum Chairs, new roles and opportunities for the Chancellor's Office Academic Affairs Division, and new technology to support all new roles and opportunities. However, curriculum will still be required to be submitted to the Chancellor's Office through COCI.

ANALYSIS: The revisions to these regulations will support the streamlining of curriculum by providing better guidance and authorizing local districts to approve all credit courses and programs with the exception of ADTs. These changes will allow the colleges an opportunity to develop credit courses and programs that respond to emerging community needs in a timely manner. Additionally, this authority allows colleges to be responsive in providing 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.

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 credit courses and programs with the exception of ADTs to local community college districts consistent with California Education Code section 70901(d).

ATTACHMENTS:

The proposed regulation changes are included as Attachment 1.