



“Digest” means an item has been through internal review by the Chancellor’s Office and the review entities. The item now has form and substance and is officially “entered into Consultation.” The Council reviews the item and provides advice to the Chancellor.

**Title:** Regulations Governing Standards and Criteria for Credit Certificates

**Date:** March 15, 2018

**Contact:** Alice Perez, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs  
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## ISSUE

This item proposes amending the regulations of the following provision of California Code of Regulations, title 5: section 55070 Credit Certificates. The purpose of the amendments will change the minimum unit requirements for high credit certificates to better align to federal financial aid eligibility regulations. Additionally, changing the low credit certificates minimum unit requirements will allow more credit certificates to be eligible for student transcripts, which support the Chancellor’s Office Strong Workforce efforts.

Changing the minimum units for high credit Certificates of Achievement will improve the alignment with federal regulations and better serve California Community College students by more clearly documenting programs eligible for financial aid, and will result in more programs eligible for financial aid being submitted to and approved by the Chancellor’s Office. This will assist colleges by giving them the ability to more clearly demonstrate program eligibility to the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, it enables colleges to be more responsive to the need of 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.

The proposed regulations will be presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading in May 2018. 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 for Board adoption at its July 2018 meeting.

## **BACKGROUND**

Currently, Certificates of Achievement are required to have a sequence of courses consisting of a minimum of 18 units. However, in accordance to federal regulations for financial aid, students are eligible for financial aid with a minimum of 16 units.

Low unit Certificates of Achievement require a sequence of courses with a minimum of 12 units. Changing the minimum units to eight will increase the number of certificates that can be on student transcripts.

## **FEEDBACK/QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL**

The Chancellor's Office is seeking general feedback for the proposed changes.