



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Moves toward Enrollment Priorities Designed to Improve Student Success

Board also gives final approval to policy to stop students from unnecessarily repeating classes

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors, continuing its push to improve student success, today took the first step toward establishing system-wide enrollment priorities that reward students who make progress toward their educational goals.

The board of governors also gave final approval to regulations that prevent students from repeating courses that they have already successfully completed, a change that will help colleges to prioritize academic and career technical education courses over those primarily offered for personal enrichment

The enrollment priority regulations, which are scheduled for final adoption by the board of governors in September and implementation in the fall of 2014, would reward students who are progressing toward their educational goals by allowing them to register for courses ahead of students who don't have an education plan, are not making academic progress or who accumulate units far in excess of the number needed to transfer or earn a certificate or degree.

"The proposed changes encourage successful student behaviors and ensure the system is intelligently rationing classes at a time of scarce resources to provide more students with the opportunity to achieve their goals on time," said Chancellor Jack Scott. "Current law and practice guiding student enrollment tends to favor the continuing student, based solely on accrual of course units."

New students who have completed college orientation, assessment and developed education plans as well as continuing students in good academic standing who have not exceeded 100 units (not including units in basic English, math or English as a Second Language) will have priority over student who do not meet these criteria.

Active-duty military and veterans and former foster youth in good academic standing who have completed orientation, assessment and education plans will continue to have first call on courses, followed by students in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs and Services who have done the same.

“The changes go a long way to making sure we focus on our core mission, which is to provide courses for students seeking to earn a degree or certificate, transfer, participate in career technical training or improve basic skills in English and math,” said Board of Governors President Scott Himmelstein. “These changes provide an incentive for students to identify an educational path and work toward it. This improves the odds that they will graduate and ultimately saves them time and saves the state money.”

Districts would have authority to adopt policies exempting categories of students from the 100-unit limit, such as those in high-unit majors or programs. Districts also would be required to adopt an appeals policy and process for students who lose enrollment priority due to extenuating circumstances such as verified cases of accidents, illnesses or other circumstances beyond the control of the student. Public comment on the proposed change will be accepted before final adoption.

The regulation changes that will prevent students from repeating a course that they have already completed with a satisfactory grade will take effect in the fall of 2013. Students have been allowed to take some classes, such as performing arts and physical education offerings, as many as four times.

By not allowing students to repeat courses, except under certain circumstances, colleges will be better able to focus course offerings to students’ degree requirements. Students will be able to repeat courses needed to meet transfer requirements for a University of California or a California State University campus, or for a legally mandated course. There is also an exception for students participating in intercollegiate athletics.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.

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