



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Regulation Proposal Would Stop Unnecessary Repeat Enrollment in State-funded Courses *Move designed to make better use of scarce resources and help prioritize course offerings*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors today heard regulatory changes that would make better use of state funds by preventing students from repeatedly enrolling in courses that they have already completed successfully.

The changes primarily focus on physical education, performing and visual arts classes that students had been allowed to take up to four times.

“Budget cuts have forced us to ration education, and we are currently turning away hundreds of thousands of students from our campuses that want to pursue a degree, transfer to a four-year university or get job training so they can get back into the workforce or advance in their current career,” California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Scott Himmelstein said. “It doesn’t make sense for us to allow students to take the same physical education course four times on the taxpayer’s dime while we are closing our doors on those looking for a degree or seeking job skills.”

The recommended changes are intended to support the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force goal of better aligning courses with student education plans and needs. By not allowing students to needlessly repeat courses, colleges are able to focus course offerings directly to a student’s degree requirements.

“Restricting students’ ability to repeat state-subsidized courses in physical education and other classes will help all of us focus on the priorities of providing basic skills in English and mathematics, certificate and degree attainment and transfer preparation,” Chancellor Jack Scott said. “It used to be we could be all things to all people. Those days are gone, and now we have to focus on those with the greatest need.”

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The new regulations, which were drafted with extensive input from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, will prohibit a student who successfully completes a class from repeating it, except under certain circumstances. Students can repeat courses if it is required for transfer to the University of California or California State University, related to participation in intercollegiate athletics or is required for vocational or licensure reasons.

In July 2011, the board of governors adopted regulations that limited the number of times a student could repeat a class to make up for a substandard grade to three times. The new regulation changes focus on retaking classes that have already been successfully completed.

The regulation changes will go before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for a second reading in July, and if approved then will take effect in the fall of 2013.

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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Notes to Editors:

- Photos from the board item will be available shortly for media use and can be found at: <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Newsroom/PhotoGallery.aspx>
- Supplemental information available in an attached background/fact sheet.

California Community Colleges Course Repeatability Statute Changes

(May 4, 2012)

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE:

- On **Monday, May 7**, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors will consider a system-wide regulation change to the current course repeatability policy.
- The changes will primarily affect physical education, visual arts classes or performing arts classes in music, theatre and dance.
- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is recommending that the Board of Governors approve a policy change that would prevent a student from repeating a course that he/she has already successfully completed.
 - If a student gets a passing grade of A, B, C or "Pass" in a course then he/she would not be allowed to take it again.
 - Previously students could take certain courses such as PE and performing arts up to four times – regardless of whether or not they received a passing grade.
- The recommended policy change **would allow repeatability** of classes in the following areas –
 - 1) Courses required by UC or CSU for transfer (ex. If a student needs choir, band, music, etc. to transfer to performing arts major at UC that requires participation for more than one semester.)
 - 2) Legally mandated courses (ex. For many occupations employees are required to take CPR courses annually in order to work in a specific field.)
 - 3) Intercollegiate athletics (ex. An intercollegiate football player is required to take a conditioning class each session in order to maintain their physical shape and play on the team.)
 - 4) Change in industry or licensure standards
- In July 2011, the Board of Governors adopted regulations that limited the number of times a student could repeat a class in order to alleviate a substandard grade to three times.
 - This policy before the BOG next week however, deals with students repeating courses that they have already successfully completed.

BENEFITS:

- The new policy will redirect taxpayer dollars to courses that are “in demand” and will help students reach their higher education goals.
 - Under the new recommended policy, colleges will only be allowed to claim state apportionment funding one time for each student taking any course that is not repeatable.
 - The recommended change is intended to support the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force goal of better aligning courses with student education plans and needs. By not allowing students to needlessly repeat courses, colleges are able to focus course offerings directly to a student’s degree requirements.

BUDGET CLIMATE & BACKGROUND:

- Chronic and severe budget cuts have left California community college officials struggling to meet student demand and do more with less.
- Since 2008-09, the California Community Colleges budget has been cut by **\$809 million**, or **12 percent**, and total enrollment has gone down by **300,000** students at a time of increased demand.
- On top of the **\$502 million** cut that the California Community Colleges system took in 2011-12 academic year, colleges are being hit with an unexpected revenue shortfall of **\$149 million** because property tax and student fees are lower than original estimates.
- The state budget cuts have forced campuses to reduce course offerings by roughly **15 percent** at a time when more students than ever are seeking admission.
- Students are pouring on to campuses seeking many different types of services. The unemployed are in search of career training. Displaced students from the University of California and California State University are seeking general education courses to transfer. Returning veterans are hoping to supplement their skills with a college degree or certificate.
- In 2009-2010, **fifty-one percent** of all California community college students repeated a

Course Repeats	5+ Times	4 Times	3 Times	2 Times
All Courses	84,512	117,420	305,331	875,927

course (for a variety of reasons) –

TIMELINE:

- The proposed policy change will be submitted by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to the Board of Governors for a first hearing on Monday, May 7, 2012.
- If the course repeatability policy change is approved, the second hearing will take place at the July 9/10 Board of Governors meeting.
- Once the item is passed the policy change will take effect in fall 2013.

MORE INFORMATION:

- The California Community Colleges Board of Governors agenda for the May 7/8 meeting can be found at:
http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors/BoardofGovernorsMeetingSchedule/2012_May_Board_Agenda/tabid/2080/Default.aspx
- The board meeting can be watched live via webcast at:
<http://www.3cm mediasolutions.org/>
- Course repeatability is item 3.1 on the board agenda and was heard before lunch on Monday, May 7 (around 11 a.m.)

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