



## California Community Colleges Board of Governors

### Item 2.3: Credit for Prior Learning Regulation Changes

Attachments: 2

Date: July 15-16, 2019

**Category:** Educational Services and Supports

**Type of Board Consideration:** Action

**Recommended By**

Alice Perez, Vice Chancellor

**Approved for Consideration**

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor

### Issue

The Chancellor's Office in partnership with the Credit for Prior Learning Advisory Committee and the California Community Colleges Curriculum Committee (5C) is recommending revisions to title 5 Section 55050.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the above Credit for Prior Learning: title 5 Regulation changes.

### Background

Two 2018 laws indicate the legislature's ongoing interest in Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). One law, Senate Bill (SB) 1071, requires the system to implement a consistent policy to award credit for veteran and military students using their Joint Services Transcripts. This law, while a welcome catalyst for CPL in the system, would impact a limited population. In fall 2017, about 33,000 veterans and active-duty military (any age) were enrolled in a California community college. When looking at the broader potential student population (6.8 million Californians age 25-54 with less than an associate degree), about 272,000 have military experience. This indicates that the legislature's focus on CPL for veterans and military excludes the vast majority of California workers. A second law, Assembly Bill 1786, requires an initiative to expand the use of course credit at the California Community Colleges for students with prior learning, with a report due to the legislature in January 2020.

As demonstrated in approximately 24 other states' higher education systems and affirmed in research, expanding CPL policy and practice can increase the impact of CPL on student success while ensuring quality, integrity, and equity in the award of credit. The Lumina Foundation provided funding to the Success Center at the Foundation for California Community Colleges to create a policy and resource infrastructure to expand CPL in our system. The initiative-led by Vice Chancellor Alice Perez with the support of the Success Center-convened a statewide CPL Advisory Committee to inform recommendations that

will help students have more equitable opportunities to earn CPL. The committee comprised of 24 stakeholders from within the system including appointees from the Academic Senate and representatives of faculty, articulation officers, counselors, CIOs and other roles, and representatives from CSU, UC, and workforce. The initiative produced recommendations of state-level actions to expand CPL and recommended guidance for districts and campuses.

**Title 5 Changes.** Among other state-level actions, the committee recommends that the system revise title 5 Section 55050 to achieve the following goals:

- Create one umbrella CPL policy that expands types of prior learning assessments available to students beyond credit by exam.
- Create a consistent process to automatically refer eligible students to faculty for prior learning assessment, placing more burden on institutions than students, and creating more equity in process and opportunity.
- Require CPL for general education (GE) or program courses first, and electives as a last resort, as necessary to support the student's goals.
- Require that policies and procedures be accessible to all stakeholders.
- Give students an opportunity to accept or deny credit awards, which helps them protect their financial aid or GI Bill benefits.
- Condense all district policies related to credit for prior learning into one comprehensive policy to simplify CPL for all stakeholders.

On March 14, 2019, 5C approved the draft regulation changes and recommended they move forward to the Consultation Council. 5C makes recommendations and provides guidance to the Chancellor's Office on local and regional implementation of curriculum policy and regulations. 5C is responsible for the development and revision of all title 5 regulations related to curriculum and instruction.

As a joint initiative of the Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, a pilot will launch in fall 2019 to help operationalize one form of prior learning assessment. Approximately 30 faculty in seven disciplines will create "cross-walks" that result in credit recommendations for students who gained college-level skills and knowledge through related military or industry training or certification programs. This pilot will result in crosswalks in seven disciplines that can be shared with statewide faculty and used for multiple students with the same training credentials, and a model process that can be applied by faculty across new disciplines.

Disciplines were identified according to the following criteria: 1) popularity among veteran/military and adult (age 25+) students, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office completion data (2015-17); 2) alignment with the priority sectors of the Workforce and Economic Development division, which are based on job growth and wage gains; and 3) alignment with industry certifications and/or standardized workplace training. The disciplines are:

- Administration of Justice
- Automotive Technology
- Business Administration and Management
- Cybersecurity
- Fire Science
- Health
- Information Technology

### **Attachments**

- 1.** Proposed Revisions to title 5 Regulations of Curriculum and Instruction
- 2.** Summary and Response to Comments Received During the Notice Period

## Item 2.3, Attachment 1: Proposed Revisions to title 5 Regulations of Curriculum and Instruction

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### 1. Section 55050 of article 5 of subchapter 1 of Chapter 6 of division 6 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations is amended to read:

§ 55050. ~~Credit by Examination.~~ Credit for Prior Learning.

(a) The governing board of each community college district shall adopt and publish policies ~~and procedures pertaining to credit for prior learning, by examination in accordance with the provisions of this section.~~ The policies shall be transparent and accessible to all stakeholders, published at least in college catalogs. Procedures for students to attain credit for prior learning shall include, but not be limited to credit by examination, evaluation of Joint Services Transcripts, evaluation of student-created portfolios, evaluation of industry-recognized credential documentation, and standardized exams.

(b) The governing board may grant credit to any student who satisfactorily passes an ~~examination~~ assessment approved or conducted by proper authorities of the college. ~~Such credit may be granted only to a student who is registered at the college and in good standing and only for a course listed in the catalog of the community college. For purposes of this section, “assessment” means the process that faculty undertake with a student to ensure the student demonstrates sufficient mastery of the course outcomes as set forth in the course outline of record. “Sufficient mastery” means having attained a level of knowledge, skill, and information equivalent to that demonstrated generally by students who receive the minimum passing grade in the course.~~

(c) The nature and content of the ~~examination~~ assessment shall be determined solely by faculty in the discipline who normally teach the course for which credit is to be granted in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the curriculum committee established pursuant to section 55002. The faculty shall determine that the ~~examination~~ assessment adequately measures mastery of the course content as set forth in the outline of record. The faculty may accept an ~~examination~~ assessment conducted at a location other than the community college for this purpose.

(d) ~~A separate examination shall be conducted for each course for which credit is to be granted. Credit may be awarded for prior experience or prior learning only in terms of for individually identified courses for which examinations are conducted pursuant to this section. with subject matter similar to that of the individual’s prior learning, and only for a course listed in the catalog of the community college. Colleges shall consider the credit recommendations of the American Council on Education, pursuant to Education Code section 66025.71. Upon a student’s demonstration of sufficient mastery through an examination or assessment, an award of credit should be made, if possible, to California Intersegmental~~

General Education Transfer Curriculum, California State University General Education Breadth, and local community college general education requirements or requirements for a student's chosen program. Award of credit may be made to electives for students who do not require additional general education or program credits to meet their goals.

(e) Credit by Examination: The determination to offer credit by examination rests solely on the discretion of the discipline faculty. A separate examination shall be conducted for each course for which credit is to be granted. Credit may be granted only to a student who is registered at the college and in good standing and only for a course listed in the catalog of the community college.

(ef) The student's academic record shall be clearly annotated to reflect that credit was earned by examination assessment of prior learning.

(fg) Grading shall be according to the regular grading system approved by the governing board pursuant to section 55023, except that students shall be offered a "pass-no pass" option if that option is ordinarily available for the course.

(gh) Units for which credit is given pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not be counted in determining the 12 semester hours of credit in residence required for an associate degree.

(hi) A district may charge a student a fee for administering an examination ~~or assessment~~ pursuant to this section, provided the fee does not exceed the enrollment fee ~~which~~ that would be associated with enrollment in the course for which the student seeks credit by examination ~~or assessment of prior learning~~.

(j) The policies and procedures adopted by the governing board of a community college district pursuant to this section shall require that a student, upon completion of their educational plan pursuant to California Education Code Section 78212, shall be referred to the college's appropriate authority for assessment of prior learning if the student 1) is a veteran or an active-duty member of the armed forces, 2) holds industry-recognized credentials, or 3) requests credit for a course based on their prior learning.

(k) The policies for assessments adopted by the governing board of a community college shall offer students an opportunity to accept, decline, or appeal decisions related to the award of credit, and in cases of credit by exam, pursuant to sections 55021 and 55025.

(l) The governing board of each community college district shall review the credit for prior learning policy every three years and report findings to the Chancellor's Office. Findings shall include data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity including the number of students who received credit for prior learning, the number of credits awarded per student, retention and persistence rates of students earning credit for prior learning, completion data (for certificate, degree, and transfer) for students earning credit for prior learning, and qualitative assessments by students of the policies and procedures.

(m) The governing board of each community college district shall incorporate policies pursuant to section 55052 on College Board Advanced Placement examinations, and any other districtwide policies governing the award of credit for prior learning, to create a comprehensive credit for prior learning policy.

(n) By December 31, 2020, the district shall certify in writing to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges that the policies required by this section have been adopted and implemented.

Note: Authority cited Sections 66025.71, 66700, and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901 and 70902, Education Code.