



Book

VCCCD Administrative Procedure Manual

Section

Chapter 4 Academic Affairs

Title

AP 4020 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Number

AP 4020

Status

Active

Legal

[Title 5, Sections 55000 et seq.](#)

[ACCJC Accreditation Standard II.A](#)

[California Education Code, Section 78016](#)

[California Education Code, Sections 70901, 70902\(b\)](#)

[Title 5, Section 51021, 51022](#)

[Title 5, Section 55100 et seq.](#)

[Title 5, Section 58023](#)

[U.S. Department of Education Regulations on the Integrity of Federal Student Financial Aid Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended](#)

Adopted

May 12, 2009

Last Revised

May 9, 2017

College Curriculum Committees

All curriculum shall be initiated by the faculty at each college. The programs and curricula of the District shall be of high quality, relevant to community and student needs, and evaluated regularly to ensure quality and currency. The faculty, acting through discipline areas within the academic

divisions and through each college's Curriculum Committee, a sub-committee of their Academic Senate, shall be responsible for instructional program and curriculum development.

All new instructional program proposals shall be evaluated for appropriateness to the mission of the college, adherence to all Title 5 Regulations, and will be designed so that successful completion of the program requirements will enable students to fulfill the program goal and objectives.

Approval of new courses, modifications to existing courses, new programs and modifications to existing programs rests first with each college's Curriculum Committee that includes representation from appropriate segments of faculty, administrators, and students.

Courses and instructional programs are reviewed and updated by faculty in the discipline area regularly. This review occurs, at a minimum, every five years for all courses and instructional programs and every two years for career technical education (CTE) courses and instructional programs. Courses and instructional programs are reviewed for their relevance, appropriateness to mission, achievement of learning objectives, currency and potential for future needs.

Nothing in this AP shall preclude Curriculum Committees from reviewing courses on a more frequent basis in order to meet legally mandated changes or to reflect the input of advisory committees or for other reasons related to the maintenance of high quality curriculum.

The following criteria will be reviewed in regards to course offerings, as required:

- A. Title and course number
- B. Hours
- C. Units
- D. Prerequisites/co-requisites/advisories on recommended preparation
- E. Limitations on enrollment
- F. Repeatability
- G. Credit basis
- H. Degree and/or transfer applicability
- I. Catalog description
- J. Field trips
- K. Course content
- L. Course Objectives
- M. Distance education
- N. Minimum qualifications
- O. Methods of instruction
- P. Writing Assignments
- Q. Outside-of-Class Assignments
- R. Methods of evaluation
- S. Textbooks

Relationship of Hours to Units

In determining the number of units to be awarded for courses, colleges must consider total lecture, outside study, and/or laboratory hours. The combination of these hours is referred to as "student learning hours." A course for which three units is awarded may meet four hours a week over a semester and still be in compliance with Title 5 Regulations (55002.5) if it is assumed that the increased classroom time serves to decrease outside study time. Thus, a course that seemingly meets for more hours per week than the units awarded may be in compliance, as opposed to a course that simply requires an excess of total classroom hours for the units awarded.

- One credit hour of community college work (one unit of credit) requires a minimum of 48 hours of lecture, study, or laboratory work at colleges operating on the semester system.
- A course requiring 96 hours or more of lecture, study, or laboratory work at colleges operating on the semester system shall provide at least 2 units of credit.

- The amount of credit awarded shall be adjusted in proportion to the number of hours of lecture, study, or laboratory work in half unit increments.
- Colleges of the District may elect to adjust the amount of credit awarded in proportion to the number of hours of lecture, study, or laboratory work in increments of less than one half unit.

Consistent with federal regulations applicable to federal financial aid and eligibility the District shall assess and designate each of its programs as either a “credit hour” program or a “clock hour” program.

For purposes of federal financial aid eligibility, a “credit hour” shall be not less than:

One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately [15 weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit], [or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit], or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or

At least an equivalent amount of work as required in the paragraph above, of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

District Technical Review Workgroup – Instructional (DTRW-I)

The VCCCD Decision Making Handbook prescribes the membership and responsibility of District Technical Review Workgroup - Instructional (DTRW-I). DTRW-I serves in an advisory capacity and makes appropriate recommendations on curricular and other related matters.

All new and substantially revised courses and instructional programs and deleted instructional programs approved by the College Curriculum Committees are forwarded to the District Technical Review Workgroup (DTRW-I) for legal compliance review.

Board of Trustees Approval

The Board of Trustees must approve all new and substantially revised courses and instructional programs, and deleted programs. Once approved by the Board of Trustees, new and substantially revised courses and instructional programs, and deleted instructional programs must be sent to the California Community College Chancellor's Office for final approval and to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, as necessary.

Maintenance of Records

- A Course catalog and inventory is maintained in the District's Banner Information System which serves as the reporting mechanism to the California Community College Management Information System (MIS). The Course Outline of Record (COR) and program requirements are maintained in the District Colleges' curriculum management system. All approved courses and programs are also maintained in the California Community College Curriculum Inventory. The College Catalog, in both print and electronic formats, is the official publication of college curriculum. The Schedule of Classes serves as the semester record of courses offered

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