

## Recommended Changes to the Definition of a “Program” at Bakersfield College

**Recommendation:** for the purposes of the Annual Program Review, define an instructional “program” according to the definition in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

### Historical Definition of “Program” at Bakersfield College

The Unit Plan, used through the 2010-11 academic year, defined instructional units as historically grouped disciplines, sometimes based on like subjects, sometimes based on campus location and affected by reorganizations. For example, for many years, Philosophy was grouped with Social Science because both offered classes in the Humanities Building and shared a division chair and later a department chair. In a later reorganization, some departments that had been part of larger groups were determined to be big enough to stand alone, e.g., Philosophy and ESL. Other disciplines remain part of larger groups. For example, the Behavioral Science department includes five disciplines: Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Human Services, and Anthropology.

When the Unit Plan was modified to become the Annual Program Review beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, the same discipline groupings were used. As a result, the Annual Program Review did not always focus on programs but rather on historical clusters.

After undergoing the accreditation self evaluation and site visit process, the definition of “program” has come under review. At a December 2012 meeting of the co-chairs of Accreditation Steering Committee, Assessment Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Program Review, along with the current and incoming presidents, the group decided to recommend that the definition of program be determined by Title 5 language instead of historical groupings. The Program Review Committee reviewed the issue at its January 15, 2013 meeting and agreed to take the matter forward to Academic Senate, College Council, and FCDC.

### References on Defining a “Program”

#### *Barclays Official California Code of Regulations*


(This database is current through 1/11/13 Register 2013, No. 2)

Title 5. Education

Division 6. California Community Colleges

Chapter 6. Curriculum and Instruction

Subchapter 1. Programs, Courses and Classes

 Article 1. Program, Course and Class Classification and Standards

 **§ 55000. Definitions.**

**(m) “Educational program” is an organized sequence of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of higher education.**

[http://weblinks.westlaw.com/result/default.aspx?action=Search&cfid=1&cnt=DOC&db=CA-ADC&eq=search&fmqv=c&fn=\\_top&method=TNC&n=1&origin=Search&query=CI%28%225+CA+ADC+S+55000%22%29&rlt=CLID\\_QRYRLT7881133511271&rltdb=CLID\\_DB74600133511271&rlti=1&rp=%2Fsearch%2Fdefault%2Ewl&rs=GVT1%2E0&service=Search&sp=CCR-1000&srch=TRUE&ss=CNT&sskey=CLID\\_SSSA57600133511271&tempinfo=FINDD&vr=2%2E0#ID34BD4205C7411E2A00EE7F91C5B908E](http://weblinks.westlaw.com/result/default.aspx?action=Search&cfid=1&cnt=DOC&db=CA-ADC&eq=search&fmqv=c&fn=_top&method=TNC&n=1&origin=Search&query=CI%28%225+CA+ADC+S+55000%22%29&rlt=CLID_QRYRLT7881133511271&rltdb=CLID_DB74600133511271&rlti=1&rp=%2Fsearch%2Fdefault%2Ewl&rs=GVT1%2E0&service=Search&sp=CCR-1000&srch=TRUE&ss=CNT&sskey=CLID_SSSA57600133511271&tempinfo=FINDD&vr=2%2E0#ID34BD4205C7411E2A00EE7F91C5B908E)

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
Program and Course Approval Handbook, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition – Draft**

[http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/ProgramCourseApproval/Handbook\\_5th%20Ed\\_DRAFTv1%2023%2013.pdf](http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/ProgramCourseApproval/Handbook_5th%20Ed_DRAFTv1%2023%2013.pdf)

Program Definition

An educational program is defined in Title 5, section 55000(g), as "an organized sequence of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of higher education." In practice, however, the Chancellor's Office approves only associate degrees and those credit certificates that community colleges wish to award to students and which will be listed on transcripts. Respectively, all noncredit programs require Chancellor's Office approval.

The types of educational programs that must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for approval are the following:

Credit Programs

- Associate Degrees – traditional A.A. or A.S. and A.A.-T/A.S.-T
- Certificates of Achievement that require 18 or more semester units (or 27 or more quarter units)
- Certificates of Achievement that require 12 to fewer than 18 or more semester units (or 18 to fewer than 27 quarter units)

Noncredit Programs

All noncredit programs that receive state funding must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for approval. These include:

- Course sequences in Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) that lead to Certificates of Completion or Certificates of Competency for which enhanced funding as enacted by SB 361 is requested
- Adult High School Diploma (including courses for which enhanced funding as enacted by SB 361 may be requested)

***The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges***

***Program Review: Setting a Standard***

adopted spring 2009

<http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Program-review-spring09.pdf>

Two relevant sections:

Defining a "Program" (12-15)

Is General Education a "Program"? (16-19)

*Kate Pluta, January 28, 2013*