

TOP – CIP Transition

Overview

The California Community Colleges use the [Taxonomy of Programs \(TOP\) code system](#) to organize college programs and courses into similar families of programs. The rest of the country, including the California State University and University of California systems, uses the [Classifications of Programs \(CIP\) code system](#) to organize academic programs into families. Required federal reporting, like Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), requires CIP.

CIP code descriptions include standardized language that identifies program type:

- “program that prepares individuals to” (CTE)
- “program that focuses on” (non-CTE)
- “this CIP code is not valid for IPEDS reporting” (noncredit)

A single TOP code may align with multiple CIP codes. The revised [TOP-to-CIP Crosswalk](#) identifies a recommended CIP code along with additional aligned options and indicates which codes are CTE and noncredit.

The foundational step is for colleges to select and submit appropriate CIP codes for all instructional programs and courses (credit and noncredit) into the Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory System (COCI) by Dec. 31, 2026.

MIS reporting will continue to require both TOP and CIP codes through spring 2027. Reporting for summer 2027 and subsequent terms will accept CIP codes only.

More information on the [CCCCO TOP-to-CIP Transition website](#).

Local Curriculum Review Process

A list of programs and courses will be sent to Deans, Department Chairs, and Curriculum Committee representatives.

- Programs in mid-February
- Courses in mid-March

Departments should review the selected CIP code, if one is present, for correctness according to the [CCCCO TOP-CIP Crosswalk](#). Use the [Noncredit TOP to CIP Code Map](#) for noncredit programs and courses.

- If the CIP code is correct, do nothing.
- If the CIP code is not correct or missing, identify the correct one.
- Note, if anything other than the CIP code needs to be changed, a full revision must be done in fall 2026 with the deadline of October.

Report any TOP-CIP Crosswalk issues to the Curriculum Co-Chairs by Thursday, February 26th at the Curriculum Committee meeting.

Program CIP Code Review due: mid-April

Course CIP Code Review due: early May

Reminder: ADT and CCN CIP codes will be added/corrected by the Chancellor's Office.