



Digest

Title: Periodic Report on Credit Program Approval

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Background

The California Education Code requires the Board of Governors to review and approve all new credit educational programs and stand-alone courses. The Board has delegated this responsibility to the Chancellor's Office and has requested a periodic report. The last such report was presented to the Board in July 2007. It covered 30 months, from July 1, 2004—December 31, 2006.

There are four types of credit programs that must be approved by the Chancellor's Office.

- Associate in Arts degree with a major or area of emphasis
- Associate in Science degree with a major or area of emphasis
- Certificate of Achievement requiring 18 or more semester units (27 or more quarter units)
- Certificate of Achievement requiring 12 or more but fewer than 18 semester units (18 or more but fewer than 17 quarter units)

Credit program approval continues to be carried out by the Academic Affairs Division. The current report provides detail on programs submitted for approval from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, a period of two years.

Proposal

Credit Program Approvals January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008

Applications for 1,961 new or substantially modified credit programs were received from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. Detailed analysis of program approval activity is included in the attached appendix, *Report on Credit Program Approval, January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008*. Some relevant statistics are summarized here:

- Eighty-six percent (1,688) of proposed certificates of achievement and associate degrees received in the 24-month period were approved.
- The majority of these applications were received in 2008 as the result of implementation of changes made in 2007 and 2008 to title 5, division 6, chapter 6 on curriculum and instruction.

- In addition to applications for new and substantially modified credit programs, 486 applications for non-substantial changes to existing programs were received in 2008. At the time of this report, 422 of the requested changes have been processed. The rest are pending additional documentation from the college or were denied because the requested change is actually a substantial change that requires a different application.
- In the 24-month period, 36% of awards (479) were approved with career technical education status. Only 24 awards in apprenticeship programs were approved in the same time period.
- In the 24-month period, 39% of awards (617) were approved with transfer status. It should be noted that some of these awards were approved also with career technical education status.
- The table below shows the number of awards approved during this two-year report period. Some degree programs were approved as both AA and AS degrees, which explains the difference between the number of degree majors or areas of emphasis in comparison to the numbers of degree types. For the first time in 2008, colleges were allowed to submit for approval certificates of 12 or more but fewer than 18 semester units.

Year Approved	Certificate of Achievement		Degree Type	
	12-18	>=18	AA	AS
2007	0	92	41	55
2008	174	240	611	121

Discipline Areas of Approved Programs

The T.O.P. disciplines with the most approved programs over the 24-month period are:

- T.O.P. **49** Interdisciplinary Studies —38% (637)
- T.O.P. **05** Business and Management—10% (168)
- T.O.P. **09** Engineering and Industrial Technologies—8.8% (148)
- T.O.P. **13** Family and Consumer Sciences—5% (85)

The high number of approved programs in Interdisciplinary Studies is attributed to changes in the minimum requirements for the associate degree (title 5, section 55063). Most of these programs were proposed in compliance with changes to section 55063 and include associate degrees in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies, General Studies, and University Studies, among others.

Although numerous awards in Interdisciplinary Studies were approved in order to comply with title 5 section 55063, 287 of such degrees were approved in other T.O.P. categories as well. The following is a list of T.O.P. categories other than Interdisciplinary Studies with the highest numbers of approved degree majors or areas of emphasis in 2008:

- T.O.P. 22 Social Sciences – (58)
- T.O.P. 11 Foreign Language – (35)
- T.O.P. 10 Fine & Applied Arts – (31)
- T.O.P. 05 Business & Management – (27)
- T.O.P. 21 Public & Protective Services – (26)
- T.O.P. 15 Humanities (Letters) – (22)

Recommended Action

The Consultation Council support forwarding this report to the Board of Governor's for consideration.