



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Credit Certificates (PUBLIC HEARING)		Item Number: 3.1	
		Attachment: Yes (2)	
CATEGORY:	Educational Support Services	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Laura L. Hope, Executive Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	X
Approved for Consideration:	 Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	

**ISSUE:** This item is a first reading of proposed regulations amending California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55070, *Credit Certificates*. The purpose of the revision is to align title 5 provisions with federal financial aid eligibility regulations by amending the minimum unit requirements for credit certificates.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, title 5 requires Certificates of Achievement to have a sequence of courses consisting of a minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units. However, federal regulations for financial aid allow students to be eligible for financial aid when taking a sequence of courses consisting of a minimum of 16 semester units or 24 quarter units. Additionally, low unit Certificates of Achievement require a sequence of courses with a minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units. However, in accordance with federal regulations for financial aid and for short-term goals, students are eligible for financial aid with a minimum of 8 semester units or 12 quarter units.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading and public hearing. The Board of Governors must hold a public hearing for receipt of comments, both written and oral, which are offered concerning the proposed action. It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to the Board for adoption at its March 19, 2018 meeting.

**ANALYSIS:** Changing the minimum units for high and low credit Certificates of Achievement will improve title 5's alignment with federal regulations and better serve California Community College students by more clearly documenting programs eligible for financial aid eligibility. The proposed amendments to title 5 will result in more programs eligible for financial aid being submitted to and approved by the Chancellor's Office. This will assist colleges by giving them the ability to more clearly demonstrate program eligibility to the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, it enables colleges to be more responsive to the need of providing opportunities to better serve community college students and communities including, those workforce needs as stated in the Taskforce on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy.

The proposed regulation changes are included as Attachment 1.

A summary and analysis of the proposed changes are included as Attachment 2.