



California
Community
Colleges

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Executive Vice Chancellor
Educational Services and Support

September 30, 2019

Department of Finance
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Rm 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

Chief Clerk California Assembly
State Capitol, Rm 3196
Sacramento, CA 95814

To: Department of Finance, Secretary of the Senate, and Chief Clerk California Assembly,

Calbright Community College New Program Non-Duplication Notice

This communication provides notice to the California Legislature and the Department of Finance, as required by the California Online Community College Act, that three new programs of Calbright Community College are not duplicative of programs offered by other California community colleges, based upon the information available to the Chancellor's Office. These programs are Medical Coding for Professional Services, Introduction to Cybersecurity (Security+), and Introduction to Information Technology Support (A+).¹

Background:

Assembly Bill 1809 (2018) established the California Online Community College, now known as Calbright Community College, to create "an organized system of accessible, flexible, and high-quality online content, courses, and programs focused on providing industry-valued credentials compatible with the vocational and educational needs of Californians who are not currently accessing higher

¹ Each of these programs meets the Education Code's definition of an educational program 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." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 55000, subd. (m).)

education.” (Ed. Code § 75001, subd. (a)(3).) The Legislature specified that Calbright “create unique content and deliver it in a manner that is not duplicative of programs offered at other local community colleges,” and required the Chancellor’s Office to notify the Legislature and Department of Finance regarding how each new Calbright program meets the “not duplicative” requirement. (Ed. Code § 75001, subd. (f)(2).)

The Chancellor’s Office has reviewed the information provided by Calbright and concluded that the combination of the new Calbright programs’ design elements involving competency-based learning, asynchronous self-paced learning, applied learning, and statewide online platform, establish that the programs are not duplicative of programs offered at other community colleges.

Calbright’s Three New Programs:

Calbright has successfully submitted three new programs for state approval:

- Medical Coding for Professional Services;
- Introduction to Cybersecurity (Security+); and
- Introduction to Information Technology Support (A+).

Medical Coding for Professional Services

This competency-based, noncredit, program pathway prepares adult learners for employment in the medical coding field. Learners will progress through the program pathway by mastering entry-level competencies in 11 domains including medical law and ethics as related to medical billing and coding; medical terminology; pharmacology; anatomy and physiology for healthcare coding; disorders of the human body; diagnostic tests; treatment modalities; and CPT (Current Procedural Terminology), ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification), and HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) Level II coding. Upon mastery of these competencies, learners will take the national medical coding exam, the American Academy of Professional Coders Certified Professional Coder (AAPC CPC) and be placed into a paid internship.

Medical coding represents a key entry point to higher paying healthcare careers. Accurate coding of medical services for insurance billing is a critical need within the healthcare billing services (HBS) sector, and medical coders are in especially high demand, with an estimated 11,000 new total jobs added between 2017 and 2024. The average pay for a Certified Professional Medical Coder is about \$44,000 per year according to payscale data.

Introduction to Information Technology Support (A+)

Information Technology (IT) is a cornerstone sector in California’s economy. Technical support functions are the home of many entry-level positions and the foundation of a professional career. Technical support continues to be a growing field and an essential role in all companies and organizations

This competency-based, noncredit, program pathway is designed to prepare learners to successfully complete the CompTIA A+ certification exams, which is an industry-recognized certification. The 11 learning competency domains include hardware, operating systems, software, mobile devices, basic networking, basic security, operational procedures, printers, networking, security forensics, and troubleshooting. Learners will gain a working familiarity with the concepts of documentation, safety procedures, and Small Office/Home Office (SOHO) technologies. Learners will understand how to assemble components based on customer requirements, and also master the installation, configuration, and maintenance of PCs and Mobile devices. Following certifications is a 3-month paid apprenticeship.

In 2018, there were more than 400,000 technology jobs posted in California. Workers who enter the IT Support Pathway acquire key skills and knowledge that are directly applicable to other career pathways in the technology industry, including coding and programming, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and others.

Introduction to Cybersecurity (Security+)

This competency-based, noncredit program pathway prepares adult learners for employment in the Information Security field. Learners will progress through the program pathway by mastering 9 competency domains including knowledge of the fundamental principles and topics of information security, and diagnostic, risk management, and solution application at the organizational level including hardware, software, processes, communications, applications, and policies and procedures with respect to organizational cybersecurity. Learners will complete the CompTIA Security+ certification exams (SY0)-501, an industry recognized certification, and a 3-month paid apprenticeship. The IT Support employment outlook is strong over the next several years. There are currently around 100,000 Network and User Support Specialists in California, with over 10,000 new openings projected per year through 2024, with median wages above \$28/hour.

Program Elements:

These three new Calbright programs are delivered in a manner that does not duplicate existing programs at the community colleges given the comprehensive instructional design of each program which contains the core elements identified below. While each of these individual elements may currently be implemented within existing college programs, the system does not currently have a single program that is designed to include all of these elements. It is the comprehensive structural design of these instructional programs that makes these non-duplicative.

Competency-Based Learning. Competency-based learning refers to systems of instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting that are based on learners demonstrating mastery of the knowledge

and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their educational program. Calbright programs are entirely designed as a competency-based curriculum.

Asynchronous, Self-Paced Learning. Programs are offered via ongoing, rolling enrollment that allows students to start the program at any time and progress at a flexible pace that meets their skill levels, capacity, and schedule. Individual progress to completion may also be accelerated through demonstrated mastery of competencies achieved through prior learning.

Applied Learning. Upon certified mastery of required learning competencies, all students take a related industry-recognized certification examination that is aligned to the respective program and then enter the applied learning phase which is structured around a paid 3-month apprenticeship within industry. Industry recognized certifications are a credential recognized by business and industry at the local, state or national level. Post-apprenticeship all students receive job placement support.

Statewide Online Platform. Each program is available online meaning all of the program instruction is delivered through an online format. Programs are available statewide to all California residents.

For further information or questions regarding this review and approval process please contact Executive Vice Chancellor, Marty J. Alvarado via email at malvarado@cccco.edu.

Sincerely,



Marty J. Alvarado
Executive Vice Chancellor, Educational Services
California Community Colleges