



**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5 REGARDING
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE
ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENTS**

45-Day Notice published May 5, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Board of Governors Procedures and Standing Orders, that the Board proposes to adopt the regulatory action described below after a public hearing and considering all comments, objections, or recommendations received regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held via Zoom videoconferencing during the next regularly scheduled Board of Governors meeting on May 24, 2021. The hearing will commence at 12:30 p.m.

To prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Board of Governors is temporarily offering an additional method for public comment. The public is encouraged to watch the board meeting online and either submit a written public comment or provide public comment to the Board of Governors, details are below.

Public Comment: Members of the public wishing to comment on specific board items or during the Public Forum may do so in advance or during the live board of governors meeting. All comments will be limited to three minutes and the following policies:

a) You may submit your comment in advance via email to boardcomments@cccco.edu. In the email subject line, specify the item number you wish to comment on or indicate "Public Forum". You may identify yourself or specify that you wish to remain anonymous at the top of your email. All written public comments must be received by the end of business on May 20, 2021. Comments meeting the deadline will be provided to the Board of Governors and posted for public viewing.

b) During the live board of governors meeting, you may use the Raise Hand feature on the Zoom platform to make a verbal comment to the Board. A Chancellor's Office employee will announce your name and grant you the ability to speak to the Board. You are requested to identify yourself and present your comment at that time.

ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/381430034>

Dial US: +1 669 900 6833 | Webinar ID: 381 430 034

Password: **234632**

International numbers available: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/u/acIPAzrcGq>

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action. To help ensure comments are understood as they are intended, we suggest that they clearly identify the proposed regulatory action that each comment addresses, with reference to specific section and subparagraph numbers where appropriate. Please arrange comments in the same order as in the proposed regulatory action. Comments should be addressed to:

Regulations Coordinator
California Community Colleges
Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4550
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549
regcomments@cccco.edu

Comments must be received by the Regulations Coordinator prior to 4:00 p.m. on June 19, 2021. All written comments received by CCCCO staff during the public comment period are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED TITLE 5 AMENDMENTS

Following the public hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board of Governors may adopt the proposed regulatory action substantially as described in this Notice or may modify the proposed regulatory action if the modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical

or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposed regulatory action will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption, and will be provided to those persons who have requested or are required to receive notification of regulatory actions, or who have provided written or oral comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

In September 2019, the Board of Governors adopted the 68 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Integration Plan recommendations, which call for the diversification of faculty, staff and administrators. In June 2020, the Chancellor’s Office released the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Call to Action, to expedite the implementation of the DEI Integration Plan, and among other things, for campuses to audit classroom climate and create action plans to create inclusive classrooms and anti-racism curriculum. Historically, ethnic studies is the interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized groups — Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, and Latina/o Americans. As such, instituting ethnic studies as a graduation requirement for the Associate degree is an important step in diversifying curriculum and one important tool for creating anti-racism curricula.

Also in 2020, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) adopted [resolution 9.03](https://bit.ly/3qtHal6) (bit.ly/3qtHal6) calling for an ethnic studies graduation requirement. The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) similarly adopted [resolution S21.01.05](https://studentsenateccc.org/what-we-do/ssccc-resolutions.html) (studentsenateccc.org/what-we-do/ssccc-resolutions.html) also advocating for an ethnic studies graduation requirement. Additionally, the California Community Colleges [Ethnic Studies Faculty Council](http://www.cccesfcouncil.org/) (www.cccesfcouncil.org/), consisting of 200 ethnic studies faculty from across the California Community Colleges, is advocating for this (and other) ethnic studies reforms and has hosted two California Community Colleges Ethnic Studies Summits to date. There is a clear call from both faculty and students to implement an ethnic studies degree requirement.

Additionally, Assembly Bill 1460 was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom in August 2020. This legislation requires each California State University (CSU) campus to offer courses in ethnic studies by the fall of 2021 and requires that “commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation

requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies". Toward those ends, the CSU Chancellor's Office and faculty began to coordinate with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and faculty, understanding that implementation of AB 1460 would affect the community college system. Updates reflecting the changes to CSU general education requirements were released on December 3, 2020, providing details pertaining to the newly created Area F for CSU general education breadth to implement a lower-division ethnic studies requirement.

Given our essential intersegmental collaboration with CSU in support of community college students' transfer, all California community colleges will need to provide ethnic studies courses to prepare students for transfer to the CSU system. The CSU Chancellor's Office extended the submission date for Area F course approvals to February 5, 2021, and all but nine California community colleges were able to meet that deadline (with others working to submit courses later this year and begin offering ethnic studies courses by fall of 2022, or earlier). As California community colleges are doing the work to institute ethnic studies as a CSU transfer requirement, implementing an ethnic studies associate degree requirement will align with those efforts and ensure all students access an ethnic studies curriculum.

The promulgation of the ethnic studies associate degree requirement by the Board of Governors will only be the beginning of a broader ethnic studies reform effort, and the necessary work to implement anti-racist curricula as intended by DEI Call to Action and most recently, by the Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education report, "Recovery with Equity: Roadmap for Higher Education After the Pandemic." (https://www.capostsecondaryforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Recovery-with-Equity_2021Feb15.pdf)

The Chancellor's Office will work in collaboration with the ASCCC, the SSSCC, the California Community Colleges Ethnic Studies Faculty Council, and the applicable intersegmental groups (i.e. Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup and Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID)) where appropriate to:

- Define ethnic studies for the CCC system.
- Establish an Ethnic Studies Transfer Model Curriculum.
- Create the needed C-ID course descriptors.
- Examine and update ethnic studies minimum qualifications.
- Update the Program and Course Approval Handbook.

- Provide professional development to ensure ethnic studies is implemented with fidelity.
- Coordinate with CSU for alignment.

ESTIMATED COST OR SAVINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The estimated cost or savings of the proposed amendments are anticipated to be as follows:

Mandate on local agencies or community college districts: *None*.

Cost or savings to state agencies: *None*.

Costs to local agencies or community college districts for which reimbursement would be required pursuant to part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of division 4 title 2 of the Government Code: *None*.

Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed on community college districts: *None*.

Cost or savings in federal funding to state agencies: *None*.

The proposed amendments to title 5 would result in no fiscal impact to local or state governments, nor will it have any fiscal impact on any federal funding.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries concerning the content of these regulations may be directed to the Regulations Coordinator, at regcomments@cccco.edu.

TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS

Copies of the language of the proposed regulatory action, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained online at:

[Office of General Counsel - Pending Regulatory Actions](#)

Those who receive the Board of Governors Agenda package for the May 24, 2021, meeting can find a further description of the proposal and the full text of the regulatory action. You may also request a copy of the proposal from the Regulations Coordinator using the contact information provided above.