



**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5, REGARDING
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

45-Day Notice published November 6, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Chapter 2 of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors (Board) Procedures and Standing Orders, that the Board proposes to adopt the regulatory action described below after a public hearing, and consideration of all comments, objections, or recommendations received regarding the proposed regulatory action during the public comment period, which closes on December 21, 2024.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held during the next regularly scheduled Board of Governors meeting on November 18, 2024.

In-Person Participation

California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office Building
Sixth Floor, Board of Governors Chambers
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Parking options can be found on our website.

All Board of Governors (Board) meetings are held in locations that are open to the public and wheelchair accessible. Other disability-related accommodations, such as alternate media materials, sign language interpreters, or real-time transcription, may be provided to persons with disabilities upon request. Persons requesting such accommodations should notify the Board Liaison at ccastro@cccco.edu, (916) 323-5889, no less than five business days prior to the meeting.

Public Comments at the Board Meeting

Members of the public seeking to comment on the proposed regulatory action at the Board meeting should refer to the Board's agenda for information on how public comment on Board items will be received. The [Board's agendas](https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Board-of-Governors/Meeting-schedule-minutes-and-agendas) are available here: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Board-of-Governors/Meeting-schedule-minutes-and-agendas>.

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 December 21, 2024. All written comments received by Chancellor's Office 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 subject to a second 15-day notice period prior to its adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

This proposed regulatory action seeks to formally establish community college baccalaureate degree programs within the California Code of Regulations and amend associated code sections consistent with the requirements of Assembly Bill 927 (Medina, 2021), which converted the baccalaureate degree program from a “pilot” status to an ongoing program. This proposal removes outdated references to the “pilot” program in the California Code of Regulations and outlines standards and requirements to ensure the quality and consistency of baccalaureate degrees offered by community colleges in California.

Through two application cycles per year, baccalaureate degree programs are reviewed for quality, institutional capacity including student interest, and potential duplication with existing programs at California State University or University of California. In line with the pilot program, demonstration of unmet workforce need continues to be a priority. Currently, there are 45 approved community college baccalaureate degree programs at 36 colleges.

This transition from the pilot phase involves formally codifying community college baccalaureate degree programs within the California Code of Regulations, thereby creating a standardized framework for program delivery and quality assurance.

Proposed New Sections

- Title 5, Section 55090. Philosophy and Criteria for the Baccalaureate Degree and General Education
 - Requires adoption of local policies governing community college baccalaureate degrees that align with the mission of the California Community Colleges and the requirements of the new baccalaureate degree program regulations.
 - Rationale: Provides a clear framework for community colleges to ensure that baccalaureate degrees align with the broader mission and goals of the California Community Colleges.
- Title 5, Section 55091. Baccalaureate Degree Upper Division Course Requirements

- Defines upper division courses and identifies requirements for upper division courses as well as the upper division unit requirement to be awarded a baccalaureate degree.
- Rationale: Offers clarity on the definition of upper division courses and their requirements, ensuring consistency across baccalaureate degree programs.
- Title 5, Section 55092. Conditions for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree
 - Identifies the minimum requirements for units, grades, and GPA. Clarifies instances of credit for prior learning, cases where students have earned a bachelor's degree from another accredited institution, and the procedure to petition for counting the completion of a noncredit course.
 - Rationale: Establishes clear criteria for awarding the degree, ensuring that all students meet consistent academic standards while providing flexibility for prior learning and qualifications.
- Title 5, Section 55093. Admissions
 - Details the student application process, including procedures for limitations on enrollment and admission criteria. Incorporates criteria such as a multi-criteria screening process, GPA, lower division general education or prerequisites, and other admission criteria. Clarifies priority enrollment guidelines.
 - Rationale: Ensures a transparent and equitable admissions process while allowing for consistent application of enrollment limitations and selection criteria.

Proposed Revisions to Existing Sections

- Title 5, Section 58501. Enrollment Fees
 - Adds a new subsection to address fees for community college baccalaureate degrees by incorporating content from the repealed section 58520. Makes fees and tuition transparent to students.

- Rationale: Retains the previously established fee structure from the pilot program, institutionalizing it as part of the regulations, while maintaining transparency for students.
- Title 5, Section 53410. Minimum Qualifications for Instructors of Credit Courses, Counselors, and Librarian
 - Adds a distinction between the minimum qualifications for teaching lower and upper division credit courses. Aligns with ASCCC recommendations and ACCJC requirements.
 - Rationale: Clarifies the minimum requirements needed to teach upper division courses, aligning with statewide recommendations and accreditation standards.
- Title 5, Section 53410. Equivalencies
 - Adds a new subsection restricting the practice of equivalency. Clarifies the distinction between teaching requirements for upper and lower division courses.
 - Rationale: Ensures that qualifications for teaching upper division courses are rigorous and consistent with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Resolution 10.01 F15.

Proposed Sections to be Repealed

- Title 5, Section 55009. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Handbook
 - Rationale for Repeal: The handbook was necessary for the pilot program but is no longer needed since the program requirements are now outlined in the proposed regulations.
- Title 5, Section 58520. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Fees
 - Rationale for Repeal: The content has been clarified and incorporated into section 58501, ensuring that fee structures for baccalaureate programs are now clearly stated in the main regulations.

The proposed regulatory additions, changes and repeals are designed to ensure that community college baccalaureate programs maintain high academic standards and are consistent across the state.

ESTIMATED COST OR SAVINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The estimated cost or savings attributable to the proposed regulatory action are anticipated to be as follows:

Mandate on local agencies or community college districts: *None*. Participation in the Baccalaureate Degree Program by community college districts is voluntary.

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*.

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 Action](#)

Those who receive the Board of Governors Agenda package for the November 18, 2024, 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.