



# California Community Colleges

## AB 1111 COMMON COURSE NUMBERING TASK FORCE DRAFT – SUMMARY REPORT

Draft as of October 2, 2023

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7  
8 This document is being publicly released in October 2023. It is a draft of the final summary  
9 report for the Common Course Numbering Task Force (hereafter “CCN Task Force”), which the  
10 CCN Task Force will discuss at forthcoming public meetings (October and December 2023). An  
11 earlier version was released in August and discussed by the CCN Task Force at its August public  
12 meeting.

13  
14 Details about the CCN Task Force, including its meeting agendas and materials, can be found at  
15 its website:

16 <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/common-course-numbering-project>  
17

18

## 19 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

20

21 The Common Course Numbering (CCN) Task Force wishes to thank many critical supporters who  
22 made this work possible. Our co-chairs led us in a robust and effective learning and design  
23 agenda that resulted in a strong set of recommendations. Sincere thanks to Virginia “Ginni” May,  
24 Past President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and Professor of  
25 Mathematics and Statistics at Sacramento City College, and Tram Vo-Kumamoto, Past President  
26 of the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers and Vice President of  
27 Instruction at Saddleback College.

28

29 Staff members of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO),  
30 particularly Sean Madden, Bob Quinn and Amy Smith, ensured our meetings were seamless and  
31 our work products were of high quality. Erin Stack and Anthony Enriquez and their colleagues at  
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33 delivery support. [Sova](#) and its transfer team of Alison Kadlec, Lara Couturier, Cristen Moore,  
34 Leslie Fischbeck and Patricia Parker provided both expert facilitation and strong transfer  
35 knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

36

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38 Martinez, Executive Vice President, Student Senate for CCC (primary college is Bakersfield  
39 College); Casey Chang, Vice President of Communications, Student Senate for CCC (primary  
40 college is Mission College); Rachel Alazar, Pre-Nursing Student at Palomar College (primary  
41 college is Palomar College); Gerardo Reyes, Inter-Club Council President, Reedley College  
42 Associated Student Government (primary college is Reedley College).

43

44 Representatives of several CCC districts graciously shared their experiences and knowledge with  
45 us. With thanks to:

46

- San Diego Community College District: Shelly Hess, Dean of Curriculum; Andrew Hoffman, English Faculty and Past San Diego Mesa College Curriculum Review Committee Co-Chair; and Carmen Scott, Curriculum Technician.

47

48

49

50

- Peralta Community College District: Nancy Cayton, Berkeley City College Curriculum Specialist; Laura Bollentino, Laney College Articulation Officer; and Heather Sisneros, Laney Curriculum Chair and District Curriculum Committee Co-Chair.

51

52

53

54

- Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD): Elizabeth Atondo, LACCD Academic Senate Curriculum Chair and Articulation Officer; Dan Keller, LACCD Curriculum Dean; and Cathleen Rozadilla, East Los Angeles College Faculty Articulation Officer.

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55 <sup>1</sup> Sova is a mission-driven consultancy hired to support the CCCC in facilitating the CCN Task Force. You can learn  
56 more about Sova at [www.sova.org](http://www.sova.org)

- 57 ● Los Rios Community College District: Phil A. Smith, Professor, American River College  
58 Mathematics Department and Lead Programmer, SOCRATES Curriculum Management  
59 System; Rhonda Farley, English as a Second Language Professor, Department Chair,  
60 Cosumnes River College; Renee Medina, Curriculum Chair, Sacramento City College; and  
61 Rose Giordano, Dean of Education and Health Professions, Sacramento City College.

62

63 In addition, we thank Assemblyman Marc Berman and his office for the investments that made  
64 this work possible. The CCN Task Force also benefited from research conducted by a few  
65 sources. Sheila Miller Rivera, a consultant to Sova, authored the Common Course Numbering  
66 Landscape Scan. From the RP Group, Daisy Segovia, Senior Researcher and Alyssa Nguyen,  
67 Senior Director of Research & Evaluation supported a survey and qualitative research study  
68 focused on understanding CCC district experiences with CCN.

69

70 Lastly, we thank the many stakeholders in the CCCs, ranging from students to faculty and IT  
71 professionals, who have watched our progress with interest, provided feedback and started  
72 preparing for the coming implementation. We look forward to the system wide collaboration  
73 ahead.

74

75 **PLACEHOLDER: Letter from the Deputy Chancellor**

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120

121 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

122 (May need to be updated as the CCN Task Force keeps working through December 2023.)

123

124 [Assembly Bill 1111](#) (AB 1111)<sup>2</sup> calls on the CCC to adopt a student-facing common course  
 125 numbering (CCN) system in order to “streamline transfer from two- to four-year postsecondary  
 126 educational institutions and reduce excess credit (unit) accumulation.”

127

128 To spur this effort, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) formed the AB  
 129 1111 Common Course Numbering Task Force (CCN Task Force) to make recommendations for a  
 130 systemwide implementation plan. Reflecting the CCCCCO’s participatory governance system, the  
 131 CCN Task Force includes broad and diverse representation from across the system’s 72 districts  
 132 and 115 colleges. Members reflect key stakeholder groups invested in and intimately  
 133 knowledgeable about transfer student success, including: community college students  
 134 themselves; faculty leaders, including representatives from the Academic Senate for CCC;  
 135 administrative leaders, including representatives from the CCC Chief Instructional Officers;  
 136 student service professionals, including articulation officers; student success deans; technology  
 137 officers; institutional effectiveness researchers; chief executive officers; and trustees. Critically,  
 138 the CCN Task Force has benefited from robust engagement of the CCCs four-year transfer  
 139 partners, the California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and California’s  
 140 independent colleges and universities. The CCN Task Force is collaboratively led by two  
 141 co-chairs: Virginia “Ginni” May, Past President of the Academic Senate for CCC and Professor of  
 142 Mathematics and Statistics at Sacramento City College, and Tram Vo-Kumamoto, Past President  
 143 of the CCC Chief Instructional Officers and Vice President of Instruction at Saddleback College.

144

145 The pages that follow describe more about the CCN Task Force and its work, including the  
 146 history of common course numbering in California—and why this effort is different and destined

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147 <sup>2</sup> California State Legislature. 2021. [Assembly Bill No. 1111, Postsecondary Education: Common Course Numbering](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1111)  
 148 [System](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1111). [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1111](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1111)

149 for success. Perhaps most importantly, this report includes the CCN Task Force’s Recommended  
150 Implementation Plan, which features recommendations such as the following:

151

- 152 ● Forming a statewide intersegmental CCN steering and operational structure for ongoing  
153 CCN course assessment and alignment processes (considerate of local curriculum and  
154 catalog processes);
- 155 ● Designing work groups to carry the work forward, inclusive of their charges,  
156 membership, guiding principles and activities;
- 157 ● Establishing which course elements must be identical or equivalent for a course to be  
158 numbered the same;
- 159 ● Assessing technology needs and solutions that will increase data-informed decisions,  
160 expedite operational processes, and create a streamlined CCN repository; and
- 161 ● Identifying and addressing where CCN changes to CCC courses will potentially disrupt  
162 existing course articulation/transferability with CSU, UC, and AICCU segments, while  
163 simultaneously working across segments to ensure maximum articulation of commonly  
164 numbered courses (recognizing CSU, UC, and AICCU are not currently mandated to  
165 participate).

166

167 The CCN Task Force acknowledges that CCN presents a historic opportunity to make the  
168 California higher educational system easier to navigate and finally addresses a long-recognized  
169 barrier that impedes countless students. While implementing a CCN system will not magically  
170 solve all of the pain points in the transfer student experience, it is necessary foundational work  
171 and if done well, will enhance credit mobility and improve equitable associate and  
172 baccalaureate degree attainment. The CCN Task Force feels confident that the implementation  
173 plan described in this Summary Report can and will result in a CCN system that has the potential  
174 to greatly benefit students and meet the stated intent of the AB 1111 legislation. The CCN Task  
175 Force encourages all necessary stakeholders to move forward quickly and responsibly, ensure  
176 funding and resources are available for an implementation and sustainability of this magnitude,  
177 and center the equitable success of our students.

178

### **Serving Today’s Diverse and Highly Mobile Learners**

The CCC is the nation’s largest system of higher education, providing nearly 2 million Californians affordable and in-demand postsecondary education and training across its 116 campuses. Offering a wide array of programs and robust student support, the CCC meet today’s learners “where they are.” As a result, the system enrolls a remarkably diverse student body, including learners of diverse ethnic backgrounds, low-income adults, and nontraditional age students.

***California Community Colleges meet today’s students “where they are”:<sup>3</sup>***

***69% of students are people of diverse ethnic backgrounds***

***47% of students do not pay fees***

***42.3% of students are adults over age 25***

With its extensive reach, the CCCs have an important role to play in making a postsecondary credential accessible and preparing learners for in-demand jobs in a global economy. This includes providing a clear and efficient transfer pathway for those seeking a baccalaureate degree. In the 2019-20 academic year alone, over 130,000 students successfully transferred from a CCC campus to a four-year institution.<sup>4</sup> The system’s role in making lower-division coursework broadly accessible and aligned to baccalaureate degree pathways is laid out in the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Today, one-half of all California State University graduates and one-third of all University of California graduates began at a CCC.<sup>5</sup>

However, these are not the only transfer students that the CCC system produces. Today’s learners complete coursework across multiple CCC campuses – sometimes enrolling at more than one campus simultaneously for multiple reasons. On average, 45% of CCC graduates who completed associate degrees over the last decade completed coursework at more than one CCC

211 <sup>3</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. 2023. Key Facts. Accessed on August 20, 2023.

210 <sup>4</sup> Ibid

209 <sup>5</sup> Ibid

212 campus.<sup>6</sup> As students become increasingly mobile, it is imperative that they are able to easily  
213 identify, enroll in, transfer, and apply their CCC courses to their educational program of interest.  
214

## 215 **Course Numbering Systems: Cutting through the** 216 **Course Transfer and Articulation Confusion**

217 Students who take courses across more than one campus are more likely to end up with excess  
218 units from taking courses that are duplicative or not applicable to their chosen degree path.<sup>7</sup>  
219 This is not surprising considering that the 73 independent college districts of the CCC system  
220 maintain local, unique course numbering systems for over 40,000 general education and transfer  
221 pathway courses.<sup>8</sup> Deciphering which courses are equivalent across campuses and  
222 understanding how these courses apply to requirements of a particular degree pathway can  
223 confuse even the savviest of students and most experienced of counselors.  
224

225 Excess units cost learners valuable time and money and can deter them from reaching their  
226 educational goals. The CCCCO has found inequities in who is accruing the most excess units,  
227 finding that:

- 228 ● Male students accrue more units than female students;
- 229 ● Asian, Filipino, and Latinx students accrue more units than Black and White students;
- 230 and
- 231 ● Students 25-34 years old accrue more units than students immediately out of high  
232 school.<sup>9</sup>

233  
234 Replacing the current disparate, locally-developed course numbering systems with one CCN  
235 system will cut through the confusion, and can improve the transfer student experience, support  
236 the mobility of their units across work and learning, and help today's highly mobile students  
237 reach their educational goals more efficiently.

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243 <sup>6</sup> Common Course Numbering Task Force. October 2022. "Understanding Within-System Mobility and Implications  
244 for AB 1111."

245 <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Files/ccn-taskforce-dii-a11y.pdf?la=en&hash=E9B2ADD936C091AF>  
246 BEDA32A0536B4EA1861F4914

240 <sup>7</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. December 2022. Common Course Numbering Landscape Scan.  
241 [https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806)  
242 [hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806)

239 <sup>8</sup> Ibid

238 <sup>9</sup> Ibid



247

248

## **Renewed Urgency to Improve Course Transfer**

249 The urgency to improve the student transfer experience comes from both within the CCC and  
250 from our external environment. For the past six years, CCC faculty, staff, and administrators have  
251 worked with laser-focus to advance student success and achieve the equity-centered goals of  
252 Vision for Success, our system’s guiding framework that was adopted by the Board of Governors  
253 in 2017.

254

255

### **Vision for Success Goals<sup>10</sup>**

256

**1. Increase completion of degrees, credentials, certificates, and job-specific skill sets  
by 20% between 2017 and 2022;**

257

258

**2. Increase transfers to UC and CSU by 35% between 2017 and 2022;**

259

**3. Decrease the average number of credits accumulated by associate’s degree earners  
to 79 credits by 2022 (down from an average of 87 credits in 2017);**

260

261

**4. Increase the number of exiting CTE students employed in their field of study to 76%  
by 2022 (up from 60% in 2017);**

262

263

**5. Reduce equity gaps by 40% across all the above measures by 2022, and fully close  
those gaps by 2027; and**

264

265

**6. Close regional gaps across all of the above measures by 2027.**

266 Across our campuses, there have been numerous and multi-pronged efforts to address excess  
267 units and improve equitable transfer student outcomes, including targeted efforts to address  
268 course numbering. These include system wide initiatives like the CCC faculty-led Course Number  
269 Identification System (C-ID) and local district-wide common course numbering initiatives. While  
270 data continue to suggest that transfer students face significant barriers to success, and there has  
271 been real interest in and commitment to developing clear information and strong transfer  
272 pathways, real structural barriers have inhibited efforts from achieving scale systemwide.  
273 Notably, while there have been at least three other efforts to build CCN systems since the 1980s,  
274 these efforts have historically been under-resourced and did not gain traction across all  
275 segments of higher education and were therefore not successful.

276

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277 <sup>10</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. Vision Goals and Core Commitments.

278 Meanwhile, political leaders and external community stakeholders have shown greater interest  
279 in improving transfer as a way to equitably increase degree attainment in California. Governor  
280 Newsom’s Recovery with Equity Task Force recently elevated the idea of a CCN system as a  
281 necessary element of a highly integrated postsecondary ecosystem that supports all learners.<sup>11</sup>  
282 This idea evolved with Assemblymember Marc Berman in [Assembly Bill 1111 \(AB 1111\)](#), which  
283 calls on the CCC to adopt a CCN system in order to “streamline transfer from two- to four-year  
284 postsecondary educational institutions and reduce excess credit (unit) accumulation.” Signed  
285 into law in 2021, AB 1111 requires that, “on or before July 1, 2024, both of the following shall  
286 occur:

287

288 (A) The California Community Colleges shall adopt a common course numbering system  
289 for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses.

290

291 (B) Each community college campus shall incorporate common course numbers from the  
292 adopted common course numbering system in its catalog.”<sup>12</sup>

293 AB 1111 further stipulates that “the common course numbering system [...] be student-facing  
294 [...] and ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course  
295 number.”

296

297 To spur this effort, the legislature appropriated \$10 million in one-time funding under the  
298 [Budget Act of 2021](#) to establish a work group to guide the design and implementation of the CCN  
299 system. As the entity responsible for maintaining compliance with CCC state legislative  
300 mandates, the CCCCCO formed the AB 1111 Common Course Numbering Task Force (CCN Task  
301 Force) to serve as this work group. Further, the legislators appropriated \$105 million in one-time  
302 funds within the 2022-23 budget for allocation to community college districts to support  
303 implementation.<sup>13</sup>

304

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310 <sup>11</sup> California Governor’s Council for Post-Secondary Education. 2021. Recovery With Equity: A Roadmap for Higher  
311 Education After the Pandemic. Taskforce Report.

309 <sup>12</sup> See California Education Code 66725.5.

305 <sup>13</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. December 2022. Common Course Numbering Landscape  
306 Scan.

307 [https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806)  
308 [hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/cccco-report-common-course-numbering.pdf?la=en&hash=CC7DC4D3E47692A5ED3B9A726F90318413553806)

312 This presents an historic opportunity to make our colleges easier to navigate and finally address  
313 a long-recognized barrier that impedes countless students. While implementing a CCN system  
314 will not magically solve all of the challenges in the transfer student experience, it is necessary  
315 foundational work from which we can continue to build. In fact, representatives from several  
316 postsecondary systems that have implemented CCN report that CCN is beneficial for students  
317 and for state and institutional stakeholders.<sup>14</sup>

318

319

## II. ABOUT THE CCN TASK FORCE

320

321 The CCCCO is committed to honoring the professional and lived expertise of our faculty, staff,  
322 students, and campus leaders who engage on these issues every day. In 2022, the Chancellor's  
323 Office assembled the CCN Task Force to develop the student-centered vision and  
324 implementation plan for the CCN system.

325

326 The CCN Task force is charged with establishing:

- 327 ● A definition of a student-facing common course numbering system for all general  
328 education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses;
- 329 ● A recommended implementation plan to guide efforts to establish a common course  
330 numbering system that meets the requirements of AB 1111.

331

332

### Membership

333 Reflecting the CCCs' participatory governance system, the CCN Task Force includes broad and  
334 diverse representation from across the system's 73 districts and 116 colleges. Members reflect  
335 key stakeholder groups invested in and intimately knowledgeable about transfer student  
336 success, including: community college students themselves; faculty leaders, including  
337 representatives from the Academic Senate for CCC; administrative leaders, including  
338 representatives from the CCC Chief Instructional Officers; student service professionals,  
339 including articulation officers; student success deans; technology officers; institutional  
340 effectiveness researchers; chief executive officers; and trustees.

341

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342 <sup>14</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. December 2022. Common Course Numbering Landscape  
343 Scan.

344 In addition, the CCCCCO recognizes that any effort aimed at improving the transfer student  
 345 experience must also have active participation and buy-in from the four-year sector. The CCN  
 346 Task Force thus includes—and has benefited from the robust engagement of—representatives  
 347 from the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), the California  
 348 State University, and the University of California.

349

350

### Leadership

351 The CCN Task Force is collaboratively led by two co-chairs: Virginia “Ginni” May, Past President  
 352 of the Academic Senate for CCC and Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Sacramento City  
 353 College, and Tram Vo-Kumamoto, President of the CCC Chief Instructional Officers and Vice  
 354 President of Instruction at Saddleback College. Their leadership and coordination with the  
 355 CCCCCO over the past two years was instrumental in driving the CCN Task Force’s work forward.

356

357

#### CCN Task Force Members

Stakeholder Group	# of Representatives	Name	Title	College
CCC Students	2	Robert Alexander	VP, Regional Affairs, SSSCC	San Bernardino Valley College
		[Vacant]	[Vacant]	[Vacant]
CCC Faculty	4	Ginni May (co-chair)	Past President, ASCCC; and Professor of Mathematics and Statistics	Sacramento City College
		Cheryl Aschenbach	President, ASCCC; and Professor of English	Lassen College
		John Freitas	Articulation Officer	Los Angeles City College
		Tiffany Tran	Articulation Officer	Irvine Valley College
CCC Admissions and Registrar Officers	2	Victor DeVore	Dean, Student Services	San Diego CCD
		Meredith Marasco	Evaluator	Butte College
CCC Chief	2	Tram	President, CCCCCIO;	Saddleback

Stakeholder Group	# of Representatives	Name	Title	College
Instructional Officers		Vo-Kumamoto (co-chair)	and VP, Instruction	College
		Isabel O'Connor	VP, Instruction	San Diego Mesa College
CCC Chief Student Services Officers	1	Robyn Brammer	VP, Student Services	Cerritos College
CCC Technology Officers	2	Rachel Stamm	Curriculum Systems Consultant	CCC Tech Center
		Rupinder Bhatia	Executive Director, IT	San Jose-Evergreen CCD
CCC Researchers	1	Jeremy Brown	Dean of Student Success and Institutional Effectiveness	Yuba College
CCC Chief Executive Officers	1	Marilyn Flores	Superintendent-President	Rio Hondo College
CCC Trustees	1	Deborah Ikeda	Trustee	State Center CCD
CCC Chancellor's Office	2	Aisha Lowe	Executive Vice Chancellor	CCC Chancellor's Office
		John Stankas	Vice Chancellor	CCC Chancellor's Office
California State University	2	Marci Sanchez	Assistant Director of Undergraduate Transfer Programs	CSU Office of the Chancellor
		Kristin Van Gaasbeck	Director, Liberal Studies and Social Science Programs; and Associate Professor of Economics	CSU Sacramento

Stakeholder Group	# of Representatives	Name	Title	College
University of California	2	Chase Fischerhall	Associate Director, A-G and Transfer Articulation Policy	UC Office of the President
		[Vacant]	[Vacant]	[Vacant]
Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities	1	Tyler Vaughan-Gomez	Assistant Registrar for Transfer & Articulation	University of Redlands

358

359

### Timeline of CCN Task Force Activities

360 Beginning in September 2022, the CCN Task Force began meeting bi-monthly for a total of eight  
 361 public meetings to create a definition of the CCN system and develop a framework to guide  
 362 implementation of this new system across all CCC campuses by July 1, 2024.

363

2021	2022-2023
October 6: Bill signed into law and Ed Code 66725.5 established	CCCCO convened the CCN Task Force in eight public meetings from September 2022 through December 2023. CCN Task Force developed its recommendations for a rolling system wide implementation plan, including a recommended governance structure and timeline with milestones and activities
Budget Act of 2021: \$10 million one-time budget designed for CCCCCO to establish a workgroup, known as the CCN Task Force	January 2022: \$105 million one-time funds for CCN implementation in 2022-2023 budget year

364

365 With facilitation support from [Sova](#), CCN Task Force members engaged in active listening and  
 366 focused learning with a robust set of content experts, partners, and stakeholders statewide.  
 367 First, the CCN Task Force grounded its work with an assessment of the available data; the CCCCCO  
 368 presented quantitative data on within-system student mobility, and Sova presented the findings  
 369 of the landscape scan, which included results from interviews and listening sessions with more  
 370 than 100 stakeholders across California and the nation; a survey of over 850 stakeholders  
 371 representing 112 of the 116 CCCs; and reviews and analyses of existing literature and research.

372 The RP Group also presented results from a systemwide survey to understand the status and  
 373 design of existing CCC CCN systems. CCN Task Force members also heard from community  
 374 college students to understand how students presently experience course transfer, and their  
 375 ideas for a new system.

376

377 Next, the CCN Task Force consulted with practitioners from multiple districts within the CCC  
 378 system that have implemented a local CCN system to understand lessons learned from  
 379 implementation and key questions to pose and considerations to take into account for a  
 380 systemwide CCN roll-out. The CCN Task Force also contemplated complex questions regarding  
 381 how a CCN system for the two-year sector could articulate to the four-year sector and align with  
 382 other ongoing transfer reform efforts, such as [AB 928](#) implementation.<sup>15</sup>

383

384 Finally, the CCN Task Force established work streams to accelerate progress and conferred on  
 385 how to present the final implementation plan back to system stakeholders and to the  
 386 legislature.

387

388

**CCN Task Force Meeting Topics**

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
September 29, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clarify the <a href="#">legislative charge</a> of the CCN Task Force, expectations and roles of members and available facilitation support.</li> <li>● Review <a href="#">current data</a> on community college transfer student success.</li> <li>● Introduction to the <a href="#">landscape scan</a> on CCN , including lessons from other states .</li> <li>● Begin to define a student-facing CCN system for the CCC.</li> </ul>
November 29, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hear directly from students to understand their experiences with course transfer.</li> <li>● Learn from colleagues involved in prior common course numbering efforts, including representatives from San Diego and Peralta Community College Districts and a discussion of the CCCC-ID system.</li> <li>● Define the CCN Task Force’s role in AB 1111 implementation and begin to identify appropriate elements and work streams for the</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> California State Legislature. 2021. Assembly Bill No. 928, Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee.

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
	implementation plan.
February 23, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn from colleagues involved in prior common course numbering efforts, with representatives from Los Angeles and <a href="#">Los Rios Community College Districts</a>.</li> <li>Engage in learning around <a href="#">four-year articulation processes</a>.</li> <li>Consult with RP Group on CCN Task Force research needs.</li> </ul>
April 27, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review RP Group <a href="#">preliminary research findings</a> from a survey of CCC districts with CCN.</li> <li>Clarify outcomes for implementation planning.</li> <li>Define planning work streams for the implementation.</li> </ul>
June 22, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss aligning course elements to CCN definition and schema.</li> <li>Review updated research from the <a href="#">RP Group</a>.</li> <li>Discuss <a href="#">CCN Task Force communications</a>.</li> </ul>
August 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review CCN Task Force summary report outline and timeline for development.</li> <li>Discuss public draft of a report entitled <a href="#">“CCN Task Force Draft Outline, Findings and Considerations for the Summary Report”</a></li> </ul>
October 18, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review public draft of the CCN Task Force’s <a href="#">Summary Report</a>, which includes the Recommended Implementation Plan.</li> </ul>
December 7, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the CCN Task Force’s <a href="#">Summary Report</a>, which includes the Recommended Implementation Plan.</li> </ul>

391

392

### III. RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

393

394 The following is the CCN Task Force’s Recommended Implementation Plan. The CCN Task Force  
 395 intends for these recommendations to guide support for systemwide implementation, while  
 396 acknowledging that an implementation of this magnitude will be iterative and need flexibility to  
 397 respond to lessons learned and changes in context that require adjustments in strategic  
 398 direction.

#### 399 A. Scope and Definition of Student-Facing Common Course Numbering

400 The CCN Task Force’s commitment to building a student-facing common course numbering  
 401 (CCN) system stems from a shared belief that requiring students to navigate the current complex  
 402 course structures of the CCCs, involving 115 colleges and over 40,000 general education and



403 transfer pathway courses, is confusing and is a structurally-induced factor contributing to  
404 inequities in student outcomes. Reducing that confusion and providing clarity to our students  
405 will be hard work, but it is necessary and it is the right thing to do. CCN is an indispensable piece  
406 of the student success and equity puzzle, and an historic opportunity for CCCs to work together  
407 and show leadership as the largest postsecondary system in the nation.

408

409 To better support students and meet the transfer-focused intent of the legislation, the CCN Task  
410 Force defines student-facing CCN as a system that ensures that all students can identify courses  
411 across the system as being comparable and therefore transferable, applicable and articulated to  
412 degree completion across the CCC *and also to* the California State University (CSU) and  
413 University of California (UC) systems and to independent colleges and universities in California  
414 regardless of CCC sending institution. To achieve this goal, the CCN Task Force has outlined a  
415 minimum set of elements that all courses should have in common, including a number of  
416 elements that are vital for ensuring articulation. Proposing a minimum set of elements ensures  
417 that faculty continue to have appropriate influence over the content of their courses (see E.1.d  
418 Implementation Recommendation - CCN Descriptors for additional details).

419

420 Additional necessary features of a student-facing CCN, emerging from CCN Task Force  
421 discussions, include:

- 422 ● Is easily navigable and self-serviceable, so that students can use the system with  
423 confidence on their own.
- 424 ● Provides students a single, transparent source of course information within the resources  
425 students are most likely to use (i.e., in the catalog and schedule of classes), inclusive of  
426 direct access to clear information about the transferability and applicability of these  
427 courses throughout California institutions.

## 428 **B. Expected Outcomes of Student-Facing CCN**

429 When done well, the CCN Task Force expects that implementation of a student-facing CCN  
430 system will achieve the following outcomes.

- 431 ● For students that attend multiple CCC, lower division general education and major  
432 preparation requirements will be easily identified within the CCC as comparable in order  
433 to eliminate students unnecessarily re-taking a course when taking courses across  
434 multiple community colleges.
- 435 ● The CCN Task Force intends for articulation to be improved for transfer into four-year  
436 public and independent universities as well. Current law would benefit those students  
437 that transfer within, or move around within, the CCC system, but participation by the CSU

438 and UC systems and independent colleges and universities is needed for CCN to benefit  
439 students transferring to and from those institutions.

- 440 ● This process and statewide collaboration will:
  - 441 ○ Bring increased transparency and real efforts to address the structural, systemic  
442 and intersegmental barriers that students face regarding transfer and credit  
443 mobility.
  - 444 ○ Make progress on the following Vision for Success<sup>16</sup> goals: reduce unit  
445 accumulation, improve transfer rates, and increase credential completion across  
446 CCCs by ensuring that students 1) understand how a course may or may not  
447 transfer and articulate within CCC and to UC, CSU, and independent institutions,  
448 and 2) take the courses they need to meet their educational goals regardless of  
449 the college where the courses were taken.
  - 450 ○ Demand attention to and provide resources for needed improvements in a  
451 number of related areas, such as upgrading and aligning technology systems and  
452 developing processes that facilitate timely sharing of information among CCCs,  
453 and across other segments of postsecondary education.
- 454 ● In concert with other important student success efforts underway across the state, such  
455 as guided pathways implementation, disaggregated student outcomes data will  
456 demonstrate that equity gaps are closing and transfer student outcomes are improving.

### 458 **C. Overarching Guiding Principles for the Implementation of Student-Facing CCN**

459 The CCN Task Force expects those engaged in advancing the implementation of a student-facing  
460 CCN system to:

- 461 ● Align to the CCN Task Force’s definition of a student-facing CCN system, recognize the  
462 value of the high-level outcomes as articulated by the CCN Task Force, and adhere to the  
463 CCN Task Force’s recommendations (e.g., CCN Descriptor Elements).
- 464 ● Design solutions that respect faculty and college autonomy.
- 465 ● Commit to a strong implementation of student-facing CCN to better support students.
- 466 ● Apply principles and guidelines of Universal Design throughout this work.
- 467 ● Embrace moving to a single data management system as an aspirational goal, which  
468 aligns with the CCC Chancellor’s Vision for the creation of a centralized data system that  
469 better serves both staff and students.

470

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471 <sup>16</sup> California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. (2021). Update to the Vision for Success.

472 <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Reports/vision-for-success-update-2021-a11y.pdf>

## 473 **D. CCN System Governance**

### 474 **D.1 CCN Governance Structure**

475 The following is a recommended governance structure to support a three-year implementation  
476 process.

#### 477 **D.1.a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**

478 The CCCCCO is responsible for system-level support and coordination, with oversight of the  
479 dedicated resources for the administration and operational aspects of implementation.

#### 480 **D.1.b CCN Council: Charge and Membership**

481 At the highest level, the implementation of the new CCN system will be overseen by the CCN  
482 Council. The CCN Council's charge is:

483       The CCN Council, operating as a CCCCCO participatory governance group<sup>17</sup> with significant  
484       engagement with intersegmental decision-makers from four-year transfer partners, will  
485       set strategic direction and goals and guide the work of the various implementation work  
486       groups. The assumption is that the CCN Council will work for approximately three years  
487       to advance strong and effective CCN implementation.

488

489 The CCN Council shall make every effort to reach consensus in decision-making. If consensus  
490 cannot be reached, then decisions shall be made by vote of the voting membership and diverse  
491 opinions will be documented.

492

493 The CCN Council will be broadly representative of the statewide stakeholders implicated in a  
494 successful CCN implementation. The full membership of the Council is still under development.  
495 CCN Council members will operate accordingly to participatory governance principles and  
496 collaborate with system stakeholder groups on accomplishing CCN implementation.

497

498 It is important to note that the work of the CCN implementation will take place in work groups  
499 (see below for more details) that will allow for—and indeed require—significant statewide  
500 representation with many opportunities for engagement and leadership.

#### 501 **D.1.c Steering Committee of the CCN Council: Charge and Membership**

502 The charge of the Steering Committee is:

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503 <sup>17</sup> California Community Colleges. (January 2021). 2020-2021 Participatory Governance Handbook. Retrieved August  
504 14, 2023, from  
505 [https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Files/BOG/20202021participatorygovernancehandbookfinala11y4](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Files/BOG/20202021participatorygovernancehandbookfinala11y4882581.pdf?la=en&hash=845F8B172FAD963AAB447A01F98103936D8D9782)  
506 [882581.pdf?la=en&hash=845F8B172FAD963AAB447A01F98103936D8D9782](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Files/BOG/20202021participatorygovernancehandbookfinala11y4882581.pdf?la=en&hash=845F8B172FAD963AAB447A01F98103936D8D9782)

507 The Steering Committee will provide planning and facilitation for the CCN Council. The  
508 Steering Committee is responsible for effective leadership and coordination of the CCN  
509 Council, through a process of soliciting agenda items from the full CCN Council and work  
510 group leads, drafting agendas, identifying content experts and research needed, and  
511 sending agendas out in advance of CCN Council meetings for review by other members.  
512

513 The Steering Committee is made up of four representatives, one each appointed by the  
514 following: CCCCCO, Academic Senate for CCC (ASCCC), Chief Instructional Officers (CIO) and Chief  
515 Student Services Officers (CSSO).

#### 516 **D.1.d CCN Work Groups**

517 The CCN Task Force is recommending three work groups wherein the detailed complexities of  
518 CCN implementation will be addressed. Within each of these work groups there may be  
519 additional teams/subgroups (e.g., the CCN Development Work Group will coordinate the  
520 intersegmental disciplinary teams resourced to complete the alignment of courses to the CCN  
521 definition and schema). The work groups are:

- 522 ● CCN Development Work Group;
- 523 ● CCN Technology & Processes Work Group; and
- 524 ● CCN Communications Work Group.

525

526 The Steering Committee will appoint leads for each work group who will serve as voting  
527 members of the CCN Council.

528

529 Details on each of these work groups, including their charges, membership, guiding principles  
530 and key recommendations from the CCN Task Force for how they approach their work, follow in  
531 Section E.

#### 532 **D.2 Guiding Principles**

533 The CCN Task Force expects those engaged in the CCN Council and the work groups to:

- 534 ● Embrace the iterative process of this work and regularly assess progress and modify  
535 direction as needed with a goal of continuous improvement.
- 536 ● Maintain the high-level proposed governance structure for a minimum of three years. In  
537 maintaining the structure, it will be important to review and assess roles and tasks  
538 annually, recommend, as appropriate, membership rotation for forward moving  
539 structure, modify or sunset working sub-groups, and engage advisory groups.
- 540 ● Advocate for funding for implementation of the work. Effective implementation will  
541 require resources, particularly for: an intersegmental infrastructure for CCN; faculty  
542 descriptor and course work; staff (classified professionals, faculty, and administrators)

- 543 work to implement new processes and technology systems; and new technology  
544 purchases and implementation.
- 545 ● Align the CCN implementation to other critical efforts happening statewide, such as the  
546 recommendations of the AB 928 Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental  
547 Implementation Committee.
  - 548 ● Ensure that there is a process to maintain critical data related to historical course  
549 numbering and articulation information through collaboration between key partners  
550 such as the Academic Senate for CCC (ASCCC) and the CCCCCO.
  - 551 ● Work to embrace existing structures when appropriate and feasible, rather than creating  
552 new structures.
  - 553 ● Design a structure such that, as progress is made in the initial three-year  
554 implementation period, the CCN processes would run in parallel with the C-ID processes  
555 until CCN is well-established and assessment can be made to determine the  
556 opportunities for the CCN structure to complement and integrate with the C-ID structure.

## 557 **E. Details on the CCN Work Groups**

558 The CCN Task Force identified three work groups for implementation. Details on each of their  
559 charges, membership, guiding principles and implementation recommendations follow. The  
560 work groups are:

- 561 ● CCN Development Work Group;
- 562 ● CCN Technology & Processes Work Group; and
- 563 ● CCN Communications Work Group.

### 564 **E.1 CCN Development Work Group**

#### 565 **E.1.a Charge and Membership**

566 The charge of the CCN Development Work Group is:

567 The CCN Development Work Group makes design recommendations to the CCN Council  
568 for the infrastructure and processes needed for curricular coordination to assign  
569 common course numbers. Of critical importance is that the CCN Development Work  
570 Group will coordinate, support and guide the intersegmental disciplinary teams  
571 resourced to complete the hard work of creating, adopting and implementing the CCN  
572 Descriptor. Additionally, this work group should engage stakeholders and research the  
573 impact of all CCC institutions adopting the CCN system.

574

575 Membership in the CCN Development Work Group will include stakeholders who are implicated  
576 in the effort to align courses to the CCN definition and schema, particularly CCC faculty

579 (inclusive of articulation officers) and faculty and other representatives from the CSU and UC  
580 systems and from independent colleges and universities.

### 581 **E.1.b Guiding Principles**

582 **The CCN Task Force calls upon those implementing the activities called for in this**  
583 **implementation plan to adhere to the following guiding principles:**

- 584 ● Ensure broad faculty participation from broad subject areas from the very beginning of  
585 the CCN work.
- 586 ● Honor faculty academic freedom, as defined by American Association of University  
587 Professors (AAUP) and in [Protecting Academic Freedom During a Time of Significant](#)  
588 [Change](#) (ASCCC, 2020), is ensured by providing faculty complete autonomy in how they  
589 engage students in the delivery and assessment of the course content.
- 590 ● Ensure CCN Descriptors (a foundational document that defines the common minimum  
591 elements of a course for CCN, see below for additional details) will be developed by  
592 faculty and supporting subject matter experts at the CCC system-level in collaboration  
593 with CSU, UC, and AICCU faculty, and supporting administrators. CCN Descriptors will  
594 then be adopted at the CCC system-level. Participating CSU, UC, and AICCU campuses  
595 will evaluate and determine application opportunities for each CCN Descriptor. Four-year  
596 campuses that have accepted a CCN Descriptor as sufficiently aligned with their  
597 equivalent course will honor course-to-course articulation with a course from any CCC  
598 that has been aligned with the CCN Descriptor.
- 599 ● Agree that student-facing CCN will require a minimum set of elements in a Course Outline  
600 of Record (COR).
- 601 ● Support the aspiration for the acceptance of the CCN Descriptors to serve as the primary  
602 pathway to articulation of individual courses.
- 603 ● Support the vision that the development of CCN Descriptors supports California higher  
604 ed articulation to function in a new way. As much as possible, create expectations of  
605 colleges that do not increase the amount or level of difficulty of the work already in their  
606 queue. When at all possible, create a reduction and/or streamlining of tasks and  
607 approvals.
- 608 ● Establish a collaborative and innovative spirit that provides opportunity to use batch and  
609 modified processes to align courses that have already been through formal processes  
610 and that have faculty input throughout development. In cases, for example, where  
611 curriculum does not change and courses have already been approved, move to  
612 implement without going through an onerous review and approval process.
- 613 ● Related to the taxonomy in particular:
  - 614 ○ Ensure the taxonomy immediately and clearly identifies courses that are  
615 commonly numbered.

- 616 ○ Design a system that provides all information the course number needs to
- 617 represent and let that determine the number of digits. Then work to resolve
- 618 downstream impacts.
- 619     ▪ Minimize the number of digits from the student perspective with the least
- 620     impact on institutional workloads.
- 621 ○ Expect that students will adapt and learn the numbering system that is in place at
- 622 their institution and benefit from the consistency across community colleges.

### 623 **E.1.c Key Definitions Related to CCN Implementation**

624 The following definitions were developed to establish a common understanding of key  
625 terminology in the CCN work.

- 626 ● **Articulation:** The process of developing a formal, written agreement that identifies
- 627 courses (or sequences of courses) on a “sending” campus that are comparable to, and
- 628 acceptable in lieu of, specific courses at a “receiving” campus.<sup>18</sup> Some additional notes
- 629 about this definition include:
  - 630 ○ This definition could be “applied” to various contexts. For now, it would be
  - 631 applied to agreements with the CCC.
  - 632 ○ The term “comparable” is being used intentionally instead of “equivalent” in
  - 633 defining articulated courses.
  - 634 ○ The goal is to establish strong course-to-course articulation.
- 635 ● **Comparable:** Course (as a whole) has a minimum standard in common with another
- 636 course, as demonstrated by elements included in the CCN Descriptor, to the degree
- 637 needed for the course to be accepted in lieu of the receiving institution’s course.
  - 638 ○ **Identical** (Relates to elements of a course): Exactly the same.
  - 639 ○ **Equivalent** (Relates to elements of a course): Hold equal weight, worth, and value
  - 640 but are not necessarily identically worded.
- 641 ● **Transferable:** A course completed at one college or university that is then granted credit
- 642 by the receiving institution upon review by that institution, be it a CCC, CSU, UC, AICCU
- 643 member or any other institution of higher education.
- 644 ● **Applicability:** How the units of a transferable course are applied to specific degree
- 645 requirements, such as general education or major requirements, at the receiving
- 646 institution.
- 647 ● **Duplication:** The result of a student completing courses that are comparable or courses
- 648 with similar or overlapping content that fulfill the same requirement.

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650 <sup>18</sup> Adapted from: California Intersegmental Articulation Council. (Spring 2013). *California Articulation: Policies and*  
651 *Procedures Handbook*. Retrieved August 8, 2023,

652 [https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/upload/file/CIAC\\_Handbook\\_Spring\\_2013.pdf](https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/upload/file/CIAC_Handbook_Spring_2013.pdf)

653 The following definitions are to support consistent interpretation of this report’s content:

- 654 ● CCN Descriptors: A CCN Descriptor is a foundational document that defines the common  
655 minimum components of a course outline of record (COR) for CCN. The CCN Descriptor  
656 Components include course number, course title, unit amounts, course description,  
657 prerequisites, course content, and student learning outcomes or objectives\* (\*CCCs use  
658 “objectives” rather than "student learning outcomes” because course objectives are  
659 defined as a required component of the course outline of record per [Title 5 Sec. 55002](#)  
660 and the [Program and Course Approval Handbook](#). It is common for four-year institutions  
661 to use the term “student learning outcomes” as equivalent to the term “objectives” used  
662 in the California Community Colleges).
- 663 ● Components of Course Outlines of Record: For the purpose of this report and consistent  
664 with the 8th edition of the [Program and Course Approval Handbook](#), course outlines of  
665 records (COR) will include the components required by Title 5 55002, including those  
666 components comprising a CCN Descriptor.
- 667 ● CCN-Aligned Course: This is a COR that has been developed based on a CCN Descriptor,  
668 has been deemed consistent with the CCN Descriptor, and is thus assigned the CCN  
669 number and related articulations.
- 670 ● Curriculum: Curriculum, broadly defined, refers to all aspects of instruction in the  
671 California Community Colleges. It is inclusive of courses, course outlines of record,  
672 educational programs, and the facilitation of learning within courses. The alignment of  
673 courses to the CCN system is a part of curriculum but not the totality.
- 674 ● Educational Program: An educational program is a set of courses that together provide a  
675 focused field of study within a certificate or a degree.

676 **E.1.d Implementation Recommendation - CCN Descriptors**

677 A CCN Descriptor is a foundational document that defines the common minimum elements of a  
678 course for CCN. The following table provides recommendations related to the expectations for  
679 alignment of CCN Descriptors.

CCN Descriptor Elements		Descriptor Elements Classification
Course Number		Identical
Course Title		Identical
Unit Amount (x semester, y quarter)		Adheres to an established minimum
Course Description	Part 1: Required	Identical
	Part 2: Optional	Expanded - local college discretion
Prerequisites		Identical



CCN Descriptor Elements		Descriptor Elements Classification
Course Content	Required Topics	Identical
	Optional Topic Expansion  (Optional Additional Topics - defined as part of CCN Descriptor development.)	Additional details expanded - local college discretion
Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes	Required Objectives/Outcomes	Identical
	Optional Objectives/Outcomes Expansion  (Optional Additional Objectives/Outcomes - defined as part of CCN Descriptor Development)	Additional details expanded - local college discretion

680

681 **E.1.e Implementation Recommendation - Applicability for System-Developed CCN**

682 **Descriptors**

683 The following recommendations relate to the applicability of CCN-based courses to satisfy  
684 general education areas or to assure consistency of articulation.

685 **General Education Applicability**

686 Applicability of articulated courses to satisfy general education areas based on Cal-GETC  
687 standards.

688  
689 The courses based on CCN Descriptors will be applied to identical general education  
690 areas for all students who:

- 691 ● Complete courses at a CCC and transfer to another CCC;
- 692 ● Complete courses at a CCC and transfer to a CSU, UC, or AICCU institution; and
- 693 ● Complete courses at a CSU, UC, or AICCU institution and transfer to a CCC  
694 institution.

695  
696 Identical means that the receiving institution will apply a transferring course to the same  
697 general education area as designated by the sending institution. In the event that a

698 receiving institution does not have the same area, another area may be selected as best  
699 aligns with Cal-GETC standards.

700

701 \*Three instances for GE Applicability:

- 702 1. Full-certification of Cal-GETC results in acceptance. Note: Cal-GETC implemented  
703 fall 2025, CCN Phase I post-fall 2025.
- 704 2. No Cal-GETC certification: Individual courses with CCN Descriptors will be applied  
705 to the appropriate General Education Area based on CCC system-level approval of  
706 Cal-GETC areas.
- 707 3. No Cal-GETC certification: Courses that are not developed through the CCN  
708 process are based on institutional level course-to-course articulation, or are  
709 evaluated by the receiving institution to identify how to best serve the student.  
710 This includes courses taken at institutions outside of California, courses taken  
711 before implementation of CCN, etc.

712

713 Receiving institutions may apply a course to a different GE area for which the  
714 course satisfies upon transcript evaluation if the change benefits the student and  
715 aligns with Cal-GETC standards (for example: US History meeting Humanities and  
716 Social Science).

717

### 718 **Course-to-Course Articulations**

719 Applicability of CCN-aligned courses to course-to-course articulation.

720

721 The courses based on CCN Descriptors will be articulated identically for all students who:

- 722 ● Complete courses at a CCC and transfer to another CCC;
- 723 ● Complete courses at a CCC and transfer to a CSU, UC, or AICCU institution;
- 724 ● Complete courses at a CSU, UC, or AICCU institution and transfer to a CCC  
725 institution.

726

727 For a course that already has a course-to-course articulation, “Identical” means for  
728 courses with CCN approval, the receiving institution will apply the CCN course-to-course  
729 articulation consistently for all students regardless of originating college.

730

731 Receiving institutions may apply an articulated CCN course to a different requirement  
732 upon transcript evaluation if the change benefits the student, does not result in  
733 duplication of courses, and does not require students to complete additional  
734 units/courses to satisfy degree requirements. This may be as a result of differing  
735 institutional degree requirements.

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Course-to-Course Articulation Assumptions:

- For courses not developed through the CCN process but there is a course-to-course articulation, then the receiving institution applies that articulation consistently.
- For courses not developed through CCN and there is not a course-to-course articulation in place, courses are evaluated to identify how to best serve the student.

744 **E.1.f Implementation Recommendation - CCN Taxonomy**

745 This section provides recommendations for a taxonomy for CCN.

746

747 **Discussion of Current Taxonomies in Course Numbering**  
748 **Systems**

749 Throughout the CCC there is significant variability of numbering systems not only across  
750 the 116 institutions but also within a single institution. The technological data field [CB01](#)  
751 allows for 12 characters maximum for Subject Abbreviation and Number including  
752 spaces and dashes.<sup>19</sup> Here are samples of how numbering is currently done in California’s  
753 Community Colleges, noting that the subject number (CB01B) contained the largest  
754 variance between the three datasets.

755 (N= numerical digit, A = letter, 0 = placeholder)

- |        |          |         |             |
|--------|----------|---------|-------------|
| → NN   | → NNN.N  | → ONA   | → 00NNAA    |
| → NNA  | → NNNA   | → ONNA  | → NNN-NNNNN |
| → NNAA | → NNNAA  | → 00NA  | → NAAAA     |
| → NNN  | → NNNAAA | → 00NNA |             |

756

757 **Considerations for CCN Taxonomy**

758 Based on the variability of current practices, the taxonomy system should include clear  
759 identification of the CCN component. Such an identification:

- Provides flexibility for managing local courses at individual or district institutions.
- Distinguishes the currently numbered courses from the CCN numbered courses throughout the various systems that are in any way connected to the CCC and their students.
- Avoids duplication of current local-numbering systems that prohibits clear identification of current and CCN-based courses when listed in parallel.

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766 <sup>19</sup> California Community Colleges. (n.d.). “Management Information System: Data Element Dictionary.” Retrieved  
767 August 8, 2023, from <https://webdata.cccco.edu/ded/cb/cb01.pdf>

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- Provides a method for implying traditional course level (first year, second year, etc.).
- Provides a method for identification of speciality course types (such as Honors, Lab).
- Provides enough scalability to incorporate the volume of current and future courses.
- Accommodates local courses not in the CCN system with the expectation that all CCC institutions adopt holistically the CCN system.

**Proposed Taxonomy**

**Subject**  
Based on 3-letter abbreviations.  
A system-level list of abbreviations should be standard.

**Course Type Identifier**  
A system level key could be developed to define other identifiers or establish local use parameters.  
**C = Common Course Number**

**SUB C#####&&&**

**Course Number (#####)**  
0XXX - Non-baccalaureate  
1XXX - 100-level course  
2XXX - 200-level course  
3XXX - 300-level course  
4XXX - 400 level course  
9XXX - Non-credit  
Provides for 1000 courses at each level per discipline per identifier type.  
Other levels could be defined at the system-level as needs are identified.

**Course Speciality Identifier (&&&)**  
A system-level key could define options: (examples)  
**H** = Honors Course  
**L** = Lab only Course  
**C** = Combined Lecture/Lab Course  
**R** = Co-Requisite only Course  
**D** = Co-Requisite and Credit Course Combined  
Up to 3 speciality identifiers can be attached to a course, a course with no identifiers would not have fillers in those fields.

**Example**

	<b>MTH C1801HL</b>
<b>Subject</b>	MTH = Math
<b>Course Type</b>	C = CCN
<b>Course Number</b>	1801 = 100-level course
<b>Special Classifications</b>	H = Honors L = Lab only course

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## Further Collaboration

Further collaboration amongst CCC leadership and implementation teams is needed to determine:

- If all CCC courses will be housed under the CCN Taxonomy system and if so what policies, business processes, approval processes, etc. are necessary to implement one course numbering taxonomy for all courses in the system. All CCC technologies (and technologies at intersegmental institutions) that will house the common course number are able to facilitate the change and/or have resources to adapt the appropriate fields. Examples of systems include local or systemwide curriculum management systems (CMS, COCI), student information systems (SIS), Schedulers,, ASSIST, C-ID, etc.
- Based on the proposed taxonomy, determine if the lead identifying letter will have a system-level directory for identifying courses and trailing letters will have a system-level key to be used for all courses.
- Once a system is developed and data is analyzed, strategies for institutions on the quarter system are needed to address both taxonomy and building of courses.

## 816 E.1.g Implementation Recommendation -Common Course Descriptor Development

817

### 818 Assumptions

- Intersegmental collaboration and collective decision-making are essential to this work.
- Current practices result in a natural clustering of courses based on certain commonalities:
  - Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID): Courses with the same C-ID identifier have been submitted by individual colleges and approved as aligned with the C-ID descriptor for a specific course within a discipline;
  - Cal-GETC: Courses are designated to satisfy specific areas of general education;
  - ASSIST.org: Courses with similar transferability to senior institutions can be identified;
  - California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC): CCC courses are identified as meeting the CSU Golden 4 (Writing, Critical Thinking, Public Speaking, Mathematics) and/or the UC 7-course pattern;
  - Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT): Designates a set of courses meeting major requirements; and
  - Sequencing: CCC courses that are in a sequence (example: Calculus I, II, and III).
- The ASSIST and C-ID systems contain significant course-level and articulation information between CCC and 4-year institutions.
- Faculty engagement occurs during the standard contract period (August 15-May 15).
- The convening of faculty (in-person) requires available leadership to facilitate the development process for each subject area.

838

- 839 ● Resources/funding are available for intersegmental faculty convening and maintenance  
840 of course review, including support for budget requests from four-year institutions to  
841 legislatures.
- 842 ● Successful intersegmental collaboration can significantly reduce the volume of course  
843 reviews by faculty from the senior institutions.
- 844

## 845 **Guiding Principles**

- 846 ● Revisions to curriculum must be faculty-driven and student-focused across all four  
847 segments.
- 848 ● Each approving entity works to streamline, batch approve, apply current approvals, etc.
- 849 ● Each process works to minimize time to completion.
- 850 ● Intersegmental collaboration is essential to modify requirements for courses based on  
851 CCN descriptors and must respect faculty engagement throughout the development  
852 process.
- 853 ● Processes, agreements, and descriptors are developed in consideration of relevant major  
854 preparation requirements and general education areas.
- 855 ● Institutions of higher learning in California honor the legacy articulations as noted in  
856 ASSIST to protect students who completed courses prior to the CCN system – especially  
857 when prior articulation differs from the CCN system. The CCN implementation is a  
858 moving-forward implementation.
- 859

## 860 **Phases of Course Clusters: Developing CCN Descriptors**

- 861 ● Phase 1: Cohort of course clusters will serve as a proof of concept, helping to vet the  
862 development processes and templates, test technology-based implementation,  
863 test-drive convening practices, and validate intersegmental collaboration. The following  
864 considerations aim to guide the creation of the cohort and implementation strategies:
- 865 ○ Cohort cluster should represent a minimum of one subject from each of the  
866 General Education Areas (Cal-GETC);
- 867 ○ Should include courses that naturally sequence together within a subject;
- 868 ○ Selection of subjects/courses should be based on impact data (i.e., which courses  
869 will impact the greatest number of students);
- 870 ○ ASSIST identification of courses can help identify local variations that all  
871 articulate the same way;
- 872 ○ C-ID descriptors can serve as the foundation and help to identify what is missing  
873 in the CCN Descriptors based on intersegmental discussions; and
- 874 ○ Should align with and be informed by the Data Reconciliation and Analysis work.
- 875 ● Phase 2+: Build out larger cohorts of courses based on the standards above, coupled  
876 with the Data *Reconciliation* and Analysis results.
- 877 ○ Based on data analysis, identify which courses have a high level of “commonness”  
878 already established.
- 879 ○ Develop a “phasing plan” that defines which subjects will fall in which phase and  
880 includes a timeline for phase process.
- 881

## 882 **CCN Descriptor Development and Implementation Process**

883 The creation, vetting, and implementation of a new system as complex as the proposed CCN  
884 system takes the commitment and determination of all stakeholders impacted by such a system.  
885 The CCN system impacts many current intersegmental practices around course articulation,  
886 advising, course content, technology databases, and communication with students just to name  
887 a sample. The CCN system, though impacting the CCC course structure and offerings, directly  
888 impacts the daily work of the UC and CSU systems as well as all the individual independent  
889 colleges and universities.

890

891 While the timeline stresses the early and regular engagement of all intersegmental stakeholders,  
892 the success of this work depends specifically on the establishment of intersegmental  
893 collaboration that has the authority and representation to change processes and practices  
894 impacting the articulation and application of transfer courses.

895

896 The three major action items for the intersegmental collaboration identified here should be  
897 priority action items that are initial first steps of the CCN Council and occur in tandem with the  
898 “proof of concept” cohort recommended above so that all stakeholders can have feedback and  
899 evidence about the changes proposed.

- 900 ● Develop agreement around CSU and UC systems and/or individual institutions and AICCU  
901 institutions accepting CCN Descriptors as a basis for determining course-to-course  
902 articulations with the CCC system.
- 903 ● Develop processes and standards for verification that a course meets required CCN  
904 elements, as defined by the CCN Descriptor developed through intersegmental  
905 collaboration.
- 906 ● Develop processes for creating and reviewing CCN Descriptors by engaging four-year  
907 faculty early in the process. Evaluate and adjust processes simultaneously from proof of  
908 concept to successful implementation.

909

910 The success of intersegmental work in developing and implementing a CCN Descriptor based  
911 system includes:

- 912 ● Intersegmental development – A CCN Descriptor is created, vetted, and articulated by  
913 faculty from all four segments.
- 914 ● Intersegmental agreement that the descriptor is commonly numbered and that colleges  
915 can then pull the template for the CCN Descriptor and submit a COR against the CCN  
916 Descriptor for designation of a common course number.
- 917 ● College applies for a common course numbering designator that results in seamless  
918 transferability and applicability of the course based on the descriptor articulation.

919

920 The major processes included in the CCN Descriptor Development and Implementation

921 Processes are (additional details are provided in Appendix A):

- 922 ● Establishment of Intersegmental Collaboration
- 923 ● CCN Descriptor Preparation and Development
- 924 ● Descriptor Vetting, Cal-GETC, and Articulation

- 925 ● Publishing of CCN Descriptors
- 926 ● CCC Local Curriculum Processing and CCCCCO Call for Submission
- 927 ● Local CCN Course Implementation and Program Alignment
- 928 ● Course Articulation Verification and ADT Revision Submission
- 929 ● CCN Course Student-Facing

930

931 The CCN Task Force recommends the selection of one course from each of the Golden 4 areas  
 932 and/or one course from each general education area to serve as the initial “proof of concept”  
 933 cohort. This cohort of faculty will work in collaboration with intersegmental leadership teams to  
 934 inform the creation of a set of collaborative processes (as outlined in Appendix A). The ASCCC  
 935 can provide feedback related to subjects within the Golden 4 that have faculty work groups  
 936 primed and eager to engage in this work.

## 937 **E.2 CCN Technology and Processes Work Group**

### 938 **E.2.a Charge and Membership**

939 The charge of the CCN Technology and Processes Work Group is:

940 The CCN Technology and Processes Work Group guides and supports the design and  
 941 implementation of the technology and related processes and supports needed for CCN  
 942 technology implementation. This group advises and monitors vendor work at the system  
 943 and campus levels to ensure: quality alignment to the scope of work, delivery of support  
 944 to all institutions, changes do not impact current student processes, and contracts are  
 945 supported. Additionally, this group collaborates with campus, district, and regional  
 946 stakeholders to support efforts in CCN integration.

947

948 Membership in the CCN Technology and Processes Work Group will include stakeholders who  
 949 are implicated in the effort to design and implement technology system requirements for  
 950 supporting the CCN implementation, such as CCCCCO Equitable Student Learning, Experience  
 951 and Impact Office (ESLEI), Data & Research, and IT Leads; ASSIST Director and staff; Course  
 952 Identification Numbering System (C-ID) Specialist; CCC technical staff (representatives from a  
 953 variety of institutional sizes, demographics, etc.); and vendor representatives as appropriate.

### 954 **E.2.b Guiding Principles for the CCN Technology and Processes Work Group**

955 The CCN Task Force calls upon those implementing the activities called for in this  
 956 implementation plan to adhere to the following guiding principles:

- 957 ● Strive for digital equity in any technology and implementation approach.
  - 958 ○ Digital equity exists when the technology infrastructure, tools, and resources
  - 959 across all campuses provide a high-quality, secure, and seamless online
  - 960 experience for students, faculty, and staff regardless of campus size or location.
- 961 ● Center the high-level outcomes as articulated by the CCN Task Force.



- 962 ● When implementing new technology systems, seek to eliminate existing costs and  
963 streamline existing systems.

964

965 **When selecting a CMS or any vendor, strive to select a system where college/district/state**  
966 **processes drive the software instead of the software driving the processes."**

### 967 **E.2.c Implementation Recommendations - Data Reconciliation**

#### 968 **Assumptions**

969 When developing the considerations for this area, the CCN Task Force held the following  
970 assumptions related to data reconciliation:

- 971 ● The CCN work and data reconciliation work can be completed in parallel. The data  
972 reconciliation work will not stall or slow the CCN processes and timelines. Work may  
973 continue, for example, on convening faculty groups for a cluster of courses (e.g., courses  
974 designated to satisfy specific areas of general education for Cal-GETC or courses already  
975 aligned with the same C-ID identifier).
- 976 ● The data reconciliation work will not impact the current articulation of courses prior to  
977 CCN being implemented for that course.
- 978 ● The data reconciliation work will focus on currently active courses and not those that are  
979 expired.
- 980 ● The end result of data clean-up is the addition of a unique identifier and the consistency  
981 in the four data fields housing Course Title, Course/Subject Number, Course/Subject  
982 Name, and Units.
- 983 ● There is a shared understanding that any changes to these four fields are corrections,  
984 and changing these values only for the purpose of consistency does not change the  
985 status of any course in any application.
- 986 ● ASSIST commits to processing corrections to the four shared fields as a batch/migration  
987 without further effort required by the colleges.
- 988 ● COCI and C-ID will coordinate with ASSIST to align the timing for processing the  
989 corrections.
- 990 ● Resources and funding are available to support the following implementation strategies:
  - 991 ○ Data vendor for reconciliation and analysis of course content.
  - 992 ○ Funding for merging of COCI and C-ID.
  - 993 ○ API programmers for system and local work.
  - 994 ○ Data vendor/programmers to develop system-level repository.
  - 995 ○ Funding for adaptations in ASSIST.
  - 996 ○ Training support for new repositories and systems.

## 997 **Data Reconciliation, Clean-up, and Analysis**

998 Securing a data vendor for a one-time, centralized reconciliation effort has both immediate and  
999 long-term benefits for students, faculty and staff. Data reconciliation results in the responses for  
1000 each of the four shared elements (Course Title, Course/Subject Number, Course/Subject Name  
1001 and Units) being reported the same in every “primary source” application and allows the  
1002 courses to be linked at the database level.

1003

### 1004 **Impact of Data Reconciliation and Clean-Up**

- 1005 ● CCN elements live in multiple “primary source” applications. This means that the  
1006 data fields in COCI needed for CCN Descriptor work cannot be collected to pair  
1007 with the C-ID fields. In order to create a CCN system, a unique identifier is  
1008 necessary (like the course control number, which is used for management  
1009 information systems (MIS) reporting) across all 3 systems (ASSIST, COCI, C-ID).
- 1010 ● Analyzing data at the college level provides institutions with information about  
1011 how course elements align to the CCN norm. This will reduce workloads when  
1012 implementation begins.

1013

### 1014 **Data Structure within the Current “Primary Source” Applications**

1015 The required common CCN Descriptor elements\* indicated below are housed across multiple  
1016 systems or are locked data in PDF format. In order to complete the development of the CCN  
1017 Descriptors and create a Common Course Outline of Record (CCOR) template based on the CCN  
1018 Descriptors, these elements must be consistent across the technological systems and be  
1019 accessible collectively in structured data format. Additional data elements currently housed  
1020 across the three systems may play an important role in implementation work.

1021

Shared Elements	ASSIST	COCI	C-ID
College	X	X	X
*Course Title	X	X	X
*Dept Name (CB01A)	X	X	X
*Dept Number (CB01B)	X	X	X
*Min Units (CB07)	X	X	X
Max Units (CB06)	X	X	X

1022

1023

Unique Elements	ASSIST	COCI	C-ID
ETS Code	X		
Unit Type	X		
Start Term	X		
End Term	X		
IGETC Area	X		
CSU-GE -Code	X		
TOP Code (CB03)		X	
Credit Status (CB04)		X	
Transfer Status (CB05)		X	
Course General Education Status (CB25)		X	
Control Number (CB00)		X	
*Course Description		X	
C-ID Number			X
C-ID Descriptor			X
COR Effective Term			X
*Course Prerequisites			X
*Course Content - Topics	Locked Data in C-ID and COCI COR		
*Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes	Locked Data in C-ID and COCI COR		

1024 \* Required common CCN Descriptor elements

1025

1026

### Systemic Challenges

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1030

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1032

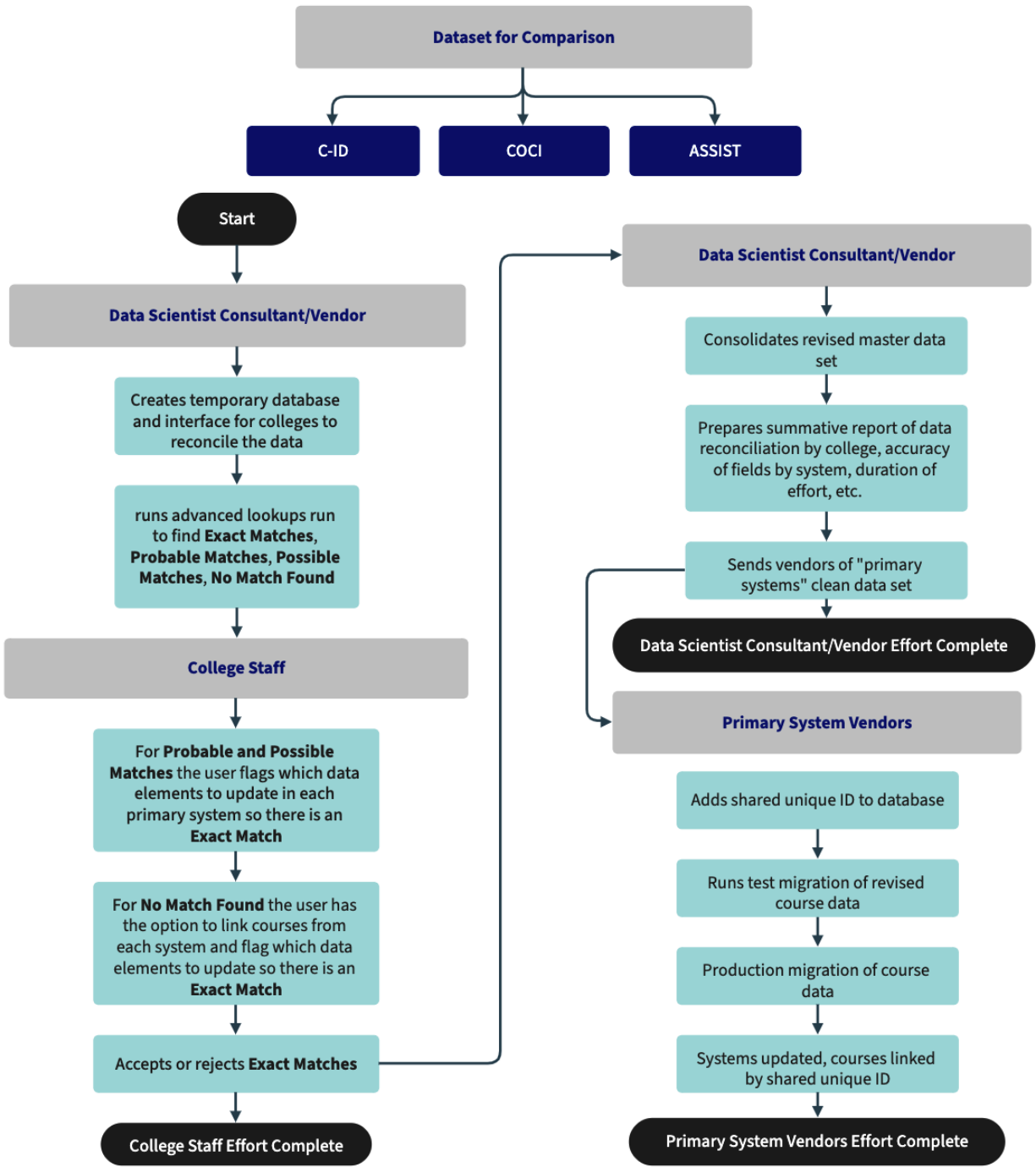
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1034

1035

- There was no standardization of College Name between the available reports.
- There was no unique ID for each course to automate matches between the reports.
- Headings were different within the reports for common data elements (e.g., Dept Name, Subject Name, Subject Name - CB01A)
- IGETC and CSU GE mappings are 1 subject area per row.
- Dept Name (CB01A) values varied widely within and between the colleges.
- Dept Number (CB01B) contained the largest variance between the three datasets.

1036 **Data Reconciliation and Analysis: Potential Deliverables**



1037  
1038  
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1042

**Data Reconciliation**

- Provide a documented plan that describes the changes identified as they relate to articulation agreements.
- Create a temporary database (repository) for colleges to reconcile and consolidate the data into a master data set.

- 1043 ● Run advanced lookups to find Exact Matches, Probable Matches, Possible
- 1044 Matches, and No Matches Found. Document and categorize these for sorting.
- 1045 ● Provide an organized file to institutions that identify/provide the correct version
- 1046 of information.
- 1047 ● Prepare a summative report of data reconciliation by college, accuracy of fields by
- 1048 system, duration of effort, etc.
- 1049 ● Sends vendors of “primary systems” clean data sets that include Course Control
- 1050 Number as the shared unique ID; test migration; run migration in production.
- 1051 ● Result: systems updated; data standardization and courses linked by the Course
- 1052 Control Number.

### 1053 **Analysis**

- 1054 ● Document how to access all of the data identified by the CCN Task Force as
- 1055 needed for the minimum set of elements to be included in Course Outlines of
- 1056 Record.
- 1057 ● Provide summative data of commonalities identified in courses. Grouped by
- 1058 descriptor elements. This information will be used to help inform the work of the
- 1059 work groups to define standardization of CCN elements and prioritize work.

1060

### 1061 **Starting CCN Descriptor Work Prior to Data Reconciliation and**

### 1062 **Clean-Up**

1063 A set of courses functioning as a proof of concept will allow building the CCN Descriptors, test  
1064 templates and data support, and iron out any needed processes. Some data reconciliation and  
1065 clean up work can occur in parallel with the proof of concept. As the work group identifies the  
1066 small subset of courses with more consistent language, they will be able to do so without data  
1067 reconciliation. Aligning courses without common nomenclature will benefit from a data  
1068 summary. This will avoid potential biases from the work group, who may not be aware of what  
1069 nomenclature or CCN elements are already common across the system.

### 1070 **E.2.c Implementation Recommendations - New Technology**

#### 1071 **Assumptions**

1072 When developing the considerations for this area, the CCN Task Force held the following  
1073 assumptions related to new technology:

- 1074 ● There is desire amongst the segments to apply technology as a solution for streamlining
- 1075 and storing the CCN work.
- 1076 ● Without a repository for which to identify all CCN elements, colleges may not succeed in
- 1077 having all courses matching each other.

- 1078 ● A common repository would help to align the CCN elements, including those requiring  
1079 identical or equivalent elements, across the system for existing and for newly developed  
1080 courses.
- 1081 ● It is important to reconcile all technological solutions being used in work such as AB 928,  
1082 Cal-GETC, and AB 1111 to assure that changes made for one scope of work still  
1083 accommodates requirements of other scopes.
- 1084 ● COCI and C-ID have existing system-level repositories for curriculum approvals and  
1085 articulation.
  - 1086 ○ Combining these into a single, comprehensive repository with modules to  
1087 support varying workflows not only reduces the data entry burden with colleges  
1088 but it also would extend easier to add workflows for submission and approvals  
1089 associated with CCN designation.
  - 1090 ○ COCI is already integrated with MIS.
- 1091 ● CVC-OEI (Online Exchange Interface) needs to be aligned with AB 1111. A statement of  
1092 work should be developed to make this effort inclusive. This will require working with  
1093 stakeholders to ensure both systems function correctly with each other.
  - 1094 ○ The CVC is already pulling some data from ASSIST.org. This work should continue  
1095 with any CCN database.
  - 1096 ○ The ASSIST mapping is displayed to the student when they are reviewing the  
1097 course details page. (Example below.)

San Jose City College ♥ Save to Favorites

## ENGLIA - English Composition

C-ID: ENGL100ENGL110

### Course Description

Students will learn the skills necessary for writing college level compositions. Students learn expository writing, critical reading, and research techniques. Students will also learn to write academic essays including a documented research paper in conventional format using MLA style. English 001A is the first transfer level English course. Prerequisite: Continuing students must complete ENGL 092 and READ 101 or ESL 091; all with C or better. New students will be placed based on the results of assessment. Continuing students must complete ENGL 092 and READ 101 or ESL 091; all with C or better. New students will be placed based on the results of assessment.

**Prerequisites:**

This course has a prerequisite

### Transfer Information

ENGLIA - English Composition from San Jose City College.

- [↗ Counts For CSU GE A2 - Written Communication At De Anza College](#)
- [↗ Counts For IGETC 1A - English Composition At De Anza College](#)

This course may count toward your program of study based on [assist.org](http://assist.org) data and C-ID, which identifies lower-division transfer courses commonly articulated between California Community Colleges and four-year universities. Prior to enrollment, please meet with a counselor or academic advisor to determine which of these courses satisfy your program requirements.

1098

## 1099 **Streamlining Data Management - CCN Data Warehouse**

1100 The efficiency and success of the CCN work depends on the ability to streamline processes  
1101 and/or technological solutions. Merging of the COCI and C-ID data repositories into a single  
1102 system-level curriculum and articulation application results in a module-based platform with  
1103 specialist permissions, access walls, and respect for CCCC curriculum review, faculty review in  
1104 C-ID, and local data processes. This requires working with existing stakeholders to ensure  
1105 necessary functions are not lost in the merger.

1106

1107 A single system-level application results in:

- 1108 ● Single and consistent data-entry for each of the CCN descriptors.
- 1109 ● Established dedicated space for work streams/permissions, which maintain  
1110 currently accepted processes completed by statewide curriculum and articulation  
1111 personnel.
- 1112 ● A significant increase in course data available for research that is currently  
1113 fragmented.
- 1114 ● Development of Application Programming Interface's (API) and support for local  
1115 systems to resolve databases currently requiring manual entry.

1116

1117 Successful integration of a single system-level data repository requires:

- 1118 ● An agreement with a single software company to develop the repository.
- 1119 ● Systemic influences and sponsorship of local CMS/SIS vendors required work to  
1120 ensure all colleges have equitable access and opportunity to participate.
- 1121 ● Paying for consultants to develop local APIs from this curriculum software to their  
1122 SIS.
- 1123 ● An aggressive timeline for application development, testing, and implementation  
1124 of repository.
- 1125 ● An equally aggressive timeline for implementing an API direct connect at the  
1126 local level in all CCCs.

1127

1128 Future considerations:

- 1129 ● Colleges/districts opting out of the new system would be required to manually  
1130 enter their curriculum using the repository. This creates a need to develop a way  
1131 for them to submit their curriculum through the repository for modifications to  
1132 existing curriculum or new classes.

1133

## 1134 **Streamlining Data Management - Linking Repository to Local Curriculum** 1135 **Software**

1136 Secure programmers to write customized APIs to connect the system repository to local  
1137 curriculum software (CMS, SIS) and provide staff support and financial support to institutional  
1138 level technology staff to complete the work, respect local processes and reduce entry.

1139

1140 Similarly, provide intersegmental solutions through collaboration with ASSIST to develop an API  
1141 to solve manual entry by pulling and pushing data from the repository into the ASSIST system,  
1142 respecting the UC and CSU perspectives and roles in the ASSIST program.

1143

1144 Options for automating the repository into local SIS systems. There are multiple curriculum  
1145 software programs (e.g., eLumen, CourseLeaf, CourseDog, CurricUNET, etc); and multiple SIS  
1146 systems (e.g., Banner, PeopleSoft, Colleague). Each curriculum software will house local courses,  
1147 in addition to the courses impacted by AB 1111, which means a statewide system may encounter  
1148 issues not identifiable at this time. Once there is communication between the curriculum  
1149 software and the SIS, it must also feed into the CMS. Most colleges are now on Canvas, which will  
1150 help that process.

1151

## 1152 **Integrated System-Level Application with API Connections to Local System**

1153 College Level Considerations

- 1154 ● Manual data entry significantly reduced.
- 1155 ● Complete alignment of data in local applications and system-level repository.
- 1156 ● College staff would continue to control their data in the repository by initiating  
1157 data transfer through lookup tools or similar processes.

1158

1159 System-level Considerations

- 1160 ● Leverage CCCC and ASCCC to work directly with CMS vendors to drive schedule  
1161 and scope of API.
- 1162 ● Testing and implementation is coordinated at the vendor level.
- 1163 ● Need to determine how much customization exists to local off the shelf systems  
1164 and align resources to support college specific APIs.
- 1165 ● Colleges using homegrown systems may need an alternate connection option  
1166 and/or additional resources to implement.

1167

1168 Successful integration of APIs requires dedicated resources.

- 1169 ● This is the least expensive and time effective method.



- 1170 ● It would likely take an average of 40 IT hours to write an API to an existing  
1171 curriculum software. For colleges without an API from their curriculum software  
1172 to their SIS, this would also likely be written.
- 1173 ● Timeline: 1 year for colleges with existing Curriculum-to-SIS APIs, and 3 years for  
1174 colleges requiring additional technology.

## 1176 **Streamlining Data Management - CCN Descriptors - Verifying Identical vs** 1177 **Equivalent for Articulation**

1178 The CCN Descriptors, having been vetted with intersegmental faculty from CCCs, CSUs, UCs, and  
1179 members of AICCU, contain elements that are required to be identical for any courses based on a  
1180 particular CCN Descriptor. The implementation of technology solutions can verify courses that  
1181 are identical to CCN Descriptors and which courses need “human” review as part of the approval  
1182 process at the CCC and UC/CSU/AICCU-institution levels.

1183  
1184 Developing a technology solution for submitting a Common Course Outline of Record (CCOR)  
1185 using a template based on structured data will result in:

- 1186 ● The accessibility of the course data that is currently locked in PDF/text fields.
- 1187 ● The development of a technology-assisted review process that will create greater  
1188 efficiency of process and better use of faculty reviewers’ time.
- 1189 ● An opportunity to intersegmentally certify courses as identical to the CCN Descriptors  
1190 and to flag courses needing manual review.
- 1191 ● An opportunity to streamline processes and provide electronic approvals such as a  
1192 Chancellor’s Letter at the Descriptor level that is provided upon submission and  
1193 verification of a COR based on that Descriptor.

### 1194 1195 **Developing a system of electronic adoption**

- 1196 ● Building a Common Course of Record (CCOR) outline through the use of a  
1197 structured data CCOR template
  - 1198 ○ College teams create courses by selecting appropriate descriptors for CCN  
1199 courses or building content for local courses.
  - 1200 ○ Each CCN Descriptor is housed in individual fields and set for submission  
1201 against the minimum requirement for that descriptor. Additional fields are  
1202 added for optional or variable content.
  - 1203 ○ The CCOR is electronically submitted after appropriate local approvals to  
1204 appropriate administrative sectors for approval (COCI, C-ID, ASSIST, etc.)
- 1205 ● Building an automated certification system
  - 1206 ○ System checks for level of variance between CCOR and CCN Descriptors  
1207 and flags CCOR for manual review if the course exceeds the established

- 1208 threshold. If the CCOR meets established parameters, the course is  
1209 certified and approved.
- 1210 ○ Data repository would house all the elements in designated fields  
1211 providing opportunities for increased integration of data.
  - 1212 ○ The data repository will provide public-facing access to CCORs.

### 1213 **E.2.d Implementation Recommendations - Structural Considerations for CCN Taxonomy**

1214 The change in the parameters and use of any data field requires careful scrutiny related to its  
1215 impact on historical data as well as the capabilities for current systems to handle the changes.

1216 From the technical perspective, the development of a taxonomy system should:

- 1217 ● Not exceed the CB01 field parameters of 12 characters maximum for Subject  
1218 Abbreviation and Number including space, dashes, etc.
- 1219 ● Retain CB01 as the field for subject course and number while creating CB2x to flag the  
1220 course with a CCN indicator.
- 1221 ● Locally handle showing of two different numbers in catalog, etc.
- 1222 ● Engage early with big SIS vendors and built-in MIS reporting support to update with  
1223 changes.
- 1224 ● Result in easier access to MIS data from the research perspective.
- 1225 ● Recognize that altering the course numbering structure impacts not only technical  
1226 systems but also program updates when CCN courses are adopted and COCI program  
1227 update processes. The impact on workload will also be a key factor in successful  
1228 transition.

### 1229 **E.3 CCN Communication Work Group**

1230 Note: A key focus of the October 18, 2023 CCN Task Force Meeting will be to build out this  
1231 section.

#### 1232 **E.3.a Charge and Membership**

1233 **The charge of the CCN Communications Work Group is:**

1234 The CCN Communications Work Group ensures consistent and relevant communication:

- 1235 ● To include all the stakeholders implicated in the implementation of CCN field,  
1236 including students, faculty and college leadership.
- 1237 ● And across the CCN Council, its Steering Committee, and the work groups are all  
1238 operational, advisory, and steering groups.

1239

1240 Membership in the CCN Communications Work Group will include stakeholders who can design  
1241 and implement strong communications in support of an effective CCN implementation,  
1242 inclusive of students; CCCCO communications professionals; CCC communications staff

1243 (representatives from a variety of institutional sizes, demographics, etc.); and vendor  
1244 representatives as appropriate.

### 1245 **E.3.b Guiding Principles**

1246 **The CCN Task Force calls upon those implementing the activities called for in this**  
1247 **implementation plan to adhere to the following guiding principles:**

- 1248 ● Honor the CCN Task Force’s intention that the new CCN system will be presented  
1249 consistently by each college as a single, transparent source of course information, and  
1250 will be accessible within the resources students are most likely to use (i.e., in the catalog  
1251 and schedule of classes).;
- 1252 ● Seek to anticipate challenges and alleviate any stress of a new system implementation by  
1253 communicating clearly and proactively.;
- 1254 ● Center the student experience in all CCN communications, ensuring that the transition to  
1255 the new CCN system is smooth and students have clarity on how to use the new system.;
- 1256 ● Ensure that communications support students who took courses before, during, and  
1257 after the implementation of the new CCN system.;
- 1258 ● Consider the implications of the new CCN system broadly, taking into account the CCN  
1259 Task Force’s intention that the CCN system will improve course articulation both within  
1260 the CCCs and across four-year transfer partners.

1261

### 1262 **E.3.c Implementation Recommendations - Statewide Communications Work Plan**

1263 **The first priority of the CCN Communications Work Group will be to design a**  
1264 **comprehensive statewide communications plan. This work plan should be phased and**  
1265 **attend to at least the following:**

- 1266 ● Provide guidance to colleges about how to prepare for the coming changes, when they  
1267 will occur, and how stakeholders can collaborate to streamline efforts and maximize a  
1268 smooth transition for all stakeholders, particularly students.;
- 1269 ● Communicate to colleges the expectation that the new CCN system will be presented  
1270 consistently by each college as a single, transparent source of course information, and  
1271 will be accessible within the resources students are most likely to use (i.e., in the catalog  
1272 and schedule of classes).;
- 1273 ● Provide guidance to students about the timeline and plan for the coming CCN system;
- 1274 ● Ensure students experience the CCN implementation as a smooth migration that is  
1275 accurate and supportive of their success.
- 1276 ● Communicate with four-year partners (and related resources such as Assist.org) about  
1277 the changes coming and , what it might mean for their technology systems.;
- 1278 ● Support the CCN Council and working groups on communication-related activities.;
- 1279 ● Lead purposeful dissemination of information and gathering of feedback.

- 1280 ● Communicate with vendors (PeopleSoft, Ellucian, local CMS vendors (Elumen, Governet,  
1281 others)) about the work underway and to gather needed information.
- 1282 ● Share the survey results related to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and CMS  
1283 solutions to deepen their understanding of systems in place at the CCC institutions.
- 1284 ● Assess local communication systems.
- 1285 ● Initiate an awareness campaign with Academic Senates and other stakeholders
  - 1286 ○ Collaboration on how processes could be approved for one time processes,  
1287 batches, etc.
  - 1288 ○ Collaboration on how technology processes can improve the workflow of course  
1289 reviews and approval for the long term.

1290

1291

#### **IV. CCN IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

1292

1293 Assembly Bill 1111 was signed into law in October 2021 and established Education Code  
1294 66725.5, which requires implementation of a student-facing common course numbering (CCN)  
1295 system (including adoption into college course catalogs) for all general education requirement  
1296 and transfer pathways courses across CCC, on or before July 1, 2024. The stated intent of the  
1297 legislation is to streamline transfer from community colleges to four-year postsecondary  
1298 educational institutions and reduce excess unit accumulation. Since the establishment of the  
1299 law, the CCCCO has worked with consultants and critical stakeholder groups to identify CCN  
1300 promising-practices, assess implementation needs, and develop implementation plans, through  
1301 conducting a national and statewide CCN landscape scan and convening a statewide CCN Task  
1302 Force. Research and progress of the CCN Task Force has revealed that CCN implementation with  
1303 integrity requires more than engaging 115 CCCs in renumbering over 40,000 courses, but also  
1304 demands a student-centered approach that eliminates confusion and outcome variations  
1305 regarding how renumbered courses will count within CCCs and across California State University  
1306 (CSU), University of California (UC), and Association of Independent California Colleges and  
1307 Universities (AICCU) segments. Thus, the CCN Task Force is actively engaged in finalizing  
1308 recommendations for a comprehensive CCN system implementation plan inclusive of:  
1309 establishing what course elements must be identical and/or equivalent for a course to be  
1310 numbered the same; developing a statewide intersegmental CCN steering and operational  
1311 structure for ongoing CCN course assessment and alignment processes (considerate of local  
1312 curriculum and catalog processes); determining technology solutions that will increase  
1313 data-informed decisions and expedite operational processes; and identifying and addressing  
1314 where CCN changes to CCC courses will potentially disrupt existing course  
1315 articulation/transferability with the CSU and UC systems and AICCU institutions.

1316

1317 The CCN Task Force design of the CCN system recommended implementation plan will be  
completed by December 2023, and it is evident that illustrates the complexity and scale of this

1318 endeavor will necessitates additional time beyond June 2024 to meet the intent of the  
1319 legislation. It has therefore been proposed that the CCN system implementation deadline be  
1320 extended to fall 2027, with a rolling implementation toward full scale beginning in spring 2024.

1321

1322 The detailed and aggressive timeline outlined below establishes milestones that indicate how  
1323 the extension would allow for continuous progress to be achieved through applying the new  
1324 CCN system to groups of courses in a scheduled cycle (commencing 2024), while continuing to  
1325 build toward a sustainable CCN infrastructure with CSU, UC, and AICCU (all three currently not  
1326 mandated to participate), which is necessary to ensure that all existing and future courses going  
1327 through the CCN process are accepted and approved for transfer across segments.

1328

1329 [Timeline Goes Here]

1330

1331 (May need to be updated as the CCN Task Force continues its work through December 2023.)

1332

1333

## V. CONCLUSION

1334 (May need to be updated as the CCN Task Force continues its work through December 2023.)

1335

1336 The CCN Task Force is pleased to present this Summary Report, inclusive of a Recommended  
1337 Implementation Plan. The CCN Task Force represents a highly collaborative group that worked  
1338 diligently over approximately 16 months and engaged and honored the expertise of faculty,  
1339 staff, students, administrators, trustees, and representatives of the CCC's four-year transfer  
1340 partners from AICCU, UC and CSU. We feel confident that the implementation plan described in  
1341 this Summary Report can and will result in a CCN system that has the potential to greatly benefit  
1342 students and meet the stated intent of the AB 1111 legislation, which is to streamline transfer  
1343 from two- to four-year postsecondary educational institutions and reduce excess unit  
1344 accumulation.

1345

1346 Time is of the essence. The CCC's students need the clarity CCN will provide, and the work ahead  
1347 will be challenging, but rewarding. The CCN Task Force looks forward to the implementation  
1348 effort and encourages all necessary stakeholders to move forward quickly, ensure the funding  
1349 and resources are available for an implementation of this magnitude, and center the equitable  
1350 success of our students.

1351

## Appendix A: CCN Descriptor Development and Implementation Process

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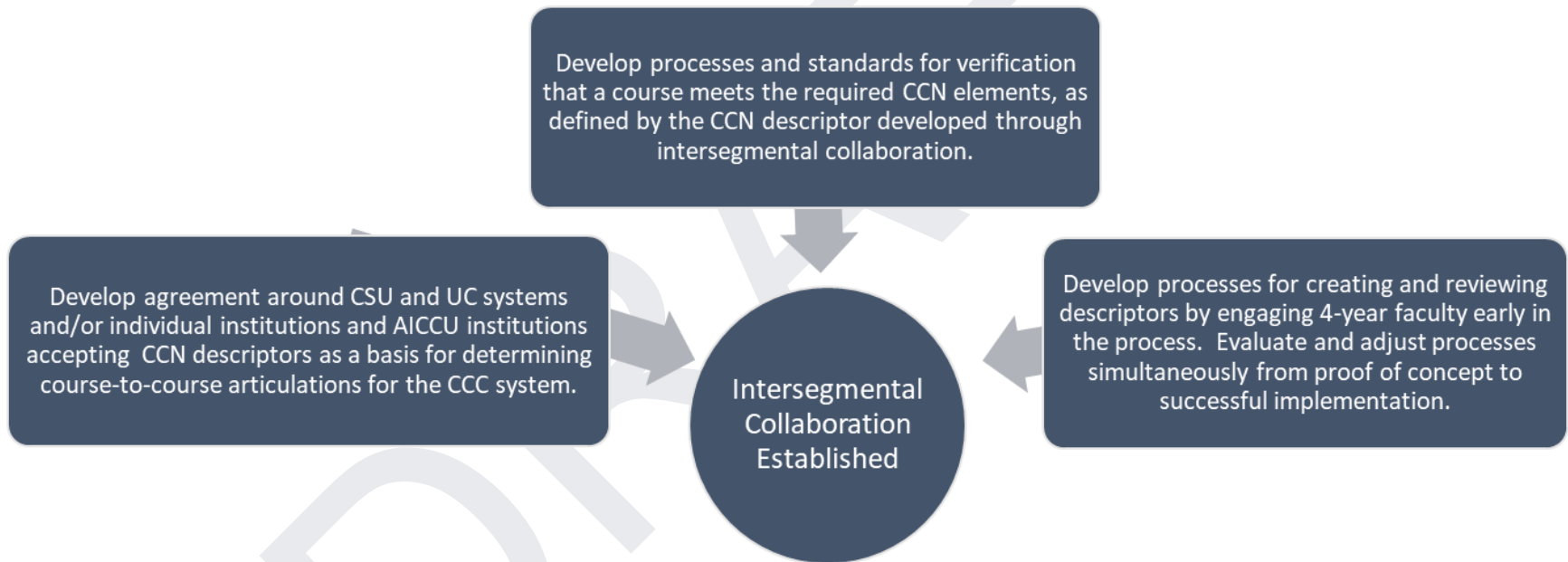
1353

1354 These diagrams and tables are designed to offer initial sequential processes for the development and implementation of CCN Descriptors,  
1355 courses, and articulations. A timeline for consideration is included as well as opportunities and impacts of current practices to the meeting of  
1356 that timeline.

1357

### 1358 Establishment of Intersegmental Collaboration

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1360

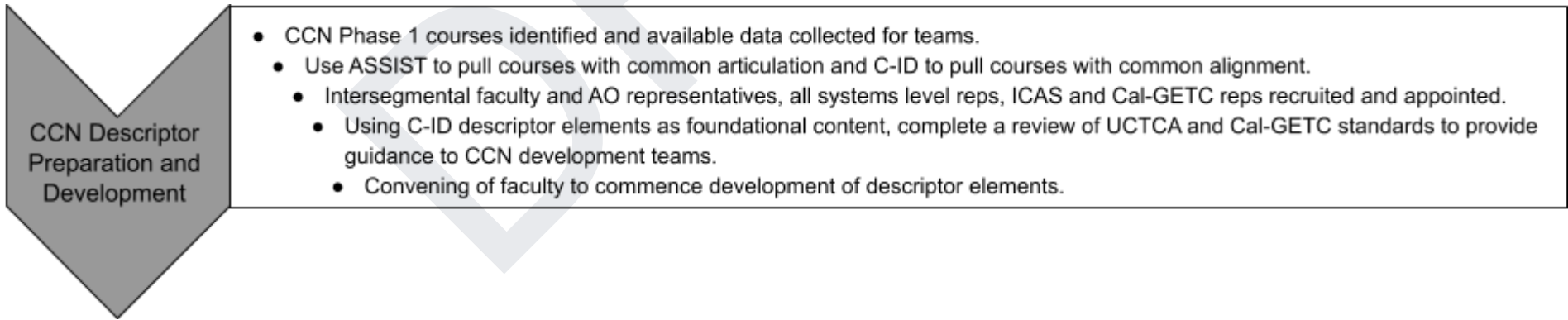
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<p><b>Target Process Timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 year in parallel with CCN Descriptor Development (Proof of Concept Cohort)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timeline Considerations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engagements of intersegmental partners represent multiple stakeholders needing to approve the adjustment of processes or agreements as requested/anticipated for CCN alignment and articulation.</li> <li>● Adaptations to current practices of course-to-course articulations to support CCN recommendations.</li> <li>● For GE, it's necessary from the beginning to make sure descriptors will meet approval or certification standards for relevant CSU GE Breadth, Golden 4, Cal-GETC, and UC eligibility areas.</li> <li>● Identifying/recruiting participating faculty and system representatives from all 4 systems if involved in this initial work.</li> <li>● Funding for faculty participation and staff from all segments to manage and coordinate this system-wide and student-centered redesign.</li> <li>● Coordinating across the individual institutions including all public and independent entities.</li> </ul>

1362

**1363 CCN Descriptor Preparation and Development / Descriptor Vetting, Cal-GETC, and Articulation**

1364



1365

**Descriptor Vetting  
Cal-GETC  
Articulation**

- Vetting of course descriptor elements - broad outreach for feedback (minimum: all intersegmental faculty).
- Follow-up faculty team to resolve feedback and finalize CCN common descriptors.
  - Faculty teams and articulation officers meet to verify CCN descriptors as meeting Cal-GETC and/or UCTCA standards. (During final edit period.)
  - Descriptors submitted through collaboratively developed processes to intersegmental systems and universities for necessary GE and course articulation verification.

<p><b>Target Process Timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 year for Development, Vetting, and GE/Articulation (Initially in parallel with Intersegmental Collaboration Established)</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Timeline Considerations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recruiting participating faculty from all 4 systems.</b></li> <li>• <b>Funding (covering time and travel) for all participating faculty and/or staff at all stages of development.</b></li> <li>• <b>Facilitating large convenings requires a significant number of staff members. (Note: Larger convening in summer perhaps before/after curriculum institutes with summer stipends for small appointed teams may help with timeline. Discipline input groups in semester for broader feedback (volunteer). Provide a clear message of expectations and commitment in recruitment.)</b></li> <li>• <b>Meeting timeline may depend on the number of courses selected for the phase cohort.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ongoing participation of faculty teams. (Attrition/retention of teams).</b></li> <li>• <b>Presence of university level agreement to align articulation and general education using CCN descriptors (change to current practices).</b></li> </ul>


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1367

1368  
1369



1370 **Publishing of CCN Descriptors**

1371



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCN Descriptors are approved and published to the Descriptor repository.</li><li>• Technology-based descriptor templates are used by college faculty to create CCN-aligned course outlines of record.</li></ul>
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1372

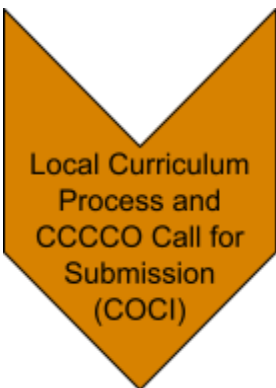
1373

<b>Target Process Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3 months (Technology-based solutions at system-level.)</b></li></ul>
Timeline Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Technology based repository complete and ready for descriptor upload. COR template available for COR creation.</b></li></ul>

1374

1375 **CCC Local Curriculum Processing and CCCCCO Call for Submission**

1376



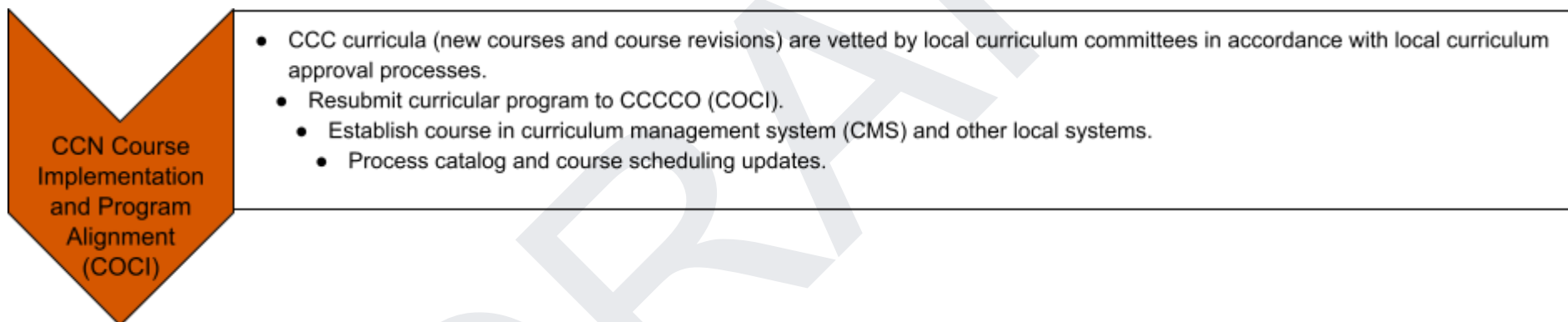
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New CCC courses and CCC course revisions vetted by local curriculum committees in accordance with local curriculum approval processes.</li><li>• Course submitted to CCCCCO for chaptering and attainment of control number.</li><li>• Course is approved or course not approved and revisions needed.</li></ul>
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1377

<b>Target Process Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3-6 months</li> </ul>
<b>Timeline Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Length of time for curriculum changes at each campus.</li> <li>● The existence of current district-level CCN systems and the expectation for those systems to align with the CCC-wide CCN .</li> <li>● Prior approval of the course by UC Transfer Course Agreements (UCTCA) is required for submission for consideration for Cal-GETC Area(s).</li> </ul>

1378  
1379 **Local CCN Course Implementation and Program Alignment**

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1382

<b>Target Process Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3-6 months (overlap with Call for Submission)</li> </ul>
<b>Timeline Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appropriate level of staffing to make numerous updates in the first phases of implementation.</li> <li>● Review/revision of CCCCCO processes.</li> <li>● Modifications to some current catalog and class scheduling timelines to meet this timeline.</li> </ul>


1383

1384

1385 **Course Articulation Verification and ADT Revision Submission**

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1387



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Based on intersegmentally developed processes and standards, CCC courses aligned with a CCN Descriptor are submitted to CSU, UC, and AICCU for articulation verification.</li><li>● The intersegmental faculty teams determine final articulation of CCN courses. (Supported by a technology-generated report verifying CCN COR alignment to the CCN Descriptor Elements.)</li><li>● Resubmit program revisions to ADT.</li></ul>
---

1388

1389

<b>Target Process Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 3-6 months</li></ul>
<b>Timeline Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Review/revision of process for (re)submission of ADTs. Recommend batch processing for college submissions with no or minimal COR changes except for what is necessary for CCN descriptor alignment. Consideration of alternative processing such as using the local approval when no content changes in course are made.</li><li>● Ongoing availability and support of faculty teams.</li></ul>


1390

1391

1392 **CCN Course Student-Facing**

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1394



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CCN based course in student catalog</li><li>● CCN based courses in course scheduler<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Articulations based on new CCN published</li></ul></li></ul>
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1395

<b>Target Process Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>6 months (overlap with Program Submission)</b></li></ul>
<b>Timeline Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Modifications to some current catalog and class scheduling timelines to meet this timeline. Current catalog and class scheduling timelines at some colleges would have to be modified to meet this timeline.</b></li></ul>

1396