

TO: Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Executive Officers
Admissions and Records

FROM: Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor

RE: Regulatory Revisions to Academic Renewal

This memorandum addresses the implementation of the Board of Governors' regulatory revisions pertaining to academic renewal. This regulatory action was filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the California Secretary of State on Aug. 17, 2026, and becomes effective Sept. 16, 2026. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, [section 52010](#), community college districts have 180 days from the effective date, until **March 15, 2027**, to align local policies and procedures to the revised regulatory requirements. Districts and colleges are advised to begin their local review process to ensure timely regulatory implementation.

Background

Academic renewal is a process through which previously recorded substandard academic work (grades of D, F, FW, NP, or NC) may be disregarded when calculating a student's grade point average if the coursework no longer reflects the student's demonstrated academic ability. The coursework and original grades remain legible on the student's permanent academic record.

On May 19, 2026, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved regulatory action to amend title 5, California Code of Regulations, sections [55000. Definitions](#) and [55046. Academic Renewal Without Course Repetition](#). The revisions establish uniform systemwide academic renewal standards while preserving local flexibility with operational processes. The amendments address the issue of significant variation in local academic renewal standards, which created inconsistent eligibility requirements, ambiguity for students and counselors, and inequitable outcomes for students attending different colleges.

Quantity of Coursework Eligible for Academic Renewal

Former section 55046 required districts to establish the maximum amount of coursework that could be disregarded through academic renewal. Revised section 55046, subdivision (c)(1), expressly permits students to request academic renewal multiple times and prohibits a unit cap on the amount of coursework eligible for academic renewal. This change expands access for returning students, students with longer enrollment histories, and students whose academic difficulties extended across multiple terms.

Coursework and Symbols Eligible for Academic Renewal

Previously, each district determined the eligibility criteria for academic renewal. The revised regulations to section 55046, subdivision (c)(2), replace those locally determined requirements with a uniform systemwide standard.

After the academic term containing the coursework to be considered for alleviation, a student must complete one of the following:

- Six semester units or nine quarter units with a 2.0 grade point average;
- Six semester units or nine quarter units with Pass grades;
- 288 hours of noncredit coursework with Pass grades; or
- A combination of these credit and noncredit options.

The subsequent coursework may be completed at any accredited institution or combination of accredited institutions. The six-semester-unit standard was adopted to provide a meaningful demonstration of improved academic performance without disproportionately delaying access for part-time students.

Coursework and Symbols Ineligible for Academic Renewal

While implicit prior, coursework ineligible to be alleviated through academic renewal is now provided in section 55046, subdivision (d), as:

- Courses used to earn a degree or certificate, except in the limited case of post-award academic renewal of D grades;
- A passing grade of C or better; or
- The non-evaluative symbols “I” and “IP.”

Post-award Academic Renewal of D Grades

The revised regulations to section 55046, subdivision (c)(3) establish a new process through which a grade of D recorded at the time a degree or certificate was awarded may be considered for academic renewal after the award.

The D-graded course must not have been necessary at the time of conferral to achieve the minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average, complete the minimum degree or certificate-applicable units, or satisfy a general education, major, or certificate requirement. If the course was used to satisfy one of those requirements, the district may determine whether other coursework completed with grades of C or better before conferral could have satisfied the requirement instead.

Clarified Definitions

Section 55000 is amended to clarify terminology relevant to academic renewal.

- **“Alleviate,”** previously undefined, is now codified as disregarding previously recorded substandard academic work when computing grade point averages.
- **“Satisfactory grade”** is revised to include the legacy grade, “Credit,” or “CR.”
- **“Substandard academic work”** is revised to include the legacy grade, “Noncredit,” or “NC.”

Implementation Requirements for Colleges and Districts

Colleges and districts should begin local review and implementation planning now to ensure timely compliance by **March 15, 2027**. At a minimum, districts should:

- Review and revise policies, administrative procedures, catalog language, and student-facing materials.
- Inform relevant faculty, staff, and administrators of the revised regulations and associated local procedures.
- Coordinate with technology and student information systems staff to update technology systems, business processes, forms, and automated notifications.

Chancellor’s Office Contact

The final filed regulatory text may be accessed on the [Chancellor’s Office Regulatory Actions website](#).

For questions or additional guidance regarding this memorandum, please contact Dean of Educational Services and Supports, Allison Beer at ABeer@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
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