Proposed Revisions to Title 5, California Code of Regulations Relating to Baccalaureate Degree Minimum Units (First Reading)

This document contains underlined and stricken text, which may require adjustments to screen reader settings. Underlined text denotes additions to existing regulations; ~~stricken~~ text denotes deletions from existing regulations.

SECTION 55091 OF ARTICLE 9 OF SUBCHAPTER 1 OF CHAPTER 6 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 55091. Baccalaureate Degree Upper Division Course Requirements.

(a) "Upper division courses" require the application of lower division knowledge and the demonstration of critical thinking through writing, oral communication, or computation. Upper division coursework may encompass research elements, workforce training, apprenticeships, internships, and may require practicum or capstone projects. Upper division courses may have one or more lower or upper division prerequisites.

(b) "Major" has the same meaning as in Section 55061.

(c) A baccalaureate degree requires fulfillment of the following upper division requirements:

(1) A minimum of ~~40 semester or 60 quarter~~ 30 semester or 45 quarter units or equivalent of total upper division coursework, including units in the major and in general education;

(2) A minimum of ~~nine~~ six semester or ~~13.5~~ nine quarter units of upper division general education courses; and

(3) general education courses must come from at least two disciplines outside of the major, one of which must have an emphasis in written communication, oral communication, or computation.

(d) A lower division course may meet an upper division course requirement but may not be counted toward the required minimum number of upper division units.

(e) Enrollment in upper division courses shall be limited to students admitted to a baccalaureate program at a California community college.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902, 78040, 78041, 78042 and 78043, Education Code.

SECTION 55092 OF ARTICLE 9 OF SUBCHAPTER 1 OF CHAPTER 6 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 55092. Conditions for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree.

(a) District governing boards shall confer the baccalaureate degree upon students who have fulfilled the course requirements of Sections 55061 and 55091, and who have met the following conditions:

(1) Completion of ~~a minimum of 120 semester or 180 quarter units~~ the minimum number of units approved for the baccalaureate degree, which shall be not fewer than 90 semester or 135 quarter units.

(2) Completion of a minimum of 36 semester or 54 quarter units of general education that includes:

(A) Completion of the requirements in Section 55061 and 55062 to align with the lower division general education patterns of the associate and baccalaureate degrees;

(B) Completion of the upper division general education requirements in Section 55091;

(C) Completion of additional general education courses to meet the minimum total units that may be lower division, upper division, or any combination of lower and upper division.

(3) Courses designated as an upper division major requirement must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” (or “P”);

(4) Satisfactory completion of at least 12 semester units (18 quarter units) of upper division courses at colleges within the awarding district. Governing boards shall adopt policies that permit students to obtain waivers of this requirement in order to alleviate undue hardship; and

(5) Completion of the requirements for the baccalaureate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in the degree-applicable courses. If units accumulated beyond those required for the degree lower a student's cumulative grade point average below 2.0, colleges may compute the grade point average based solely on those courses used to satisfy the degree requirements, provided that the coursework used to compute the grade point average fulfill all major and general education requirements.

(b) Courses shall be counted toward baccalaureate degree unit requirements if they were completed within a California segment of higher education or, if they meet district standards of rigor, were completed at another institutionally accredited institution.

(c) Courses may meet multiple requirements, including general education, a major, and additional requirements stated in Sections 55061 and 55091 when courses are locally approved to meet multiple requirements. However, one course may not be counted in more than one general education area, even if the course is approved in multiple general education areas.

(d) Students may receive credit for knowledge or skills acquired through a district's procedures for awarding credit for prior learning as per Section 55050.

(e) Students who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an institutionally accredited institution shall be deemed to have fulfilled the general education course requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

(f) Students who have completed the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) shall be deemed to have fulfilled lower division baccalaureate degree requirements, and shall not be required to complete further lower division general education courses.

(g) District governing boards shall establish procedures for students to petition to have completion of a noncredit course counted toward satisfaction of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree, if such degrees are offered in the district.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902, 78040, 78041, 78042 and 78043, Education Code.

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