Community Service, Noncredit, and Credit—Oh My!

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Overview

- Summary of course types
- Conflicts between credit and noncredit?
- When are not-for-credit (community services) courses a good option?

What doesn't belong game #10

Circle the picture that doesn't belong.
There are four types of courses defined in Title 5:

- Degree-Applicable Credit Course
- Non-degree-Applicable Credit Course
- Noncredit Course
- Community Services Course (Not-For-Credit)
Degree Applicable Credit Course

- Must be approved by the curriculum committee and the local governing board.
- Must have a course outline of record with all required elements.
- Must be mission appropriate (CTE or freshman/sophomore level).
Degree Applicable Credit Course

• The vast majority of credit courses fall into this category.
• The category includes:
  – All transferrable courses
  – CTE courses that are attached to a degree or certificate of achievement
  – Some precollegiate courses such as Introduction to Composition or Beginning Algebra might be included here.
Nondegree Applicable Credit Course

- Basic skills courses in Mathematics, Reading, English, and ESL
- Courses designed to help students succeed in degree applicable credit courses
- Precollegiate CTE courses
- Must have a COR with all required elements
- Must be approved by the curriculum committee and the local governing board
Noncredit Courses

10 categories of noncredit courses are eligible for state funding (CB22) (p. 96 and 190 of PCAH, Program Course Approval Handbook, 5th Edition)

- English as a Second Language
- Immigrant Education (including citizenship)
- Elementary and Secondary Basic Skills (incl. supervised tutoring)
- Health and Safety
- Courses for Adults with Substantial Disabilities
- Parenting
- Home Economics
- Courses for Older Adults
- Short-Term Vocational (incl. apprenticeship)
- Workforce Preparation

Future funding under AB 86 is limited five categories
Noncredit Courses

• “Restriction Summary for Noncredit Courses” in the PCAH (p. 98 in 5th Ed.)
  
  – No state apportionment for student attending noncredit courses in PE and dance
  
  – The CORs for courses intended for special populations must clearly demonstrate that the course meets the needs of those populations (Immigrant Education, Parenting, Persons with Substantial Disabilities, Older Adults)
  
  – Must ensure that noncredit courses do not appear to be closed to the public.
Preparing Students for Collegiate Level Coursework

- Our colleges offer many credit classes that are specifically designed to help them improve their skills and progress to collegiate level coursework.
- Does your college have a policy on how many levels below college level a credit course can be?
- Is there a point when a course doesn’t belong in the credit program?
Career Development and College Preparation

- CDCP Noncredit courses (also known as enhanced funded)
  - Elementary/Secondary Basic Skills (incl. Adult High School)
  - English as a Second Language
  - Short-term vocational
  - Workforce Preparation
- All CDCP courses MUST be part of a CCCCCO approved certificate
  - Certificate of Competency
  - Certificate of Completion
- Proposed funding equalization for CDCP courses in 2015/16
  - What impact might this have on how you offer basic skills/CTE courses?
Possible Conflict?

- CDCP courses seem like they cover some of the same areas as courses that are being offered in the credit program.

While these courses might seem to be in conflict, are they really?
Basic Skills in Credit vs Noncredit

• We are allowed to offer basic skills instruction through both credit and noncredit courses.

• Many colleges have equivalent courses in their credit and noncredit programs.

• Does this make any sense?

• Why might you want this kind of duplication?

• Is there a specific level below transfer level coursework that should only be noncredit?
Credit Versus Noncredit CTE

• While there might appear to be a conflict in basic skills, the student populations for the credit and noncredit programs are often completely different.

• The area where conflicts may arise is in CTE. Some noncredit CTE programs offer courses that sound identical to the credit version. Does this make sense?
Do You Have a Policy?

• Does your college have a policy that designates what is appropriate for credit and noncredit?
• What types of criteria might be included in such a policy?
Advantages of Noncredit Instruction

- Affordable (free)
- Focus on skill attainment, not grades or units
- Repeatable and not affected by 30-unit basic skills limitation
- Open Entry/Exit
- Accessible to nearly all students
- Elementary level skills to pre-collegiate
- Bridge to other educational/career pathways
- CTE: Preparation, Practice and Certification entry level training leading to career pathways
Advantages of Credit Instruction

• Units are transferrable or degree/certificate applicable
• Finite instructional term
• Pre-collegiate through lower division college work
• Focused academic study (major/minor)
• Affordable
• CTE: Certification, Advancement & Degree
Not-For-Credit Courses
Community Education

- Often referred to as “fee based” courses
- Courses are often based on community needs/interests
- Community Education programs must be self-supporting at the local level
Not-For-Credit Courses
Community Education

• Courses are designed for the physical, mental, moral, economic, or civic development
• Only require approval of the local governing board
• Courses must be self-supporting
  — No general funds may be used
  — No apportionment granted
  — Fees may not exceed the cost of maintaining the classes
• College credit cannot be issued
Not-for-Credit Opportunities

- Introduction to/recruitment for credit programs
- *Possible* answer for repeatability limitations
- Incubator for potential credit/noncredit programs
- Complement to credit programs for community members interested in life-long learning but not in earning a degree.
Not-for-Credit, Auditing, & Repeatability

- Possible solutions for repeatability limitations
  - Concurrent Credit/Not-For-Credit Enrollment
    - Resolution 07.02 F13 calls for changes to Title 5 regulations to allow this
    - CCCC guidelines promised by Fall 2014
  - Auditing
    - Limited to $15/unit
    - Legislation required to change fee-language in Title 5
Summary

• There are reasons to choose one category or another for your courses.
• Duplication can be appropriate, especially when student populations and their goals are different.
• Not-for-credit can be a beneficial alternative to either credit or noncredit.
• Consider policy development to avoid conflicts.
• Stay abreast of legislative changes (i.e., AB86).
Resources

- Title 5: §55002: Standards and Criteria for Courses
- PCAH: Program and Course Approval Handbook 5th Edition
- Information on AB 86: AB86.cccco.edu
- Rostrum article: “Community Services Course Approval: Should Senates Have a Role?” (December 2012)
- Chancellor’s Office noncredit primer: “Noncredit at a Glance”
- California Community Colleges Guidelines for Community Services Offering (2012)
Thank You for Joining Us

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