

Where Does This Course Belong?: Placement of Courses in Credit, Noncredit, and Not-for-Credit

**Marie Boyd, Chaffey College
Candace Lynch-Thompson, School of Continuing Education, North
Orange County Community College District
Craig Rutan, Santiago Canyon College**

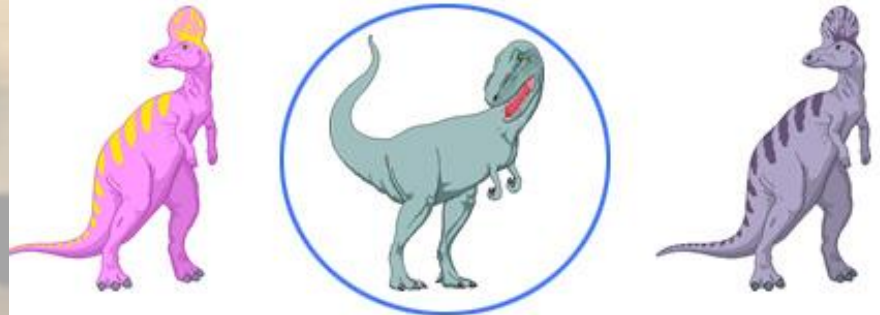
2013 ASCCC Curriculum Institute

Overview

- Credit and noncredit courses
- Conflicts between credit and noncredit?
- Is not-for-credit good or bad?

What doesn't belong game #10

Circle the picture that doesn't belong.



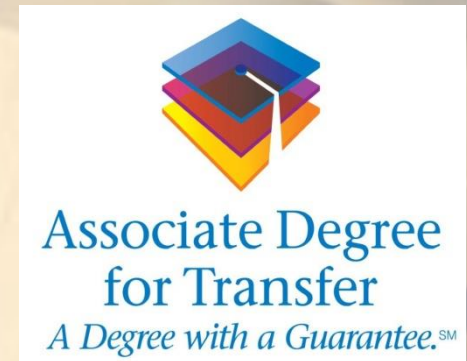
Title 5 - §55002



- There are four types of courses defined in Title 5:
 - Degree-Applicable Credit Course
 - Nondegree-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

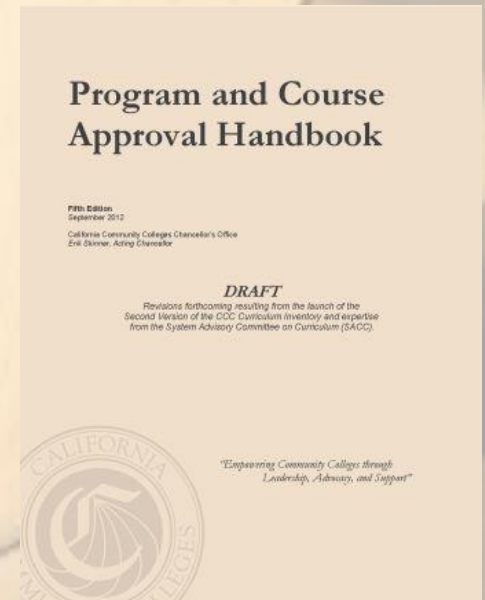
Nondegree Applicable Credit Course

Examples:

- “Stand-Alone Courses”
- 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) (approximately p. 138 of PCAH)
 - English as a Second Language
 - Immigrant Education
 - Elementary and Secondary Basic Skills
 - Health and Safety
 - Substantial Difficulties
 - Parenting
 - Home Economics
 - Courses for Older Adults
 - Short-Term Vocation
 - Workforce Preparation



Noncredit Courses

- Familiarize yourself with “Restriction Summary for Noncredit Courses” in the PCAH
 - No state apportionment for student attending noncredit courses in PE and dance
 - The CORs must clearly demonstrate that the course meets the needs of special populations, i.e., Immigrant Education, Parenting, Substantial Disabilities)
 - 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) include high school subjects, ESL, and short term vocational training.
- All CDCP courses **MUST** be part of a CCCCO approved certificate in addition to needing a COR and the approval of your local curriculum committee and governing board

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

- Focus on skill attainment, not grades or units
- Repeatable
- Accessible to all
- Life skills
- Elementary level skills to pre-collegiate
- Bridge to other educational/career pathways
- CTE: Preparation, Practice and Certification

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 are often 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
- Student pays the entire cost of instruction – no apportionment
- College credit cannot be issued



Do We Have a Say?

- At many campuses, the academic senate (or the curriculum committee) has no role in the creation of community services courses and what is being offered.
- There could be duplication with existing credit courses that you are not aware of!
- Have you read the recent [rostrum article](#) about not for credit courses?

Can Not-For-Credit Help Us?

- Did your college have many community members enrolling in courses to access your fitness center?
- How about someone wanting to take pottery that didn't need any credit?
- There are many cases where someone is more interested in the experience than earning college credit and community services could be a great alternative.

Repeatability?

- The new repeatability regulations are effective fall 2013.
- There are many cases where your community members might like to continue to be part of theater performances, practice painting, work out, etc.
- While our colleges could allow them to retake the credit course without collecting apportionment, why not try having them go through community services?
- Currently, community services students cannot be in the same room as credit students. [Resolution 06.01 F11](#) calls for us to seek changes to Title 5 regulations to allow this.

Summary

- There are reasons to choose one or another for your courses.
- It is possible to have duplication when the student populations are different.
- Not for credit could be beneficial but your local senate/curriculum committee needs to be involved in the discussion about what is being offered.
- Consider developing a policy that clearly outlines where courses belong to avoid conflicts at the curriculum committee

Thank You for Joining Us

- Do you have any questions?
 - Marie Boyd
(Marie.Boyd@chaffey.edu)
 - Candace Lynch-Thompson
(clynch-thompson@sce.edu)
 - Craig Rutan
(rutan_craig@sccollege.edu)



Resources

- Search for Title 5 sections [here](#)
- [Program and Course Approval Handbook 4th](#)
- [PCAH 5th \(Draft\)](#)