

**Rancho Santiago Community College District**  
**BOARD POLICY**  
Chapter 4  
Academic Affairs

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## **BP 4020 Program, Curriculum and Course Development**

### **Reference(s):**

Education Code Sections 70901(b), 70902(b), and 78016  
Title 5 Sections 51000, 51022, 55100, 55130 and 55150  
U.S. Department of Education regulations on the Integrity of Federal Student Financial Aid Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended  
34 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 600.2, 602.24, 603.24, and 668.8  
ACCJC Accreditation Standards II.A and II.A.9

The programs and curricula of the District shall be of high quality, relevant to community and student needs, and evaluated regularly to ensure quality and currency. To that end, the Chancellor shall establish procedures for the development and review of all curricular offerings, including their establishment, modification, or discontinuance.

Furthermore, these procedures shall include:

- appropriate involvement of the faculty and Academic Senate in all processes;
- regular review and justification of programs and course descriptions;
- opportunities for training for persons involved in aspects of curriculum development.
- consideration of job market and other related information for vocational and occupational programs.

All new programs and program discontinuances shall be approved by the Board.

All new programs shall be submitted to the California Community Colleges Chancellors Office for approval as required.

Individual degree-applicable credit courses offered as part of a permitted educational program shall be approved by the Board. Non-degree-applicable credit and degree-applicable courses that are not part of an existing approved program must satisfy the conditions authorized by Title 5 regulations and shall be approved by the Board.

Courses of instruction and educational programs, when applicable, shall be articulated with proximate high schools, four-year colleges and universities under the direction of the District Board of Trustees. The colleges will maintain a common curriculum. Each college shall have the flexibility to develop curriculum that best meets the needs of its students and the community it serves.

## **Credit Hour**

Consistent with federal regulations applicable to federal financial aid eligibility, the District shall assess and designate each of its programs as either a “credit hour” program or a “clock hour” program.

The Chancellor will establish procedures which prescribe the definition of “credit hour” consistent with applicable federal regulations, as they apply to community college districts.

The Chancellor shall establish procedures to assure that curriculum at the District complies with the definition of “credit hour” or “clock hour,” where applicable. The Chancellor shall also establish procedure for using a clock-to-credit hour conversion formula to determine whether a credit hour program is eligible for federal financial aid. The conversion formula is used to determine whether such a credit-hour program has an appropriate minimum number of clock hours of instruction for each credit hour it claims.

**Revised: May 31, 2016 (Previously BP6001, 6117, 6123, 6124, 6131, 6134)**

**References Updated: May 18, 2015**

**Revised: September 10, 2018**