

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate Presidents
Articulation Officers
Curriculum Specialists

FROM: James Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

RE: Regulatory Revisions to Course Outline of Record

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the Board of Governor's regulatory revisions to the Course Outline of Record requirements. This action was formally filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the California Secretary of State on September 24, 2025. The regulation becomes effective 30 days from the filing date on October 24, 2025. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, section 52010, community college districts have 180 days from the effective date—April 22, 2026—to conform their local policies and procedures to the new requirements; as a result, colleges need to begin the process of implementing the regulatory revisions as part of their local review process. Full implementation and complete updates in the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI) system is required by Fall 2030.

Background

On January 14, 2025, following a broad systemwide consultation process, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved regulatory action regarding the Course Outline of Record. These regulatory changes were shaped by the California Community Colleges Curriculum Committee (5C), which prioritized Vision 2030-aligned practices for both credit and noncredit instruction. A working group developed a framework of principles and promising practices for discipline faculty, curriculum committees, and local academic senates to strengthen the design of course outlines and ensure district curriculum processes reflect innovation, inclusivity, and equity.

The course outline of record (COR) is one of the most significant documents in our system. It defines, in broad but essential terms, the structure and expectations of a course—what students will learn, how learning will be measured, and the academic standards that apply. While faculty retain full academic freedom in how they teach the course content, the COR provides the

foundation of consistency, transparency, and accountability. These amendments affirm the role of the COR as a living document that both safeguards rigor and reflects our collective commitment to equitable student success.

The [regulatory revisions](#) also align with recent legislative priorities, including Assembly Bill 1705 (2022), which requires colleges to maximize student completion of transfer-level math and English, and Assembly Bill 1111 (2021), which establishes a common course numbering system to ease student mobility across colleges. Together, the regulatory and legislative changes form a coherent vision for student-centered curriculum that is accessible, transparent, and equitable.

Regulatory Provisions and Key Changes

Curriculum Committees as Stewards of Equity and Inclusion (§ 55001). For the first time, Title 5 charges curriculum committees with embedding equity and accessibility into the curriculum approval process. Committees must adopt written procedures ensuring that every course outline describes approaches that will engage diverse student populations and advance equitable outcomes. Also, the committee ensures there is a process that reflects the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), providing multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression.

A Strengthened and Publicly Accessible Course Outline of Record (§ 55001.5). The new section 55001.5 clearly defines the COR as the official, publicly available record of a course, underscoring its role in transparency and accountability. The regulation requires CORs to include a comprehensive set of elements: title, catalog description, outcomes and objectives, units and hours (including contact hours, outside-of-class work, and total student learning hours), discipline assignment, and representative instructional materials. Notably, instructional materials should include consideration of open educational resources (OER) that meet accessibility standards. The COR must also provide representative descriptions of inclusive pedagogical approaches faculty may use to engage and support diverse learners.

- To support implementation, districts may use Common Course Numbering funds for necessary updates to local curriculum systems and processes.
- In addition, all COR information must now be directly entered into the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI)—document uploads are no longer permitted. This shift reinforces statewide consistency and supports cleaner reporting.
- To aid implementation, the Ninth Edition of the Program and Course Approval Handbook (PCAH) will be released in Spring 2026, offering detailed guidance and best practices.

Modernized Standards for Credit, Noncredit, and Community Services Courses (§ 55002). The revisions to section 55002 streamline and modernize the standards that govern credit and

noncredit courses. For credit courses, learning must now be demonstrated through multiple, authentic means—including written work, projects, problem-solving, and skills demonstrations—ensuring that assessment reflects the diversity of students’ learning styles and strengths. The regulation now requires CORs to include explicit accounting of instructional and outside-of-class hours, directly aligned to credit awards under section 55002.5. Importantly, updated language regarding “basic skills.”

For noncredit courses, the revised standards strengthen consistency by requiring CORs to specify subject matter, methodology, assignments or activities, and methods of evaluation, all taught by qualified instructors.

Advancing Success and Equity

Taken together, these changes signify more than regulatory housekeeping—they reflect a vision of curriculum that is inclusive by design and transparent in practice. By requiring course outlines to highlight equity-minded approaches, mandating UDL accessibility, and ensuring public availability of CORs, the regulations affirm that every student, regardless of background, has the right to a learning environment designed for their success.

These revisions encourage faculty innovation and academic freedom while removing structural barriers that have historically hindered students, particularly those from disproportionately impacted communities. They call upon colleges to view the COR as a living commitment to equity, rigor, and opportunity. By aligning curriculum standards with recent legislative changes, the regulations also strengthen pathways to degree completion, transfer, and workforce readiness.

Next Steps for Colleges and Districts

- **Revise curriculum committee procedures** to reflect the new equity, inclusion, and UDL language of § 55001.
- **Update COR templates and catalog systems** to include all elements required by § 55001.5, including representative descriptions of inclusive teaching approaches, and ensure that all CORs are publicly accessible.
- **Directly input COR information into COCI**, as uploads are no longer permitted; allocate Common Course Numbering funds for necessary local work and system updates.
- **Review local board policy** on credit-hour calculations to ensure consistency with § 55002.5 and confirm this alignment through annual certification.
- **Train curriculum personnel**—faculty, administrators, and staff—on the revised regulations and the Chancellor’s Office Program and Course Approval Handbook.
- **Ensure prompt and accurate reporting** of approved courses to COCI and MIS.

October 7, 2025

- **Align enrollment practices** with § 55003 and § 58106, ensuring that prerequisites and limitations on enrollment are validated fairly and equitably.

Conclusion

The revised regulations remind us that curriculum is at the heart of equity. Each course outline we design, review, and approve is more than a technical record—it is an invitation to students, a promise of belonging, and a pathway to success. By embedding inclusive practices, requiring accessibility, and affirming transparency, these Title 5 revisions ensure that our colleges continue to be places where every student can thrive.

The Chancellor’s Office looks forward to supporting faculty, curriculum committees, and administrators in bringing these changes to life. Together, we can ensure that the Course Outline of Record is not only a compliance requirement but also a symbol of our shared values: access, equity, and excellence in student learning.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
Chris Ferguson, Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Strategic Initiatives
John Hetts, Executive Vice Chancellor for Research, Analytics and Data

Appendix A: Brief Summary of Regulatory Changes

Approved regulatory changes may be found in their entirety [here](#).

Section	Summary
§ 55001. Curriculum Committee	• New Sub Section • Details the role of the curriculum committee

§ 55001.5. Course Outlines of Record.	• Separated from §55002.0 • Additional requirements added specific to Common Course Numbering • Removed Basic Skills Requirements; • Amended language from Prerequisites and Corequisites to Enrollment Requirements and included enrollment limitations;
§ 55002. Standards and Criteria for Courses	• Combined Degree-applicable and nondegree applicable sections to eliminate redundancy and • Added language to nondegree applicable courses section to credit and noncredit sections in order reflect AB 705/1705 requirements and guidance.
§ 55100. Credit Course Approval.	• Clean up language