RCCD | RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MORENO VALLEY COLLEGE | NORCO COLLEGE | RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

District Academic Standards

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 1, 2026; 3:00-5:00pm

https://rccd-edu.zoom.us/j/82506905881?pwd=ejYySWlreGJzRGoxa1k5YVJiT0dQQT09

Riverside City College	Moreno Valley College	Norco College
CAK 224	WC103	ATEC 118

Committee Members	Guests
☐ Nick Sinigaglia (DCC Chair, PHI, MOV)	☐ Bryan Medina (CPRO, RCCD)
☐ Star Rivera-Lacey (DCC Co-Chair, Deputy Chancellor & Provost)	☐ Sabina Fernandez (CPRO, MOV)
☐ Kelly Douglass (ENGL, RIV)	☐ Casandra Greene (CPRO, RCCD)
☐ John Alpay (BUS, NOR)	☐ Nicole Brown (CPRO, NOR)
☐ Nicole Banerjee (AO, RCC)	☐ Abril Vega (CPRO, RCC)
☐ Nick Franco (AO, NOR)	
☐ Deanna Murrell (AO, MVC)	
☐ Brock Russell (PHY, RCC)	
☐ Patricia Avila (GUI, NOR)	
☐ Tahmina Morshed (ECON, MOV)	
Additional Guests:	

Call to Order:

Agenda and Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda
   The agenda will be reviewed, discussed, and considered for approval.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2026
   The minutes will be reviewed, discussed, and considered for approval.

Discussion & Action Items

1. GESLOs Renamed to ILOs – Nick Sinigaglia
2. RCCD GenEd Approval when CalGETC Approved – Kelly Douglass
3. District Academic Standards to non-Brown Act subcommittee – Nick Sinigaglia
4. Revision to Academic Renewal Policy (COCCC memo) – Nick Sinigaglia
5. C- Grades and meeting prerequisites
6. Title 5 55061 Relating to Associate Degree Requirements (Climate) – Kelly Douglass
7. Open Forum
8. Public Comment

Adjournment:

California Community Colleges

MEMORANDUM
September 8, 2026

ESS 26-59 | Via Email

TO: Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Executive Officers
Admissions and Records

FROM: Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor

RE: Regulatory Revisions to Academic Renewal

This memorandum addresses the implementation of the Board of Governors' regulatory revisions pertaining to academic renewal. This regulatory action was filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the California Secretary of State on Aug. 17, 2026, and becomes effective Sept. 16, 2026. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, section 52010, community college districts have 180 days from the effective date, until **March 15, 2027**, to align local policies and procedures to the revised regulatory requirements. Districts and colleges are advised to begin their local review process to ensure timely regulatory implementation.

Background

Academic renewal is a process through which previously recorded substandard academic work (grades of D, F, FW, NP, or NC) may be disregarded when calculating a student's grade point average if the coursework no longer reflects the student's demonstrated academic ability. The coursework and original grades remain legible on the student's permanent academic record.

On May 19, 2026, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved regulatory action to amend title 5, California Code of Regulations, sections 55000. Definitions and 55046. Academic Renewal Without Course Repetition. The revisions establish uniform systemwide academic renewal standards while preserving local flexibility with operational processes. The amendments address the issue of significant variation in local academic renewal standards, which created inconsistent eligibility requirements, ambiguity for students and counselors, and inequitable outcomes for students attending different colleges.

Quantity of Coursework Eligible for Academic Renewal

Former section 55046 required districts to establish the maximum amount of coursework that could be disregarded through academic renewal. Revised section 55046, subdivision (c)(1), expressly permits students to request academic renewal multiple times and prohibits a unit cap on the amount of coursework eligible for academic renewal. This change expands access for returning students, students with longer enrollment histories, and students whose academic difficulties extended across multiple terms.

Coursework and Symbols Eligible for Academic Renewal

Previously, each district determined the eligibility criteria for academic renewal. The revised regulations to section 55046, subdivision (c)(2), replace those locally determined requirements with a uniform systemwide standard.

After the academic term containing the coursework to be considered for alleviation, a student must complete one of the following:

- Six semester units or nine quarter units with a 2.0 grade point average;
- Six semester units or nine quarter units with Pass grades;
- 288 hours of noncredit coursework with Pass grades; or
- A combination of these credit and noncredit options.

The subsequent coursework may be completed at any accredited institution or combination of accredited institutions. The six-semester-unit standard was adopted to provide a meaningful demonstration of improved academic performance without disproportionately delaying access for part-time students.

Coursework and Symbols Ineligible for Academic Renewal

While implicit prior, coursework ineligible to be alleviated through academic renewal is now provided in section 55046, subdivision (d), as:

- Courses used to earn a degree or certificate, except in the limited case of post-award academic renewal of D grades;
- A passing grade of C or better; or
- The non-evaluative symbols “I” and “IP.”

Post-award Academic Renewal of D Grades

The revised regulations to section 55046, subdivision (c)(3) establish a new process through which a grade of D recorded at the time a degree or certificate was awarded may be considered for academic renewal after the award.

The D-graded course must not have been necessary at the time of conferral to achieve the minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average, complete the minimum degree or certificate-applicable units, or satisfy a general education, major, or certificate requirement. If the course was used to satisfy one of those requirements, the district may determine whether other coursework completed with grades of C or better before conferral could have satisfied the requirement instead.

Clarified Definitions

Section 55000 is amended to clarify terminology relevant to academic renewal.

- **"Alleviate,"** previously undefined, is now codified as disregarding previously recorded substandard academic work when computing grade point averages.
- **"Satisfactory grade"** is revised to include the legacy grade, "Credit," or "CR."
- **"Substandard academic work"** is revised to include the legacy grade, "Noncredit," or "NC."

Implementation Requirements for Colleges and Districts

Colleges and districts should begin local review and implementation planning now to ensure timely compliance by **March 15, 2027**. At a minimum, districts should:

- Review and revise policies, administrative procedures, catalog language, and student-facing materials.
- Inform relevant faculty, staff, and administrators of the revised regulations and associated local procedures.
- Coordinate with technology and student information systems staff to update technology systems, business processes, forms, and automated notifications.

Chancellor's Office Contact

The final filed regulatory text may be accessed on the Chancellor's Office Regulatory Actions website.

For questions or additional guidance regarding this memorandum, please contact Dean of Educational Services and Supports, Allison Beer at ABeer@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
James Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
Renee Craig-Marius, Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Support

Final Revisions to Title 5, California Code of Regulations Relating to Associate Degree Course Requirements (Climate)

SECTION 55061 OF ARTICLE 6 OF SUBCHAPTER 1 OF CHAPTER 6 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

Section 55061. Associate Degree Course Requirements.

District governing boards may only approve associate degrees that meet the following course requirements:

(a) A minimum of 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of degree-applicable lower division credit courses, including courses that apply to the major or area of emphasis in career technical fields and courses in composition, reading, and mathematics or quantitative reasoning not more than one level below transfer. Below transfer level course requirements must align with Education Code section 78213.

(b) A minimum of 18 semester units (27 quarter units) of focused study in a major or interdisciplinary area of emphasis.

(1) A “major” is a focused program of study within a specific discipline, which may include some coursework outside the primary discipline. Programs designed to provide transfer preparation must be designed to meet specific lower-division requirements in comparable baccalaureate majors.

(2) An “area of emphasis” is an interdisciplinary program of study encompassing a broad range of courses from multiple related academic disciplines, providing the student with an academic pathway broader than a specific major but more focused than general education.

(c) A minimum of 21 semester units (28 - 31.5 quarter units) of general education in the areas described below.

(1) English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking (minimum of 6 semester/8 quarter units) including:

(A) English Composition (minimum of 3 semester/4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and include expository and argumentative writing.

(B) Oral Communication and Critical Thinking (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be baccalaureate-level and may include oral communication and critical thinking courses.

(2) Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement must be at least college-level and may include mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses, including logic, statistics, computer languages, and related disciplines.

(3) Arts and Humanities (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses in the humanities study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. Such courses develop students' awareness of how people throughout the ages and in different cultures respond to

themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation, and develop students' aesthetic understandings and abilities to make value judgments. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in the visual and performing arts, art history, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and related disciplines.

(4) Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses in the social and behavioral sciences focus on people as members of society and develop awareness of the methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. They stimulate critical thinking about how people act and have acted in response to their societies and promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines.

(5) Natural Sciences (minimum of 3 semester / 4 quarter units). Courses in the natural sciences ~~examine~~ explore the physical universe, including its life forms~~,~~ and ~~its~~ natural phenomena, ~~helping students appreciate and understand the scientific method and the relationships between science and other human activities.~~ as well as how the scientific method is used to advance our understanding of the natural world and drive innovation. Such courses develop students' ability to apply scientific knowledge to real world issues, which shall include learning about effects of human activities on climate and the environment as appropriate. Courses fulfilling this requirement may include introductory or integrative baccalaureate-level coursework in astronomy, biology, chemistry, environmental science, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics, and other related scientific disciplines.

(6) Ethnic Studies (minimum of 3 semester/4 quarter units). Courses fulfilling this requirement may include baccalaureate-level courses in the four autonomous disciplines within Ethnic Studies: Black Studies; African American Studies; Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x; Latino/a/x Studies/La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

(d) "Integrative baccalaureate-level courses" draw broad connections between multiple perspectives and methodologies and demonstrate relationships within or between disciplines.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901 and 70902, Education Code.

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