

Approved May 22, 2008

TITLE: Proposed Revision to *VCCS Policy Manual* Section 5.6.3 - Repeating a Course (SB) (III.A.2.c)

BACKGROUND:

At its March 2006 meeting, the ASAC Educational Programs Committee discussed criteria and rationale for a course to be designated as “repeatable for credit” in the Master Course File. The committee favored a narrow view that courses designated as repeatable for credit have as their major purpose the development and maintenance of proficiencies that require certification and re-certification at periodic instances, such as in a health-related or technology field.

At the December 2006 meeting, ASAC approved a recommendation that the Deans’ Course Review Committee review the Master Course File for existing cases of courses designated as repeatable for credit and require colleges to document a compelling educational reason for each course to be designated as repeatable for credit. The System Office produced a list of courses that carry the designation *repeatable for credit* and asked colleges to identify all courses taught at their institutions for which they allow repeat credit. Colleges were also asked to provide compelling educational reasons for each course they wanted to be designated as repeatable for credit.

The Deans Course Review Committee (DCRC) met in June 2007 to consider the colleges’ requests but could not reach consensus on defining a “compelling educational reason” for designating courses as repeatable for credit. ASAC was asked by the DCRC to refine the parameters for qualifying whether or not a course may be designated as repeatable for credit. At the March 2008 meeting, ASAC endorsed the following policy language change to provide a more concise description of the types of courses that may be considered for designation as repeatable for credit.

ACOP approved the following change to the policy language at their April 2008 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the State Board for Community Colleges review and approve the following revision to Section 5.6.3 - Repeating a Course (SB) of the *VCCS Policy Manual*.

Proposed Policy Language

5.6.3 Repeating a Course (SB)

Credit courses that are designated as repeatable for credit in the Master Course File or are identified as General Usage courses in the Master Course File may be repeated for credit. (General Usage courses: 90-190-290; 93-193-293; 95-195-295; 96-196-296; 97-197-297; 98-198-

298; 99-199-299.) ***Other than the general usage courses, only those courses designed to develop and maintain proficiency in the visual and performing arts, or to meet requirements for certification or recertification in allied health or applied technology fields, may be designated as repeatable for credit. Students should be limited to 10 credits earned through multiple enrollments in the same course.***

A student should normally be limited to two (2) enrollments in a credit course that is not designated as repeatable for credit or is not a General Usage Course. Should a college wish to make an exception to this policy on a student-by-student basis, the need should be documented and approved by the college's chief academic officer or designee.

RATIONALE:

The proposed language change restricts the designation of courses that may be repeated for credit to the narrow range of courses used for developing/maintaining proficiency in the visual and performing arts or for industry certification/recertification. In addition, placing a total credit hour limit on courses repeated for credit will encourage students to explore a wider variety of courses to meet program requirements and will allow turn-over in class membership over time.

RESOURCE PERSONS:

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