

Frequently Asked Questions

How new regulations that limit the REPEATABILITY of coursework take the COMMUNITY out of our COLLEGES

What's happening here and across the state?

Effective fall 2013, students are limited only to ONE successful completion of each course. In other words, students may not retake courses that they have already completed successfully (note that there are limited exceptions).

Courses in Visual Art, Dance, Music, Theater Arts and Physical Education/Kinesiology face additional restrictions. In these areas, some classes are grouped into content-related "families." Students are limited to a total of FOUR enrollments in courses that are grouped into a content-related family (for instance, in the family of 'Theater Production & Performance' at Cabrillo, a student may repeat a class but is limited to a total of four 'Theater Production & Performance' courses).

Why is this happening?

In July 2012, in the context of rationing education, statewide regulations were adopted by the California Community College's Board of Governors to limit repeatability; the changes became effective in Fall 2013.

Is Cabrillo College doing anything to provide students with more options?

Yes. In an effort to continue to serve students, faculty in many disciplines have created new courses to help ensure students continue to have as many opportunities to take their courses as possible, within the limits of these new regulations. The college is also looking at possible ways to offer some courses through Cabrillo Extension.

How is this affecting our students and programs?

- *Visual and Performing Arts (including Dance, Music, Theater, and the Visual Arts), Creative Writing, Journalism, Kinesiology/Physical Education, Culinary Arts and more:*

In areas where skills are gained by practice and repetition students will not be able to obtain the same quality of educational programs.

- Example 1: Students are now limited to completing the course for the student newspaper one time.
- Example 2: In theater (or ballet, or piano), where proficiency is gained by repeating courses, students can now take a TOTAL of four courses, thus significantly impacting opportunities to transfer to high quality universities or move on to a career.
- Example 3: A ceramics student, upon having completed each course, is barred from taking additional courses.
- Example 4: A culinary arts student is no longer able to repeat courses that may be needed in order to develop proficiency in various skills (knives, services, cooking).
- Example 5: A student who took ONE swimming class at Cabrillo prior to F2013 may never take another swim class (although swim classes have now been leveled into 1,2,3).

- *Foreign Languages*

Community members/lifelong students may no longer return to their community college to refresh or update language skills. Conversation courses can no longer be repeated.

*This information refers to classes that were successfully completed (repeatability). There is a separate rule (3 strikes you're out) for attempted completion of a course (repetition).

- ***Occupational areas with changing technology such as Welding, Computer Information Systems, Digital Media, Accounting, and more:***

In areas where technology and course materials are constantly evolving, students will not be able to obtain the same quality of educational programs.

- Example: Students can no longer repeat the classes to update skills/knowledge in areas such as HTML, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Windows, UNIX/Linux, etc. that evolve quickly (students may petition under limited circumstances).
- In welding, a student between jobs cannot repeat a course to update skills for a future job (students may petition to retake courses that are required for their current employment or if they provide a job description).

- ***Areas with evolving course materials such as Early Childhood Education (ECE)***

The new limitations affect students who take several years to complete the program (many of whom are working and/or have families), bilingual students who may want to take the same course in multiple languages, and professionals in the field who seek to stay current in their field.

- ***International students***

International students are severely limited in what kind of employment they can pursue while in the US. One of the only options to work off-campus is to enroll in a course that provides academic credit for the work. Under the new regulations students are only able to take that course once, effectively limiting these students to one semester of off-campus work — something that they may desperately need to pay their expenses while in this country.

- ***Other: Human Services*** (where a third of the students in a required service learning course had to petition this semester), ***Learning Communities*** (where a student cannot retake a course needed to work with a cohort), and various other areas are also impacted.

See ccftcabrillo.org/news/issues for more detail and additional resources.

Why do Cabrillo faculty and students support changing these regulations?

In November 2012, voters passed Proposition 30, signifying statewide taxpayer support for maintaining access to high-quality educational programs. **There is currently funding in the state budget for Cabrillo, and many other community colleges throughout the state, to obtain additional state funding for more students, but our students are locked out in part due to these regulations.** (In other words, if there ever were a reason for these regulations, it has passed!)

What can be DONE to CHANGE these regulations?

The California Community College Board of Governors has the authority to change the regulations, but a significant amount of pressure will be needed. Call, email, and advocate for change at the following levels:

- ❖ California Community Colleges Board of Governors (see contact info on separate sheet).
- ❖ Legislators (especially Senators on the Education/Higher Ed Committees) You can find contact information for your elected representatives to the state legislature at the following address: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html
- ❖ Statewide Student Senate (students): Support resolutions for change; contact fellow student senators at other colleges for their support.
- ❖ Statewide Academic Senate (faculty): Support resolutions for change; contact fellow faculty senators at other colleges for their support.
- ❖ Governing Boards of Districts: Local Governing Boards can pass resolutions and contact the statewide Board of Governors.
- ❖ Stay Involved: Stay in contact with the Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers by sending an email to ccft@ccftcabrillo.org.
- ❖ Spread the word! Tell your community about these changes and have others sign our online petition to the Academic Senate and Board of Governors at: <http://chn.ge/1m4ICET>

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