

Changes to the Law regarding Matriculation: a comparison of “Proposed SSTF Education Code changes to Matriculation” (February 1, 2012 draft) and existing law

Throughout the proposed legislation, the term “matriculation” is replaced by “*Student Success and Support Program*.”

§78211

Existing law declares that it is the intent of the Legislature to ... “Provide students with the information to establish realistic educational goals, and ensure that the matriculation process does not exclude students from receiving appropriate educational services at community colleges.” This will be deleted, replaced with “*Provide students with the resources and support to establish informed educational goals.*”

§78212 and elsewhere

Existing law requires that counseling be available to enrolling students. The bill will retain that requirement only for students “who are enrolled in basic skills courses, who have not declared an educational goal as required, or who are on academic probation....” For other students, the requirements for “counseling” have been replaced by requirements for “*education planning services.*”

§78212

This chapter of existing law explicitly applies matriculation requirements only to students enrolling in credit courses. However, other current laws provide for matriculation requirements for some students enrolling in noncredit. The proposed legislation removes that inconsistency.

The proposed legislation replaces requirements that students declare an “educational objective” or “educational goal” with requirements that students declare a “*specific program of study*” and make progress toward the “*program of study identified in the student’s education plan.*”

Both existing law and the proposed legislation require that matriculation services provided to students include orientation, assessment in computational and language skills, assistance to students in the identification of aptitudes, interests, and educational objectives, referral to support services as needed, and evaluation of progress and referral to appropriate interventions. The proposed legislation replaces the requirements that assessment and counseling include “evaluation of student study and learning skills” and “advisement concerning course selection,” with the requirements that *assessment and education planning services* include “*evaluation of a student’s college readiness and knowledge,*” and “*development of an education plan leading to a program of study and guidance on course selection.*” The proposed legislation removes processing of the application of admission from matriculation services.

§78212.5

The proposed legislation will remove without replacement §78212.5. This section in the existing law has included authorization for:

- Career resource and placement centers having the purposes of maintaining information on vocational, technological and educational opportunities, and facilitating career employment.
- A publicity program designed to inform the community served by the community college that the purposes of the mandatory matriculation process are intended to facilitate, rather

than restrict, student access to community college instruction, and to enhance each student's awareness of his or her abilities, skills, and potential.

- A publicity program designed to inform high schools in the community served by the community college, through orientation programs and other means, of student skill levels, and of available student support services.

Career services are mentioned in the proposed legislation as one of the specialized support services to which students may be referred. (Career counseling is also authorized in other sections of the California Education Code, see §72620.) There is no replacement in the proposed legislation for the publicity programs.

§78213

A major recommendation of the Student Success Task Force is the establishment of a common diagnostic assessment to be used by all colleges. Existing law already specifies:

No district or college may use any assessment instrument for the purposes of this article without the authorization of the board of governors. The board of governors may adopt a list of authorized assessment instruments pursuant to the policies and procedures developed pursuant to this section and the intent of this article. The board of governors may waive this requirement as to any assessment instrument pending evaluation.

In current practice, the Board of Governors allows different colleges to use different assessment tests. The Board of Governors may implement a common diagnostic assessment by adding the approved instrument and removing alternate instruments from that authorized list.

§78214

Existing law mandates that participating districts establish and maintain a data base to “evaluate the effectiveness of matriculation services ... and of programs and services designed to remedy students' skills deficiencies.” The proposed legislation requires *accountability metrics* to “*evaluate the effectiveness of the Student Success and Support Program services ... and of programs and services designed to facilitate students' completion of their educational goals and programs of study.*”

To the data collected for the *accountability metrics* (was data base) the proposed legislation specifies the addition of *goals and programs of study, ... completion of specified unit thresholds, success in basic skills courses, grade point average, course completion outcomes, transfer readiness, and degree and certificate completion.* Both the existing and the proposed legislation authorize the collection of “any addition information that the [state] chancellor finds appropriate.”

To the objectives of institutional research and the *accountability metrics*, the proposed legislation adds “*helping students declare a program of study,*” assisting institutions with *valid course placement,* and “*helping support students' successful course completion and attainment of a degree, certificate or transfer, through the provision of effective orientation services and academic interventions.*” Removed from those objectives are “matching institutional resources with students' educational needs” and “providing students with specialized support services.”

§78215

Existing law specifies that the Board of Governors establish criteria for exempting students from matriculation services. The proposed legislation specifies that the Board of Governors will establish *policies and processes* both for exempting students and for requiring non-exempt students to meet the requirements. The proposed legislation also requires districts to adopt a student appeal process.

§78216

The proposed legislation changes considerations for the formula for allocating funding for the Student Success and Support service (was matriculation services). The proposed legislation removes from consideration:

- The relative needs for matriculation services, based on special student populations such as low-income students, students with language differences, students with physical and learning disabilities, and students in need of remedial instruction.
- The need for computer hardware and software to provide approved matriculation services, and for institutional research personnel for ongoing evaluation.

The proposed legislation adds:

- *Insofar as a district is able to fully implement in-person or technology strategies for orientation, assessment, and education planning services, the board of governors may identify other non-instructional support services that can be funded through the provisions of this Act.*

Under existing law, colleges are required to develop student matriculation plans. A significant change to the requirements for the Student Success and Support Program Plan is coordination with college student equity plans “to ensure the college has identified strategies to monitor and address equity issues and mitigate any disproportionate impacts on student access and achievement.” This appears to place financial responsibility on colleges for any mitigation needed.

Changing the Rules for BOG fee waivers: Additional requirements proposed by SSTF Education Code

The proposed legislation will add:

The fee requirements ... shall be waived for any student who:

- *identifies a degree, certificate, transfer, or career advancement goal,*
- *meets academic and progress standards, including a maximum unit cap, as defined by the Board of Governors,*

Under current rules students may receive fee waivers for any educational objectives, including “formulate career interest,” or “educational development.” The proposed legislation does not permit such students to receive fee waivers.

Under Education Code §70901(A) of the Education Code and Title 5 Regulation §55033, all students who do not meet standards of academic progress standards are subject to being placed on probation and dismissed. The proposed legislation directs the Board of Governors to specify additional criteria to be met by students receiving BOG fee waivers.

In current law, there is no maximum unit cap for any student.