



## Priority Registration Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. What are the statutory and regulatory resources for priority registration?

There are many regulatory and legal standards that govern priority registration.

#### **EDUCATION CODE**

- [EC Section 78211.5](#)
- [EC Section 66025.8](#)
- [EC Section 66025.9](#)
- [EC Section 66025.91](#)
- [EC Section 66025.92](#)

#### **TITLE 5**

- [Title 5, § 58108 Registration and Enrollment Procedures](#)

### 2. What is priority registration?

Priority registration increases equitable access for students in certain categories by allowing them to register early. To be eligible, students must participate in orientation, complete the assessment process, and develop a Student Education Plan (*Title 5, § 58108*).

The *Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act* of 2012 (*EC Section 78211.5*) established the legal requirement of priority registration for serving students who enroll to earn degrees, career technical certificates, transfer preparation, or career advancement. The intent of this act is to increase California community college student access and success by supporting their academic and career goals. *Title 5, § 58108* unpacks the priority registration mandate including who is eligible for priority registration. Namely this section added that California Community College Districts must adopt policies and procedures for registration and standards for enrollment in any course that are consistent with these and other sections of *Title 5* and uniformly administered.

### 3. Who is eligible for priority registration?

Students who meet the following are eligible for priority registration:

1. A member of the armed forces or a veteran (*Ed. Code §66025.8*)
2. A foster youth or former foster youth (*Ed. Code §66025.9*)
3. Determined to be eligible for Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) (*Ed. Code §66025.91*)

4. Receiving services through the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) (*Ed. Code §66025.91*)
5. Receiving aid from the CalWORKs program (*Ed. Code §66025*)
6. A student parent who has a child or children under age 18 who will receive more than half of their support from the student (*Ed. Code §66025.81(b)*)

**4. Are all priority registration groups given the same priority?**

There is only one level of priority registration defined in *Title 5 §58108*, which is “highest and equal priority.” That means that all students who are eligible for priority registration (see question 3) have the same highest and equal level. Districts may not prioritize students in one statutory group over another, however colleges may further stratify students based on additional district-determined criteria such as enrollment level or completed units.

**5. Can districts create additional registration priorities for students?**

Yes. Districts have the flexibility to establish additional registration priorities for students with priority lower than the groups defined in statute.

**6. Do colleges need to verify that students qualify for priority registration?**

Colleges need to document how they will identify student parents’ eligible for priority registration and the bill language includes flexibility that encourages colleges to use information from a variety of sources including, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), C Dream Act Application, the California College Promise Grant (CCPG) fee waiver application, a local campus form, or any other documentation that identifies student parents. To ensure equitable access where possible, college policies should not require students to provide additional documentation to verify their eligibility.

**7. Does the student have to be a biological parent to qualify for priority registration?**

The bill language does not specify that the student must be a biological parent.

**8. Can students lose priority registration?**

Yes. A student may lose registration priority if:

- they are placed on academic or progress probation for two consecutive terms (*Title 5 §55031*); or
- they have earned 100 or more degree-applicable semester or quarter equivalent units at the district.

**9. Can students appeal their loss of priority registration?**

Yes. Each community college district must establish written procedures for a student to appeal the loss of priority enrollment status due to extenuating circumstances, or where a student with a disability applied for, but did not receive reasonable

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accommodation in a timely manner. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: accidents, illnesses, or other circumstances beyond the control of the student. Districts may also allow students who have demonstrated significant academic improvement to appeal the loss of priority enrollment status.