

# Prerequisites and Content Review

ASCCC Curriculum Committee

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# Goals of This Session

- Provide a chronological list of steps for senates and curriculum committees to implement prerequisites via content review
- Establish best practices for content review and assigning prerequisites to courses
- Train attendees on how to accomplish content review; give guidance on how to train the local curriculum committee on content review

# Roadmap for Title 5 §55003



# First

Your academic senate must make a choice:

- Allow prerequisites to be established only via content review, or
- Allow prerequisites to be established only via content review and statistical validation, or
- Allow prerequisites to be established either via content review alone or via content review with statistical validation.

# Second

Create a new (or revise old) board policy reflecting primary reliance or mutual agreement with the senate regarding how prerequisites will be established. May require one or more policies – see 5 required items on next slides.

**Note:** For multi-college districts, be sure the board policy stipulates individual college authority, if desirable, with regard to establishing prerequisites.

# Board Must Adopt Policies for:

1. The process for establishing prerequisites (content review alone, with statistical validation, or both)
2. Procedures to ensure that prerequisite or target courses are taught according to the Course Outline of Record (COR)

3. Process to ensure that qualified instructors teach prerequisite courses
  
4. Process to ensure that prerequisites remain necessary and appropriate. (Two year review for all prerequisites on vocational courses, and six years on all other prerequisites.)

5. Bases and processes for students to challenge prerequisite or corequisites.



# Matriculation Plans

- Also include section on prerequisites
  - Procedures for establishing and validating prerequisites
  - Procedures for student challenges to prerequisites

If Senate and Board Agree to Establish  
All or Some Prerequisites Via Content  
Review Alone...

**District Must Have a Board  
Adopted Plan BEFORE  
establishing prereqs via content  
review alone.**

# The Plan Must Specify the Following:

- The method used to identify courses to which prerequisites might be applied
- Assurance that prerequisite courses (basic skills) and courses without prerequisites will be reasonably available to students
- The research to be used to determine impact of new prerequisites (especially disproportionate impact)
- Provisions for training the curriculum committee on content review

# Activity

# What is Content Review?

Title 5 § 55000(c) :

A rigorous, systematic process developed in accordance with section 53200 to 53204... that is conducted by faculty to identify the necessary and appropriate body of knowledge or skills students need to possess prior to enrolling in a course, or which students need to acquire through simultaneous enrollment in a corequisite course.

# Content Review Must Include:

- The COR for the target course
- Syllabi, exams, assignments, instructional materials, grading criteria
- Identification of required skills and knowledge students must have prior to enrolling in the target course
- Matching of those skills and knowledge to prerequisite courses using CORs
- Direct involvement of discipline faculty



# Geology Lab COR

What are the key aspects of the COR that help determine skills/knowledge students need?

Can you determine the necessary math skills?

What dialog is necessary between discipline faculty of the target course and basic skills courses?



# Nutrition Course

Two steps:

First – be sure that skills and knowledge that students need are clearly stated in the COR and the discipline faculty agree to teach this COR

Second – Match the skills of basic skills courses to those identified in the COR.

# Training Your Curriculum Committee

- Expect improved CORs prior to any discussion of prerequisites and content review
- Determine the committee's role in ensuring that a qualified faculty member teaches the course AND that each faculty member adheres to the COR.
- Then provide tools for discipline faculty to converse about necessary and appropriate skills.