

NUMBERED MEMO CC25-043

TO: Members of the State Board of Community Colleges, Chairs of the Community College Boards of Trustees, Community College Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Admissions Officers, Basic Skills Directors, Business Officers, Continuing Education Officers, Customized Training Directors, Chief Financial Officers, Distance Learning, Financial Aid Officers, Personnel Officers, Student Development Administrators, Public Information Officers, Registrars, & Other Interested Parties

FROM: Jonnell Carpenter, *NCCCS General Counsel*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of 1B SBCCC 200.3 – Establishing Multi-Campus Centers

DATE: May 20, 2025

On May 16, 2025, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) initiated the rulemaking process to amend **1B SBCCC 200.3 – Establishing Multi-Campus Centers**. The proposed amendment would replace the accreditation of Multi-Campus Centers from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to its institutional accrediting agency. It also updates the minimum mile requirement for a multi-campus center from ten (10) miles to four (4) miles to comply with state law. The proposed amendment is published on the NC Community College System's website, [Numbered Memos - NCCCS \(ncccommunitycolleges.edu\)](https://ncccommunitycolleges.edu/numbered-memos). For your convenience, a copy of the proposed rule, with the changes indicated, is attached to this memorandum. Strikethroughs indicate deletions of existing language and underlines indicate additions of language.

Any member of the public has the right to submit written comments on the proposed rule. Please note that any person who submits public comments on behalf of their community college should comply with their college's local process for submitting comments on a proposed rule. **Written comments on the rule must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2025.** Any member of the public has the right to request a hearing on the proposed rule. **Requests for a hearing must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2025.**

Written comments and requests for hearing shall be directed to the following address:
Jonnell Carpenter, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5001 or by email to
publiccomments@nccommunitycolleges.edu. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC25-043

Email Copy
Attachment



State Board of Community Colleges Code

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Form

Date: May 20, 2025

Title, Chapter, Subchapter, and Rule Number of Rule Proposed to be Adopted, Amended, or Repealed	Amend 1B SBCCC 200.3 – Establishing Multi-Campus Centers
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Specify whether the SBCC proposes to amend, adopt, or repeal a rule:

Adopt
(new rule)

Amend
(change existing rule)

Repeal
(delete entire rule)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Rationale for proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal:	Recent North Carolina legislation allows community colleges to use accreditors other than SACSCOC. Updating the State Board Code ensures legal compliance, clarifies accreditor selection, maintains accountability and federal funding access, and reduces the multi-campus mileage requirement from 10 to 4 miles.
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Proposed Effective Date of Rule	August 1, 2025
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1B SBCCC 200.3 is proposed for amendment as follows:

**State Board of Community Colleges Code
TITLE 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

CHAPTER B. COLLEGE OPERATIONS



**SUBCHAPTER 200. ESTABLISHING AND CLOSING COLLEGES
AND COLLEGE SITES**

1B SBCCC 200.3 Establishing Multi-Campus Centers

- (a) Definition. A multi-campus center ("MCC") is a convenience location in the community college service area to provide appropriate population and geographic access for community outreach, testing, faculty and staff offices, as well as literacy, continuing education, and curriculum instruction. Students may complete certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees at MCC locations. Comprehensive instructional support functions including, but not limited to libraries and student development services, are parts of the operation. An MCC must provide students the opportunity to complete at least one associate degree at the MCC.
- (b) Purpose. The purpose of the SBCC's policy on MCCs is to help ensure that appropriate geographic access to community college programs and services is provided to students while minimizing the unnecessary duplication and proliferation of facilities and while minimizing the negative impact on existing community college campuses and centers.
- (c) Establishment and Maintenance. To establish and maintain an MCC designation, colleges must satisfy all of the following criteria:
- (1) The MCC is established in a location that provides geographic access to community college programs and services in a location within the college service area that is at least ~~ten (10)~~four (4) miles from the main campus or other MCC locations or the college must provide evidence that the MCC is established in a location where the main campus or other MCC locations cannot adequately provide community college programs and services. This provision only applies to MCCs established after the effective date of this rule.

- (2) Colleges shall provide programs and services based on evidence of student demand and needs.
- (3) Colleges shall obtain prior approval and maintain approval of the MCC from ~~the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)~~ its institutional accrediting agency. Programs and services provided through MCCs shall comply with ~~The Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement of SACSCOC~~ the standards and principles of its institutional accrediting agency.
- (4) County government provides support for maintenance and operation of the MCC physical plant.
- (5) The college has developed an instructional program and services plan including, but not limited to a description of programs, staffing, and instructional support functions.
- (6) The SBCC determines that the MCC is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on institutions contiguous to the MCC. The college shall consult with community college institutions contiguous to the MCC, and the community college institutions that are contiguous to the MCC may provide evidence that the MCC has or is likely to have a significant negative impact on college or program specific enrollment.
- (7) Students enrolled at an MCC must be able to complete at least one associate degree at the MCC.
- (8) Evidence that the duplication of instructional support and other cost expenses are justifiable from cost effectiveness and quality of support services perspectives.
- (9) The MCC must enroll a minimum of 300 (curriculum, occupational extension, or basic skills) budget FTE via traditional, blended, or hybrid instruction originating from and delivered at that MCC location. If an MCC drops below the minimum budget FTE (Level 1 MCC minimum is 300 and Level 2 MCC minimum is 1,201), the System Office will provide the college president with a written notification that this drop occurred after that year's budget allocations are approved by the State Board. If the MCC's budget FTE remains below the minimum in the subsequent fiscal year, for a Level 1 MCC, the budget allocation for that MCC will be reduced

by fifty percent (50%), and for a Level 2 MCC, the budget allocation will be reduced by 50% of the difference between Level 2 and Level 1 funding. If a Level 2 MCC's budget FTE continues to remain below the minimum in the third fiscal year, the MCC will be recategorized as a Level 1 MCC and its budget allocation will be decreased to the Level 1 funding. If a Level 1 MCC's budget FTE continues to remain below the minimum in the third fiscal year, the MCC will no longer be designated as an MCC, and its budget allocation will be eliminated. A college must follow the MCC approval process to re-establish an MCC in any future year.

(10) The physical facility or facilities for the MCC must either be owned or leased on a long-term basis by the college.

(d) The College of The Albemarle Dare County Campus and Gaston College Kimbrell Campus and Textile Technology Center MCCs established by the General Assembly are exempted from 1B SBCCC 200.3(c)(9).

(e) Colleges shall comply with the following steps to obtain approval for MCC designation.

(1) Step 1 – Initial State Board Review and Recommendation. Community colleges seeking a MCC designation must submit their application to the State Board of Community Colleges ("State Board") for approval by September 15th of each year. Community colleges' applications shall include information responding to the criteria specified in 1B SBCCC 200.3(c)(1) - (c)(10).

(A) If a community college meets all of the criteria specified in 1B SBCCC 200.3(c), then the State Board shall recommend approval of the MCC designation.

(B) If a community college does not meet all of the criteria specified in 1B SBCCC 200.3(c)(1) – (c)(10), but provides evidence of being able to meet all of the criteria by the enactment of the budget for that fiscal year, the State Board shall recommend conditional approval. The State Board's recommendation for conditional approval shall specify the criteria in 1B SBCCC 200.3(c)(1) – (c)(10) the college must satisfy to receive final State Board approval that is contingent upon the General Assembly appropriating funds.

(2) Step 2 - Appropriation of Funds by the General Assembly. If the State Board recommends the MCC for approval or for conditional approval, the System Office shall include the State Board's recommendation in the budget request provided

to the Office of State Budget and Management and to the General Assembly. If the General Assembly appropriates funds for the MCC, the State Board's recommendation moves to Step 3. If the General Assembly does not appropriate funds, the college shall annually certify in writing to the System Office by September 15th that there are no changes in the MCC application, and the System Office shall resubmit the college's MCC request as a part of the annual budget process in subsequent years, unless the college withdraws its request.

- (3) Step 3 - State Board Approval. If the General Assembly appropriates recurring funds to support the MCC consistent with the existing funding formula and if the college satisfies any conditions specified by the State Board by the enactment of the budget for that fiscal year, the State Board shall approve the MCC designation. If the State Board approves the MCC designation, the State Board shall allocate recurring funds to the college for the newly approved MCC.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. [May 1, 2019](#).

Amended Eff. _____; [October 1, 2019](#).