

NUMBERED MEMO CC26-016

TO: Presidents  
Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Dr. Jeff A. Cox, NCCCS President

SUBJECT: New Curriculum Prefix - Workforce Sector Funding

DATE: March 27, 2026

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The State Board of Community Colleges has approved the assignment of the following new curriculum prefix to the North Carolina Community College System Workforce Sector Funding Formula:

**New Prefix Sector Funding:  
Sector 1 Engineering/Adv Manufacturing (Tier 1a) - MEM (Microelectronics Manufacturing)**

A summary of the new curriculum prefix is attached for your convenience. You may view all the course prefixes by visiting the Academic Programs website at:

[North Carolina Community Colleges Combined Course Library \(CCL\)](#)

If you have any questions concerning the curriculum standard revisions and sector funding assignment, please contact Dr. Lisa Eads at [eadsl@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:eadsl@nccommunitycolleges.edu).

JAC/le/ao

Cc:

Dr. Brian S. Merritt  
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Ms. Ariel O'Quinn  
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Ms. Reyna Rodriguez

State Directors

Email Attachment(s)

## New Curriculum Prefix - Sector Funding Formula Approval

**Action:** The State Board of Community Colleges has assigned the following new curriculum prefix to the North Carolina Community College System Workforce Sectors Funding Model:

### **Sector 1 Engineering/Adv Manufacturing (Tier 1a)** **MEM – Microelectronics Manufacturing**

**Rationale:** The new MEM curriculum prefix represents a specialized area within the field of Microelectronics Manufacturing, which would be recognized as Engineering/Adv Manufacturing Sector due to its direct alignment with industry workforce needs, high wage potential, and documented skills gaps. The MEM pathway collaborates with existing electrical, electromechanical, mechatronics, microelectronics, and electronics programs; however, it allows students to specialize specifically in microelectronics manufacturing, an area that has begun to have a profound impact on the industry in North Carolina.

**Sector 1 (Tier 1a):** Curriculum courses in health care and technical education aligned to priority occupations that have documented skills gaps and pay higher wages.

### **Background:**

On October 20, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges approved a modernized funding and accountability model that aligns community college investments with workforce demand, student success, and North Carolina’s economic priorities.

The newly approved funding model replaces the previous four-tiered funding framework with a sector-based model that organizes curriculum and workforce continuing education programs into priority workforce sectors. Funding is no longer driven solely by enrollment (FTE), but also reflects student progression, credential attainment, and alignment to high-demand, high-wage careers.

Prefixes within programs are assigned to sectors based on their connection to priority industries, with funding weights designed to incentivize growth in critical workforce areas.

Priority sectors include:

- Healthcare I
- Healthcare II
- Engineering/Adv Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Public Safety/First Responders
- Trades and Transportation
- Business and Management
- Agriculture Natural Resources I
- Agriculture Natural Resources II
- Personal Services I
- Personal Services II
- Digital and Visual Media I
- Digital and Visual Media II
- Professional Development I
- Professional Development II
- Math and Science I
- Math and Science II
- Developmental
- Customized Industrial Training
- Apprenticeship
- Arts, Humanities, and Languages
- Non-Budget FTE Training Programs
- Basic Skills

This sector-based approach strengthens alignment between education, workforce needs, and economic development across the state.