

NUMBERED MEMO CC26-039

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 1D SBCCC 400.6 – Curriculum Program Approvals and Terminations

DATE: July 21, 2026

On July 17, 2026, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) initiated the rulemaking process to amend **1D SBCCC 400.6 – Curriculum Program Approvals and Terminations**. The proposed amendment would enable priority updates that streamline college processes, modernize degree competencies, and make technical revisions to improve clarity and consistency. It also permits the required certification statement for proprietary or private nonprofit organizations to be completed using either physical or electronic signatures. The proposed amendment is published on the NC Community College System's website, [Numbered Memos - NCCCS \(ncccommunitycolleges.edu\)](https://ncccommunitycolleges.edu/NumberedMemos-NCCCS). For your convenience, a copy of the proposed rule, with the adopted language 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 August 20, 2026.** 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 August 5, 2026.**

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.

CC26-039

Email Copy
Attachment



State Board of Community Colleges Code

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Form

Date: July 21, 2026

Title, Chapter, Subchapter, and Rule Number of Rule Proposed to be Adopted, Amended, or Repealed	Amendment of 1D SBCCC 400.6 – Curriculum Program Approvals and Terminations
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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)

	X	
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Rationale for proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal:	The proposed amendment would enable priority updates that streamline college processes, modernize degree competencies, and make technical revisions to improve clarity and consistency.
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Proposed Effective Date of Rule	October 1, 2026
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State Board of Community Colleges Code
TITLE 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES



CHAPTER D. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SUBCHAPTER 400. CURRICULUM

1D SBCCC 400.6 Curriculum Program Approvals and Terminations

(a) Curriculum Program Approvals. Community colleges shall issue degrees, diplomas, and certificates to individuals who satisfactorily complete course and program requirements.

(1) The approval of a college to award the associate degree, diploma, or certificate shall be by individual curriculum program title. The State Board shall grant a college the approval to award the associate in applied science degree, diploma, or certificate when the college has provided the following:

(A) Evidence that the program will provide graduates with opportunities for employment;

(B) Local board of trustees' ~~signed~~ certification of the following:

(i) The program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina;

(ii) The program will provide educational and training opportunities consistent with the mission of the college, and will not unnecessarily duplicate the opportunities currently offered;

(iii) The college has assessed the need for the program and the resources required to maintain a viable program;

(iv) The college can operate the program efficiently and effectively within the resources available to the college;

(v) Additional attestations may be required as part of individual program applications (e.g., Residency Licensure certificates)

(C) Program of study which is in compliance with the curriculum standard of the proposed program;

(D) Local Board of Trustee meeting minutes documenting discussion and

1 approval of addition of the program;

2 ~~(E) Notification to all colleges of intent to apply for the program;~~

3 ~~(EF) Impact assessment of program addition;~~

4 ~~(EG) Resolution of any negative impact assessments from colleges approved~~
5 ~~to offer the same or similar programs in a contiguous service area or any~~
6 ~~colleges with the same or similar programs which contain a clinical site;~~

7 ~~(GH) The application signed approved by the college president and verifying~~
8 ~~the approval of the chairman of the college's board of trustees upon~~
9 ~~authority of the full board of trustees;.~~

10 ~~(H) The President of the North Carolina Community College System shall~~
11 ~~recommend action on the college's curriculum program application to the~~
12 ~~State Board of Community Colleges.~~

13 ~~(2) The State Board shall grant a college the approval to award the Associate in~~
14 ~~Engineering program when a college has provided the following:~~

15 ~~(A) Local Board of Trustees' signed certification that:~~

16 ~~(i) The program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina;~~

17 ~~(ii) The program will provide educational and training opportunities~~
18 ~~consistent with the mission of the college;~~

19 ~~(iii) The college has assessed the need for the program and the~~
20 ~~facilities and resources required to maintain a viable program~~
21 ~~and can operate the program efficiently and effectively within~~
22 ~~the resources available to the college;~~

23 ~~(iv) The college has evidence of sufficient student demand to offer~~
24 ~~the program; and~~

25 ~~(v) The college will provide master's credentialed faculty for each~~
26 ~~course provided under the Associate in Engineering degree.~~

27 ~~(B) Program of study which is in compliance with the Associate in~~
28 ~~Engineering curriculum standard.~~

29 ~~(C) Local Board of Trustee meeting minutes documenting discussion and~~
30 ~~approval of addition of the Associate in Engineering degree.~~

1 (2) Colleges shall obtain approval from the President of the North Carolina
2 Community College System to offer transfer programs, Associate in General
3 Education and Associate in General Education Nursing programs, Health
4 Science: therapeutic and diagnostic services program majors, and general
5 occupational technology curriculum programs upon submission of the
6 following:

7 (A) Approved certification from the local Board of Trustees affirming that:

8 (i) the program supports North Carolina workforce needs;

9 (ii) the program aligns with the mission of the college;

10 (iii) the college has assessed program need and has the facilities
11 and resources to operate the program effectively;

12 (iv) there is sufficient student demand; and

13 (v) appropriately credentialed faculty are available to support
14 program delivery.

15 (B) A program of study that complies with the applicable curriculum
16 standard.

17 (C) Local Board of Trustees meeting minutes documenting discussion and
18 approval of the program.

19 ~~(3) Colleges shall obtain approval from the President of the North Carolina~~
20 ~~Community College System to add an associate in arts, associate in science,~~
21 ~~and associate in fine arts degrees, associate in general education, associate~~
22 ~~in general education nursing, health science: therapeutic and diagnostic~~
23 ~~services program majors, and the general occupational technology curriculum~~
24 ~~programs.~~

25 (34) The State Board delegates to the President of the North Carolina
26 Community College System the authority to grant a college the approval to
27 award the associate degree, diploma, or certificate for program titles that
28 have been approved for this delegation by the State Board of Community
29 Colleges based upon a widespread immediate need for the job training and
30 minimal impact upon other colleges.

1 ~~(5) The State Board delegates to the President of the North Carolina Community~~
2 ~~College System the authority to grant a college the approval to award a~~
3 ~~curriculum program which is classified as a concentration if the applying~~
4 ~~college already has approval to offer the parent program.~~

5 (b) Curriculum Program Terminations. The college shall terminate a curriculum
6 program when there has been no enrollment for two consecutive years. A college
7 may request a one or more ~~one year~~ one year extension of a curriculum program
8 upon justification of the potential for employment opportunities and student
9 enrollment. Each college planning to terminate a curriculum program shall inform
10 the President of the North Carolina Community College System by submitting a
11 termination notice. The President of the North Carolina Community College System
12 shall have the program removed from the college's program approval list. Program
13 terminations shall be reported to the State Board of Community Colleges a minimum
14 of twice a year. The North Carolina Community College System will provide
15 enrollment data to each college for low enrollment and no enrollment curriculum
16 programs on an annual basis. The Board of Trustees and the president at each
17 college will determine whether to terminate a no or low enrollment program, and, if
18 so, will notify the President of the North Carolina Community College System. In all
19 cases of curriculum program termination, the State Board, the President of the North
20 Carolina Community College System, and the college(s) terminating the program
21 must adhere to the teach-out policy of the college's institutional accrediting body.

22 (c) Program Reactivations. A college may request to the System Office President or
23 designee to reactivate a terminated program in alignment with the requirement of
24 their institutional accrediting agency.

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26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-6.1; 115D-20(6); S.L. 1995, c. 625;*

27 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

28 *Readopted January 5, 1978;*

29 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1993; January 1, 1988; August 17, 1981;*
30 *July 1, 1979;*

31 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 1997;*

1 *Amended Eff.* _____; [August 1 ,2025](#); [November 1, 2017](#);
2 *August 1, 2004*; *July 1, 1998*.

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