

## NARRATIVE TEMPLATE for a (noncredit) Certificate of Competency or a Certificate of Completion

### Please adhere to the following format conventions:

- Use the heading (item) and numbering convention (for example: Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives).
- Ensure the description provided under each item is removed from the narrative prior to submission.
- Note: Only items #1-4 are required for noncredit certificate proposals.

### Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

Identify the goals and objectives of the program. The stated goals and objectives of the program must be consistent with the mission of the community colleges as established by the Legislature in Education Code section 66010.4. Often, colleges will include the program level Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in this section that identify the program's goals and objectives.

Based upon the program goals, objectives appropriate to these goals, and program design consistent with these objectives, the determination is made as to whether the proposed program is appropriate to the mission of the local college and community college system. For example, a program must be directed at the appropriate level for community colleges—that is, it must not be directed at a level beyond the certificate or the first two years of college. Similarly, a program must address a valid transfer, occupational, basic skills, civic education, or lifelong learning purpose. The program may not be primarily avocational or recreational. The statement of goals and objectives serves to define the degree over time and is one of the major factors in determining whether future changes to the degree are considered substantial or nonsubstantial for Chancellor's Office review purposes.

For programs designed for the student not intending to transfer, community colleges may develop degree majors or areas of emphasis that meet community needs and reflect the educational philosophy of the faculty in a discipline or disciplines. The required courses may not be aligned with requirements for transfer, but they may represent a cohesive package of courses in an area of study. If the certificate program goal selected is "**Other – Designed to Meet Community Needs,**" then the statement must, at a minimum, explain in detail how the degree was designed to meet community needs in accordance with the community college mission. Describe how the degree embodies a pattern of learning experiences that are focused on specific capabilities or knowledge areas.

Student Selection and Fees: **If the program is selective,** describe relevant entry criteria, the selection process for admission to the program, and compliance with provisions of Title 5, sections 55201 and 58106. Similarly, **specify all mandatory fees** (for materials, insurance, travel, and/or

uniforms) that students will incur, for the program as a whole or any of its constituent courses, aside from the ordinary course enrollment fee prescribed in Education Code section 76300.

## **Item 2. Catalog Description**

The catalog description must be entered exactly as it will appear in the college catalog. The description must also:

- Convey the certificate's goal(s) and objectives; suggest how they differ from the goals and objectives of other programs
- Provide an overview of the knowledge and skills that students who complete the requirements must demonstrate (student learning outcomes)
- List all prerequisite skills or enrollment limitations
- Suggest some caveats that students must be aware of where job market data or other factors are documented in the proposal. These warnings must be as clearly conveyed in the catalog description as possible. The catalog description needs to mention any risks, such as occupations that are inherently competitive or low-salaried and/or occupational areas where inexperienced graduates are not generally hired.
- If applicable, reference accrediting and/or licensing standards including an explanation of any departures from the standards. In some occupations, while there is no legal requirement for a license to practice, there is a widely recognized certification provided by a professional association. For example, the American Massage Therapy Association certifies massage therapists; the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors certify counselors in that field. In these cases, the Chancellor's Office expects that the description will specify whether the program will fully prepare completers for the recognized professional certification.

The description must also convey what students may expect as an outcome. The catalog description represents a commitment to the student. Exaggerated statements must not be included. For a program designed with scaffolds among program awards, ensure the catalog description describes but does not overstate this relationship. Assertions of transfer applicability as well as career applicability must be reasonable and capable of being documented.

## **Item 3. Program Requirements**

The program requirements must be consistent with the catalog description (as entered in Item 2 above). The number of units, specific course requirements and design of individual courses, and the sequence of the courses must be coherent, complete, and appropriate, given the program objectives and the resources with which the college has to work. The Chancellor's Office will rely heavily on the educational judgment of local faculty within the discipline and curriculum committees in regard to the appropriateness of program requirements.

**Display the program requirements in a table format** that includes all courses required for completion of the program (core requirements and required or restricted electives), subtotal of

core units, and total program units. For each course, indicate the course department number, course title, and unit value.

**Course Sequence** – ensure the program requirements demonstrate how the required courses must be completed in sequence by term (semester or quarter), including prerequisite courses if applicable. The program requirements table may include the course sequence (as shown in the sample below) or the course sequence may be shown separate from the program requirements table, so long as both are addressed in item three of the narrative.

A **sample** table format (with program requirements and course sequence combined) is shown below (for illustration purposes only):

Certificate of Competency: Language Development

Requirements	Dept. Name/#	Name	Units	Sequence
Required Core (3 units)	ADMJ 50	Introduction to Language Development	3	Yr 1, Fall
Two Electives (6 units)	ADJ 40	Group Dynamics	3	Yr 1/2, Fall
	ADJ 55	Conversation	3	Yr 2, Spring
	ADJ 61	Formal Settings	3	Yr 1, Summer
	ADJ 63	Motivational Speaking	3	Yr 1, Fall/Spring
	ADJ 70	Nonverbal Communication	3	Yr 2, Fall/Spring

Required Core Total: 3 units  
 TOTAL UNITS: 9 units

Proposed Sequence:  
 Year 1, Fall = 3 units  
 Year 1, Spring = 6 units

*Or*

Year 1, Fall = 3 units  
 Year 1, Spring = 3 units  
 Year 1, Summer = 3 units  
 TOTAL UNITS: 9 units

**Item 4. Master Planning**

Given the stated goals and objectives, this discussion addresses the role the proposed program will fulfill in the college’s mission and curriculum offerings, the placement of the proposed program in the district master plan, and how the program is appropriate to the objectives and conditions of higher education and community college education in California by confirming to statewide master planning (pursuant to Title 5 sections 55130(b)(6) and 55130(b)(7)).

This discussion may include some history of the program proposal origins, a description of the program purpose, and/or the program's relevancy for the region and college including related community support.

The proposal must demonstrate a need for the program that meets the stated goals and objectives in the region the college proposes to serve with the degree. Furthermore, a proposed new degree must not cause undue competition with an existing program at another college. Need is determined by multiple factors, including the master plan of the college or district and accreditation standards. Finally, if the selected program goal is "Other – Designed to meet local community needs," then a description of the community or other need leading to the program development is required.

It is not necessary to repeat information covered elsewhere in the proposal, as long as the proposal includes a cross-reference to a page number or section number. If reference is made to appended meeting minutes, then corresponding section(s) in the minutes must be highlighted in the attachment.