

California Education Code on California Community College Mission

66010.4. The missions and functions of California's public and independent segments, and their respective institutions of higher education shall be differentiated as follows:

(a) (1) The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school. Public community colleges shall offer instruction through but not beyond the second year of college. These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.

(2) In addition to the primary mission of academic and vocational instruction, the community colleges shall offer instruction and courses to achieve all of the following:

(A) The provision of remedial instruction for those in need of it and, in conjunction with the school districts, instruction in English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level are reaffirmed and supported as essential and important functions of the community colleges.

(B) The provision of adult noncredit education curricula in areas defined as being in the state's interest is an essential and important function of the community colleges.

(C) The provision of community services courses and programs is an authorized function of the community colleges so long as their provision is compatible with an institution's ability to meet its obligations in its primary missions.

(3) A primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement.

(4) The community colleges may conduct to the extent that state funding is provided, institutional research concerning student learning and retention as is needed to facilitate their educational missions.

(b) The California State University shall offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education.

Presently established two-year programs in agriculture are authorized, but other two-year programs shall be permitted only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. The doctoral degree may be awarded jointly with the University of California, as provided in subdivision (c) and pursuant to Section 66904. The doctoral degree may also be awarded jointly with one or more independent institutions of higher education, provided that the proposed doctoral program is approved by the California Postsecondary Education Commission. Research, scholarship, and creative activity in support of its undergraduate and graduate instructional mission is authorized in the California State University and shall be supported by the state. The primary mission of the California State University is undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree.

(c) The University of California may provide undergraduate and graduate instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and in the professions, including the teaching professions. It shall have exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over instruction in the profession of law and over graduate instruction in the professions of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. It has the sole authority in public higher education to award the doctoral degree in all fields of learning, except that it may agree with the California State University to award joint doctoral degrees in selected fields. The University of California shall be the primary state-supported academic agency for research.

(d) The independent institutions of higher education shall provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions.

88500. The mission of the economic and workforce development program, subject to approval and amendment by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(a) To advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through high quality education and services focusing on continuous workforce improvement, technology deployment, and business development, consistent with the current needs of the state's regional economies.

(b) To maximize and leverage the resources of the California Community Colleges to fulfill its role as the primary provider in fulfilling the vocational education and training needs of California business and industry.

(c) To work with representatives of business, labor, and professional trade associations to explore and develop new alternatives for assisting incumbent workers. A key objective is to enable incumbent workers to become more competitive in their region's labor market, increase competency, and identify career paths to economic self-sufficiency and lifelong access to good-paying jobs. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, career ladder approaches.

(d) To collaborate with other state and local agencies, including partners under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220), and the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency, to deliver services that meet statewide and regional workforce, business development, technology transfer, and trade needs that attract, retain, and expand businesses.

(e) To develop local economic development agencies, the private sector, and labor and community groups, innovative solutions, as needed, in identified strategic priority areas, including, but not necessarily limited to, advanced transportation, biotechnology, small business, applied competitive technologies, including computer integrated manufacturing, production and continuous quality improvement, business and workforce improvement, environmental technologies, health care delivery, multimedia/entertainment, international trade, and workplace literacy. Strategic priority areas that may be explored if new or additional funding becomes available may include information technology, e-commerce and e-trade, and nanotechnology.

(f) To identify, acquire, and leverage community college and other vocational training resources when possible, to support local, regional, and statewide economic development.

(g) To create effective logistical, technical, and marketing infrastructure support for economic development activities within the California Community Colleges.

(h) To optimize access to community colleges' economic development services.

(i) To develop strategic public and private sector partnerships.

(j) To assist communities experiencing military base downsizing and closure.