Questions and Answers  
Community Forum  
Noncredit Only

The non-credit program at Cabrillo College (designed specifically for music) may be found in the College Catalog. Non-credit courses are noted as 500 courses. Additional non-credit courses may be developed based on need and state legislation. Please note: 500 courses provide free access to community members who want to participate in ensemble opportunities. These courses are not for credit but allow community members to participate in performance based learning.

1. Why is non-credit instruction part of the concern for community learners?
   Answer: There are two types of classes that the state funds (in the form of apportionment) for our college. The first funding comes from credit courses and we receive full apportionment for students who take credit classes. The second funding comes from non-credit courses which provide a little more than 50% of what we receive for credit courses (less funding than credit). The state is discussing the fundable non-credit courses it feels should be included for apportionment. There is consideration that those courses considered ‘avocational’ (such as the 500 classes developed for music ensembles) may not be funded in the future. This is merely a discussion at the state level right now, but it would be helpful if we could advocate to our state representatives that non-credit funding for avocational courses not be touched with new legislation.

2. Do Special Studies classes still exist?
   Answer: Yes, they do. The state has limited those to three times (a student can take it three times) within a discipline.

3. What is the connection between the conversation about adult education going to the community colleges and this avocational learning you are talking about here in the forum?
   Answer: The governor had asked for legislation that would have the current adult ed programs (aligned now with K-12) housed within the community college system. That legislation did not occur. However, Cabrillo (along with the adult education representatives in the county) has submitted an application for upcoming funding that would allow our county to ‘plan’ how we want to serve the adult population in the future. Nothing is set in stone here, nor have any decisions been made but we are following closely some of the indications of non-credit funding coming out of the state at this time. What we ‘hear’ is noted in the power-point presentation attached to this site. Of the nine non-credit areas funded in Title 5 only ESL, Vocational Training, Citizenship and Basic Skills would be continued for funding. This is only what we are hearing – there is no legislation at this time being considered to defund avocational courses. Please ask your county adult education programs what courses are currently available through their programs.
4. Why do you consider advocacy for non-credit a good thing for the community to follow up with at this time?
   **Answer:** Because this topic is still under consideration the timing is good to ask that non-credit avocational courses not be de-funded. This can be done through an email or letter to your local representative.

5. What other colleges are struggling with this issue?
   **Answer:** Different local colleges are responding with a variety of solutions. Santa Barbara City College has developed a Center for Lifelong Learning that is providing quality extension (fee-based) courses to meet the needs of its community. Cabrillo is currently developing community education/extension courses in anticipation of impacts caused by limitations on repeatability and pending non-credit legislation. We are working with the faculty and community on providing classes in a manner that meets the new Title 5 mandates but keeps quality instruction at affordable prices.