



Reference: *Education Code Sections 66700 and 70901 et seq.;*  
*Title 5 Sections 55002.5, 55200 et seq. and 55260 et seq.;*  
*34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 602.17 (U.S. Department of*  
*Education regulations on the Integrity of Federal Student Financial Aid*  
*Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as*  
*amended);*  
*Accreditation Standard II.A.1*

Consistent with federal regulations pertaining to federal financial aid eligibility, the District must authenticate or verify that the student who registers in distance education or correspondence education courses is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the academic credit. The District will provide to each student at the time of registration, a statement of the process in place to protect student privacy and estimated additional student charges associated with verification of student identity, if any.

The college Chief Instructional Officer (CIO) shall utilize one or more of these methods to authenticate or verify the student's identity:

- Secure credentialing/login and password;
- Proctored examinations; or
- New or other technologies and practices that are effective in verifying student identification.

The college CIO shall establish practices for providing a statement of the process in place to protect student privacy to each student at the time of registration.

### Definitions

- **Distance Education:** Distance education means education that uses one or more of the technologies listed below to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor(s) and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and instructor(s) either synchronously or asynchronously. Technologies that may be used to offer distance education include: (1) the internet; (2) one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices; (3) audio conference; (4) other media used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in this definition. Distance education does not include correspondence courses.
- **Correspondence Education:** Correspondence Education means education provided through one or more courses by a community college or district under which the college or district provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission,

including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor. Interaction between the instructor and student is limited due to separation, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student. Correspondence courses are typically self-paced, although a regular cycle of assignment submissions and delivery of feedback should be established for facilitated learning. If a course is part correspondence and part residential training, it is considered a correspondence course. Correspondence education is not distance education.

- **Course Approval:** The review and approval of new and existing distance education courses shall follow the curriculum approval procedures outlined in Administrative Procedure 4020, Program, Curriculum, and Course Development. Distance education courses shall be approved under the same conditions and criteria as all other courses.
- **Certification:** When approving distance education courses, the college CIO will certify the following:
  - **Course Quality Standards:** The same standards of course quality are applied to the distance and correspondence education courses as are applied to in-person courses.
  - **Course Quality Determinations:** Determinations and judgments about the quality of the distance and correspondence education course were made with the full involvement of the Curriculum Committee approval process.
  - **Regular interaction:** Interaction between a student and instructor(s) is ensured by, prior to the student's completion of a course or competency: (1) providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; and (2) monitoring the student's academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.
  - **Substantive interaction:** Engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following: (1) providing direct instruction, (2) assessing or providing feedback on a student's coursework, (3) providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency, (4) facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency, or (5) other instructional activities approved by the district's or program's accrediting agency.

### Instructor Contact

**Distance Education:** Each section of the course that is delivered through distance education will include regular and substantive interaction between the instructor(s) and

students, as well as among students, as described in the course outline of record, either synchronously or asynchronously, through group or individual meetings, orientation and review sessions, supplemental seminar or study sessions, field trips, library workshops, telephone contact, voice mail, email, or other activities.

Weekly announcements sent to students that detail upcoming assignments or assessments are not considered regular and substantive interaction.

Correspondence Education: Each section of a course conducted through correspondence education will be established through a cycle of assignment submissions and comprehensive, responsive feedback, as determined by the college Vice President of Educational Services or designee. Instructors will be responsible for ensuring that each student will receive ongoing support toward making meaningful academic progress.

Students who participate in correspondence education will have access to student support services, including counseling, library searches, research assistance, and tutoring or other learning support through mail, email, telephone or in-person contact, as determined by the college Vice President of Student Services or designee.

#### Course Outline of Record or Addendum to Course Outline

The course outline of record or an addendum to the official course outline of record for any new or existing course provided through distance or correspondence education must address the following:

- How course outcomes will be achieved in a distance education mode;
- For distance education, how the portion of instruction delivered via distance education meets the requirement for regular and substantive interaction;
- For correspondence education, how the portion of instruction delivered via correspondence education documents and facilitates learning progression through a cycle of assignment submissions and feedback; and
- The course design and all course materials must be accessible to every student, including students with disabilities.

#### Duration of Approval

All distance and correspondence education courses approved under this procedure will continue to be in effect unless there are substantive changes of the course outline.

#### Faculty Selection and Workload

Instructors of course sections delivered through distance or correspondence education are individuals responsible for delivering course content who meet the qualifications for instruction established by the District's accrediting agency. Instructors will be selected using the District or college's same procedures for determining other instructional assignments.

#### Correspondence Education Students

A student is considered to be “enrolled in correspondence courses” if correspondence courses constitute 50 percent or more of the courses in which the student is enrolled during a financial aid award year.

In order for a correspondence education student to be considered a full-time student at the District, at least one-half of the student’s coursework must be made up of non-correspondence coursework that meets one-half of the District’s requirement for full-time students.

#### Conversion of Credit Hours

With regard to the conversion of credit hours, see Administrative Procedure 4020, Program, Curriculum, and Course Development.

2/25/17

Reviewed/Revised: 2/27/24