

Cañada College Academic Senate Resolution

Resolution: Opposition to Community, Continuing and Corporate Education's Offering of Medical Assisting Program

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6.90 *Community Education Classes* authorizes the San Mateo County Community College District to offer not-for-credit community education classes "in subject matter areas that, in content or depth of treatment, are not appropriate for college credit" and "should avoid unnecessary duplication" of credit-bearing courses and programs; and

WHEREAS, the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), in its 2012 *California Community Colleges Guidelines for Community Services Offering*, recommends that community education not-for-credit programs serve as introductory feeders for credit-bearing courses and should only be comparable to a credit-bearing program if the local college determines that a program reaches "different community members who have different goals"; and

WHEREAS, Cañada College offers a 35-unit certificate in Medical Assisting which consists of 576 hours of didactic instruction and 180 hours of internship and advertises that a student can work as a CMA upon completion of said program, and Community, Continuing and Corporate Education (CCCE) office offers a not-for-credit Clinical Medical Assisting (CMA) program which consists of 140 hours of didactic instruction and 160 hours of externship and advertises that a student can work as a CMA upon completion of said program; and

WHEREAS, the competency based outcomes and advertised outcomes of the CMA programs offered by CCCE and Cañada College are the same, namely the ability to obtain work as a Clinical Medical Assistant, and the goal of a student in a CMA program, regardless of the program's credit-bearing status, is to become qualified to work in the profession; and

WHEREAS, there is no state licensing of, or certification requirement for, CMAs that might be used to distinguish training programs, nor is there a requirement by employers that applicants for CMA positions complete only credit-based training programs; and

WHEREAS, the industry-based Advisory Board of Cañada College's CMA program recommends Cañada's approach to training and takes the position that shorter training programs, such as that offered by CCCE, do not provide adequate training except as a refresher or skills remediation for current medical assistants already working in the field; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board states that the college's students will be adversely impacted by CCCE's CMA program due to competition for limited opportunities for placement in clinical internships;

RESOLVED, that the Cañada College Academic Senate assert that the CCCE's CMA program does not meet the requirements of Board Policy 6.90 or CCCCCO recommendations that community education courses be offered in subject matter distinct from credit courses and for students with different goals than those of the college's students; and

RESOLVED, that the Cañada College Academic Senate assert that CCCE's CMA program unnecessarily duplicates the College program and that the college's program may be substantively and negatively impacted in the areas of enrollment and clinical internship placements by the continued offering of the CCCE program; and

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RESOLVED, that the Cañada College Academic Senate strongly urge the College President to rescind the college's approval for CCCE to offer its Clinical Medical Assisting program and to recommend to the Board of Trustees that said program be removed from the CCCE catalog; and

RESOLVED, that the Cañada College Academic Senate recommend that CCCE engage with Cañada's Medical Assisting faculty to identify and design appropriate community education courses that can serve as feeders to the college's credit program and/or to improve skills of medical assisting students and professionals in the local workforce.

Reference Materials:

California Community Colleges Guidelines for Community Services Offering

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/Miscellaneous/CommunitySvcsOfferingGuidelinesFinal10.24.12.pdf>