



SMCCCD Academic Senate

Recommendation for Spring 2021 Course Modalities

**Date:** September 14, 2020

**To:** SMCCCD Board of Trustees

**CC:** Mike Claire, Chancellor, SMCCCD

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Jessica Hurless, Chair, District Curriculum Committee

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**From:** Jeramy Wallace, President, SMCCCD Academic Senate

**Subject:** SMCCCD Academic Senate Recommendation for Spring 2021 Course Modalities

On September 14, 2020 the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) Academic Senate convened to discuss its recommendation for the course modalities for Spring 2021. In light of the uncertainty caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (widely referred to as COVID-19) and the requirements of the San Mateo County Department for health screenings and sanitation for the campuses, the SMCCCD Academic Senate recommends the following to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees:

- I. All Spring 2021 lecture courses be offered in a fully online modality;
- II. The district prioritizes programs in “Essential Infrastructure Sectors” of “Healthcare,” “Emergency Services,” and “Transportation” as well as programs with external licensing requirements:
  - i. **External licensing requirements:** courses that are part of a program with external licensing requirements (other than ACCJC & WASC) which mandate face-to-face, in-person learning (e.g. nursing, dental assisting, fire technology, medical assisting, emergency medical technician, police, automotive, cosmetology, etc.), including, but not limited to:
    1. Nursing (NURS 211, 212, 231, 232, 235, 818)
    2. Radiologic Technology (RADT 408, 410, 435, 438)
    3. Emergency Medical Technician (EMC 410)
    4. Medical Assisting (MEDA 120, 121)
    5. Fire Technology (FIRE 793, 797)
    6. Police Academy (POST) (AJPS 107)
    7. Automotive (AUTO 521/921, 523, 710, 711, 713, 734, 735, 739/839, 751)
    8. Cosmetology (COSM 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 712, 722, 749, 759, 767, 775, 776, 799)

9. Engineering (ENGR 680)
10. Dental Assisting (DENT 721, 740, 763)
11. Respiratory Care (RPTH 410, 460, 490)
12. Surgical Technology (SURG 451)
13. Anesthesiology (ANST 430)

ii. **Healthcare-related labs:** science labs that support the essential healthcare disciplines (e.g. nursing) can be offered face-to-face per State and County guidelines. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Microbiology (BIOL 240)
2. Chemistry (CHEM 220)
3. Organic Chemistry (CHEM 231, 232, 237, 238)
4. Biotechnology (BTES 150)
5. Human Anatomy (BIOL 250)

- III. Considerations be made by administration for students and faculty who are in at-risk groups or who care for individuals in at-risk groups, so that these individuals do not need to choose between work/school and safety;
- IV. Because course modality is a component of course curriculum development, the faculty of the departments listed above should meet to determine the modalities for their courses and ensure that these considerations are reflected in the courses' distance education addenda (e.g. hybrid vs. fully online);
- V. Class sizes be significantly reduced for online courses since the majority of the district's professoriate will be new to online teaching and learning and for in-person courses in order to comply with social distancing and other safety precautions;
- VI. Administration work with faculty to immediately convert appropriate courses, as described above, to an online and/or hybrid modality, so the District can include this information in WebSchedule and so the faculty can start making preparations for the Spring 2021 semester;
- VII. Per Title V, §55206, all courses offered in the spring in an online or hybrid modality must have a Distance Education Addendum. Any class that does not have a DE addendum, including the above hybrid programs and labs, cannot be offered in Spring 2021.

The health and safety of the District's faculty, staff, administrators, and students is of the utmost importance, and until there exists a safe, widely available vaccine, it will be unsafe to open the campuses to their full capacity (as evidenced by the opening and immediate closure of colleges and universities across the country).

The District Academic Senate has been closely engaged in conversations with the District, local administration, and members of the faculty on the above recommendations and in developing guidance documents, policies, and trainings to meet these unprecedented challenges. Indeed, it is shared governance - the collaborative decision-making by the administration, the academic senates, the classified senates, and the student senates – that will help the District continue to navigate these troubled times. In the spirit of collegial consultation, the District Academic Senate asks the SMCCCD Board of Trustees and Chancellor Claire to adopt the above recommendations.