

**BOARD POLICY
San Mateo County Community College District**

Subject: 6.26 Transfer of Credit and Graduation and/or Certificate Program Requirements for Students Who Transfer among the District's Colleges

Revision Date: 9/08; 4/15

1. Students may transfer from one College within the District to another without penalty, although differences in curriculum offerings among the Colleges may exist.
2. Individual courses students have taken at a particular College within the District that satisfy an area in the general education pattern, elective, statutory, and specific area requirements at one District College shall be accepted by the other District Colleges as satisfying those same requirements.
3. Students who have completed an entire General Education pattern, electives, residency, competency, statutory and specific area requirements, at one District College shall be determined to have completely fulfilled all area requirements for graduation or certificate programs at any of the District Colleges. Upon transferring to another District College, students shall be required to complete only those courses applicable toward their major for the Associate Degree or Certificate Program.
4. District students who transfer to another College within the District shall receive full transfer credit for instruction completed in their major field but, in order to graduate with a locally-awarded AA or AS degree, they shall be expected to meet the major-field graduation requirements established by the College to which they have transferred. The local major-field graduation requirements do not apply to Associate Degrees for Transfer.
5. Students who have taken course work at more than one of the District's Colleges shall ordinarily be recommended for graduation by the College in which they have taken the majority of their course work. Students who have completed the majority of their course work at a college outside the District must complete a minimum of twelve (12) units or a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the total units required (whichever is less) for the major at one or more the District Colleges in order to be recommended for graduation with the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degree or completion of a Certificate Program. The 50% requirement does not apply to Associate Degrees for Transfer.

Summary of the proposed revision to our catalog, loosely based on Board Policy 6.26.
Curriculum meeting 4/28/23

The question at issue:

Should Cañada revise the "50% rule" such that for the local degree, students will need to take the majority of the units for the major, or 12 units, whichever is fewer, **in the district** rather than, as currently specified in our catalog, at Cañada?

- Board policy 6.26 section 5, attached, says that students transferring into the district from elsewhere may take their major courses at any of the three colleges, but it doesn't specify where non-transferred-in students need take theirs.
- We empathize with students who took courses without noting the specific campus (easy to do if registering for online courses online and without a counselor) and, upon applying to graduate, discover that they didn't take the majority-or-12 required units for the major at the college where they want to earn their degree.
- Madeline Weist (Transcript Evaluation Services) says that this is a common problem. Deans and counselors have also reported excessive requests for course substitutions as a consequence of the majority-or-12-units at one college stipulation.
- This rule only applies to the local degree. AD-Ts (associate degrees for transfer) already allow courses to be taken at any of the three colleges.
- CSM has voted to approve this change, effective 2023-24, and it will be coming up at SKY's curriculum meeting next week.
- If SKY and CSM both agree to this policy revision, and CAÑ does not, students could choose to get their degrees at SKY or CSM where the policy is more flexible.

- On the other hand, if we make this change, it's possible that fewer students will earn Cañada degrees because they can now choose CSM or SKY instead, regardless of where they did the majority of their major coursework.
- We are requesting data on how many students earn local degrees and would be impacted by this.
- We are also requesting data on articulation discrepancies (some of our courses don't articulate the same) to understand how this policy might create challenges for students who later realize the courses they took at X campus don't transfer as they had expected.
- Good to know: Title 5 requires students to meet a 12-unit residency requirement, meaning they have to have taken 12 units (any units) at the college where they earn their degree, so adopting the district-wide policy would not mean creating an essentially district degree.