

Music Association of California Community Colleges (MACCC)

Position on Repeatability of Music Courses

Purpose:

Recognizing that the attainment of musical skill is a life-long endeavor and that the maintenance of such skill requires continuous practice and participation in musical activities;

And

That the socio-economic status of many California Community College students is such that CCC students have little access to private lessons or other skill building activities such as advanced level ensembles prior to reaching college, resulting in a longer time span necessary to acquire the musical skills required by transfer institutions and demanded in the workplace;

And

That transfer institutions such as the California State University and the University of California maintain high expectations and standards for the performing ability of incoming music transfer students;

And

That AB1725 requires that students must be offered a “comparable” experience at a community college and transfer institutions such as the CSU and the UC allow unlimited repeatability of performance courses;

And

That the high number of lower-division courses required for the music major (as established by baccalaureate granting institutions) often results in CCC students spending considerably more than two years completing both the major courses and general education requirements;

And

That a high percentage of CCC students work in order to pay for their education and attend college part-time, extending their community college career beyond the two-year model;

And

That the inclusion of experienced, skilled musicians greatly enhances the quality of a performing ensemble, which means repeating students are an essential part of the learning environment in any ensemble;

And

That music students repeating an ensemble or music skills course should be officially enrolled and counted toward apportionment to improve the financial health of the institution, to allow such courses to meet minimum enrollment targets, and to show more accurately the number of students participating in and benefiting from CCC music programs;

Therefore, the Music Association of California Community Colleges seeks to identify and strengthen current processes that allow extended repeatability for skill building and ensemble music courses and to encourage legislation that further guarantees such repeatability.

Interpretation of Current Regulations:

The “Course Repetition Update” memo of June 8, 1992 written by Rita Cepeda, Vice Chancellor of Transfer and General Education for the California Community Colleges states that the Chancellor’s office will allow re-enrollment for apportionment for “all activity course[s]” for “no more than three semesters or five quarters per subject matter (as previously applied) or **per course** (irrespective of the number of repeats in other courses within a common subject matter) **if and only if the course is part of a sequenced transfer curriculum in the visual and performing arts disciplines (music, fine arts, dance, or theater arts.)** [sic] **Applicable sequenced transfer curriculum shall include but not be limited to major performance ensembles** [emphasis added].”

The **Music Association of California Community Colleges** (MACCC) commends the State Chancellor’s Office for recognizing the importance of regular and continuing musical activity to the growth of music students. Further, MACCC’s official interpretation of this memo is that music students (regardless of their declared major) may take each course of a sequenced transfer curriculum a total of four (4) semesters (an initial time plus three repeats) or six (6) quarters (an initial time plus five repeats). Therefore students may, for example, enroll in a course designated as MUSIC 14A-14B-14C-14D, College Choir, (2-2-2-2) four times per section (A, B, C, or D) for a total of sixteen (16) semesters. This interpretation has been tested with the State Chancellor’s Office and found acceptable. The designation of “a sequenced transfer curriculum” occurs at each local campus or district according to such entity’s individual curriculum policies.

MACCC’s official definition of sequenced transfer curriculum is any transferable course sequence required or recommended for the music major.

MACCC recommends repeatability in accordance with Vice Chancellor Cepeda’s statement in the memo referenced above “as long as...students’ skills or proficiencies [are] enhanced by the repetition.”

Adopted by the Executive Board June 6, 2005