

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Calbright College and Online Instruction at the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO: Senate Education Committee
and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Background on Online Instruction

▶ All California Community Colleges (CCC) Offer Online Courses

- In 2018-19, community colleges educated a total of 200,000 full-time equivalent students through online courses, representing 17 percent of all instruction.
 - In 2008-09, online courses accounted for 7 percent of all instruction.
- The proportion of instruction delivered via online ranges significantly throughout the CCC system, from about 50 percent at several colleges to about 5 percent at others.
- Online instruction includes courses in a wide range of subjects, but is concentrated in transfer-level courses (such as history) as well as certain career technical education programs (such as website design).
- Students commonly get their instruction through both online and face-to-face means.

▶ Funding, Fees, and Financial Aid Are the Same for Online and Face-to-Face Instruction

- Online instruction generates the regular apportionment rate from the state.
- Students pay the same statutorily set enrollment fee (\$46 per unit).
- Financially needy students can have the fee waived.



Background on Online Initiatives

▶ Since 2013-14, Legislature Has Funded CCC Online Education Initiative

- The state provides \$23 million ongoing for several purposes, including:
 - Trainings and other resources to help faculty design high-quality online courses.
 - A common technology platform for faculty to deliver online courses.
 - The Online Course Exchange (a program that enables students to find, enroll in, and get credit for fully online courses offered by other colleges participating in the exchange).

▶ Legislature Also Funds Intersegmental Online Program

- Since 2018-19, the state has provided \$10 million ongoing for CCC and the other two public higher education segments to collaborate on developing lower-division online courses in science, technology, engineering, and math.



CCC Online College (Calbright College)

▶ 2018-19 Budget Package Created Online Community College

- The college becomes the CCC system's 115th college (and 73rd district).
- The college is overseen by CCC Board of Governors.

▶ State Provided \$100 Million One Time and \$20 Million Ongoing for Online College

- One-time funds are for start-up costs, available to the college over a seven-year period.
- Ongoing funds are for annual operational costs.
- In addition, the college is eligible to claim apportionment funding for its enrollment—same as other community colleges.

▶ College Directed to Focus on Short-Term Pathways

- The college must target working adults with no postsecondary credentials “who are not currently accessing higher education.”
- The college is required to develop a series of online programs “designed in partnership with employers and industry groups” that result in “industry-valued credentials.”
 - For each new program created, the Chancellor's Office must notify the Legislature and administration on “how the program is not duplicative of programs offered at other community colleges.”
- The college is to use strategies such as prior learning assessments to reduce the time students need to complete their programs.



CCC Online College (Calbright College)

(Continued)

► Most CCC Policies Apply to College

- For example, the college must comply with the same competitive bidding and contracting requirements as other community colleges.
- The college is exempt from a few requirements—for example, it does not need to use the regular student fee structure.



College Must Meet Various Milestones and Reporting Requirements

Requirements

By July 1, 2019

- Design three program pathways.
- Develop various operational plans and processes (including a business plan).
- Enroll students by the last quarter of 2019.

By August 1, 2019 and annually thereafter

- Provide a status report to the Legislature and Governor.

By April 1, 2021

- Provide a plan that outlines the process to obtain accreditation.

By July 1, 2021

- Design at least three additional program pathways.
- Apply for accreditation.

By April 1, 2022

- Achieve accreditation candidacy or preaccreditation.

By July 1, 2023

- Design at least ten additional program pathways.

By April 1, 2025

- Obtain full accreditation.

By January 1, 2026

- Receive an assessment by an independent evaluator on college's progress and accomplishments.

