



---

**Administrative Regulation**  
Chapter 5 – Student Services

---

**AR 5070      ATTENDANCE**

**Attendance Accounting**

The District shall comply with state attendance accounting regulations as published in the Education Code, in Title 5, and in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Student Attendance Accounting Manual.

**Credit courses:**

Attendance records shall be maintained by faculty prior to census according to rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Official rosters for all classes shall be maintained by the District. Prior to the first census, each faculty member shall verify class rosters and drop inactive students.

**Courses Designated as Positive Attendance:**

Daily attendance records for each student shall be maintained by faculty teaching courses designated as positive attendance courses. Additionally, faculty are responsible for submitting these records as required by the District.

The District's supporting documentation and attendance data will be available for verification and audit purposes.

District attendance accounting includes:

- Computation of units of full time equivalent student (FTES) based on the type of course, the way the course is scheduled, and the length of the course.
- Selection of a single primary term length for credit courses.
- Reporting of FTES during the "first period" (July 1 - December 31), "second period" (July 1 - April 15), and "annual reports" (July 1 – June 30).
- Compliance with census procedures prescribed by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for all credit courses, including work experience, independent study, and credit courses being reported on an actual attendance basis.
- Preparation of census day procedure tabulations.
- Preparation of actual student contact hours of attendance procedure tabulations.
- Preparation (as applicable) of actual apprentice hours of teaching procedure tabulations.
- Preparation of support documentation regarding all course enrollment, attendance, and disenrollment information.

- Computation of FTES that includes only the attendance of students while they are engaged in educational activities required of students and while they are under the immediate supervision and control of an academic employee of the District authorized to render service in the capacity and during the period in which they served.
- Verification of a minimum of 175 days of instruction during the fiscal year.

### **Census Reporting**

Instructors shall clear their rosters of students who are not substantively participating in the course as of the day before census day or who have never attended or who are “no longer participating” in the course (must relate to nonattendance), except if there are extenuating circumstances. All Weekly Census sections of a term have the same census date (Monday of the week nearest the 20% point of the term). Each Daily Census section has an individual census date, the day of the class meeting nearest the 20% of the number of days the course is scheduled to meet. When the census day falls on the first day the class meets, census is taken on the second day. When the census date falls on a holiday, the census date will be the following day.

### **Student Attendance**

Regular attendance and participation are obligations assumed by every student at the time of enrollment. Extenuating circumstances are verified cases of accidents, illnesses, other circumstances beyond the student’s control, and other conditions defined by the Governing Board and in published regulations. Students who withdraw from classes are responsible for initiating the drop process by appropriate deadlines. Students who do not withdraw by the specific deadlines may earn a substandard or failing grade for the course. Students will not be eligible for a refund if the withdrawal takes place after the refund deadline. The faculty member issuing an “F” to a student may be asked by the Financial Aid Office to verify if the “F” was the result of non-attendance. Non-attendance means the student’s last attendance date was prior to the 60% point of the course. For online or hybrid courses, “non-attendance” means the last date of substantive participation was prior to the 60% point in the course. Poor performance means the student participated after the 60% point in the course and earned an “F”. Non-attendance may be grounds for return of financial aid funds.

#### **1. On Ground Courses**

Attending a class regularly and on time is considered necessary for normal progress in a class. Therefore, a student must attend all sessions of the class during the first week and attend class regularly and on time throughout the term according to the requirements listed on the instructor’s syllabus. Otherwise, the student may be dropped by the instructor as stated in AR 5075 Course Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals or as stated on the instructor’s syllabus.

Faculty will determine the consequences of absences and late arrivals.

#### **2. Online and Hybrid Courses**

Substantive participation is considered necessary for normal progress in an online or hybrid class. Therefore, a student taking an outline or hybrid course must participate in the class during the first week, and regularly participate throughout the term according to the requirements listed on the instructor’s syllabus. Otherwise, the student may be dropped by the instructor as stated in AR 5075 Course Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals or as stated on the instructor’s syllabus.

Faculty will define required participation in the syllabus for an online or hybrid course and will determine the consequences of a lack of participation.

### **Religious Observance and Accommodations**

Observance of religious holidays may impact the student regarding scheduled assignments, tests or examinations. California State Education Code section 76121 states that an instructor must make a reasonable attempt to accommodate a student without penalty in the case of conflict between a student's religious creed and a scheduled assignment, test or examination.

Affected students shall submit a written request to the instructor during the first two weeks of the academic term, or as soon as possible after a particular assignment, test or examination date is announced by the instructor.

### **Other**

In matters of absence due to other personal necessity such as jury duty or court appearances, accommodations shall be at the discretion of the instructor, subject to verification.

### **Reinstatement and Late Authorization of Course Enrollment**

Instructors may permit a dropped student to re-enroll by issuing a reinstatement authorization code to the student. The student shall then add the class via their student portal using the reinstatement authorization code.

Students failing to enroll in a class using a late authorization code from the instructor may submit a petition for special consideration to the Dean of Enrollment Services, signed by the instructor, stating the extenuating circumstances justifying the enrollment. The decision to either grant or deny the petition shall be made by the Dean or designee.

It is the student's responsibility to confirm enrollment. Those failing to enroll by the applicable deadline may not receive credit for the class. It is the instructor's responsibility to ensure that students attending are officially enrolled.

*(Replaces former SMC AR 4133 and AR 4320)*

### **References:**

Education Code Sections 84500, 84501 and 76121;  
Title 5 Sections 58000 et seq.

Revised: AR 4320 October 23, 2012; AR 4133 April 29, 2003; October 17, 2018, November 20, 2019