

Memorandum

Date: March 28, 2003

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To: Members, Academic Council

Reply Requested By
May 2, 2003

From: David S. Spence *David S. Spence*
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer *DS*

Subject: **LEGISLATION ON INSTRUCTION IN GERONTOLOGY**

Two bills concerning Gerontology curricula were recently enacted. AB 2202 (Chapter 551, Statutes of 2002) requires each CSU campus that educates social workers, nurses, gerontologists, physical therapists, psychologists, and/or other professionals delivering services to the senior population (1) to "develop and implement guidelines for training in gerontology," and (2) to "establish a plan for the recruitment of students to enter fields of service for the maturing California population...." Campuses are expected to use their "established curriculum development processes." The CSU is to submit a progress report to the Legislature on the establishment and implementation of appropriate curricula by January 1, 2004. The complete text of AB 2202 is attached.

Also attached is one section of SB 953 (Chapter 541, Statutes of 2002). It requests the governing boards of the CSU, UC, and CCC, in consultation with experts in gerontology and geriatrics, to "develop standards and guidelines, based on standards developed by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, for the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging for professional degrees programs ... in gerontology, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, and the rehabilitation therapies." It explicitly does not mandate "any additional coursework requirements for professional degree programs," and it establishes no deadlines for response.

In the fall, we shall request information from the campuses that we shall need to prepare the progress report required by AB 2202. We ask the campuses at this time, however, to provide brief answers to the following two questions:

- To what extent is your campus currently in compliance with AB 2202?
- Does your campus have any suggestions that would help the three public postsecondary segments to respond constructively to SB 953?

Please forward your answers to Dr. Jolayne Service, Dean, Academic Program Planning (jo@calstate.edu). Dr. Service can be reached by telephone at (562) 951-4723.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachments

cc: Presidents
Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Programs
Dr. Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley

Assembly Bill No. 2202

CHAPTER 551

An act to amend the heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 105100) of, to add an article heading immediately preceding Section 105100 of Chapter 3 of, and to add Article 2 (commencing with Section 105145) to Chapter 3 of, Part 4 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to older adults.

[Approved by Governor September 14, 2002. Filed
with Secretary of State September 15, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2202, Alquist. Gerontology: service delivery personnel: training.

Existing law provides generally for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health for all Californians, including older adults. Existing law declares the intent of the Legislature that the University of California provide, in a specified manner, academic courses and training in the field of geriatrics for medical students and existing internists and family physicians.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature that California State University (CSU) students who are receiving training to provide services to the senior population complete a curriculum in the field of gerontology. The bill would require the CSU system to provide academic courses and training in the field of gerontology for specified professional service delivery personnel. The bill would impose requirements on each CSU campus that educates professional service delivery personnel, relating to curriculum guidelines and recruitment. The bill would require the trustees to submit a progress report to the Legislature on or before a specified date, on the status of the establishment and implementation of the gerontology curricula required by the bill.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 105100) of Part 4 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 3. GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY PROGRAMS

SEC. 2. An article heading is added immediately preceding Section 105100 of Chapter 3 of Part 4 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 1. University of California Programs

SEC. 3. Article 2 (commencing with Section 105145) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 4 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 2. California State University Programs

105145. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that California State University students who are receiving training to provide services to the senior population complete a curriculum in the field of gerontology. It is the intent of the Legislature that this curriculum be designed to instill the attitudes, knowledge, and skills the students will need to provide competent and compassionate care for older persons.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the California State University system shall be responsible for developing, implementing, maintaining, and evaluating the necessary content in the curriculum.

105145.3. (a) The California State University system shall provide academic courses and training in the field of gerontology for professional service delivery personnel providing services to the senior population. For purposes of this article, "professional service delivery personnel" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Social workers.
- (2) Nurses.
- (3) Gerontologists.
- (4) Physical therapists.
- (5) Psychologists.

(b) Each of the California State University campuses that educates professional service delivery personnel shall, through its established curriculum development processes, do both of the following:

- (1) Develop and implement guidelines for training in gerontology.
- (2) Establish a plan for the recruitment of students to enter fields of service for the maturing California population that will ultimately lead to a higher quality service delivery system for the senior population.

105145.5. On or before January 1, 2004, the Trustees of the California State University shall submit a progress report to the Legislature on the status of the establishment and implementation of curricula in gerontology in accordance with this article.

Excerpt from Chapter 541, Statutes of 2002 (SB 953, Vasconcellos)

SEC. 11. Article 9 (commencing with Section 66085) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 9. Standards and Guidelines for a Curriculum in
Gerontology and Geriatrics in Higher Education

66085. The Legislature requests that the Trustees of the California State University, the Regents of the University of California, and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics and other qualified groups or individuals, develop standards and guidelines, based on standards developed by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, for the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging for professional degree programs at the associate, bachelor, and graduate levels, including those programs in gerontology, nursing, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, and the rehabilitation therapies. Nothing in this article shall be construed to require any additional coursework requirements for professional degree programs.