

Academic Information

Coursework is measured in terms of semester units. A unit equals 18 hours of lecture or 54 hours of lab work per semester in most courses. Lecture courses require additional outside of class work to equal a minimum of 48 hours of student work.

Academic Freedom

The district, the colleges, and unit members will adhere to the following in regard to academic freedom:

1. Education in a democracy depends upon earnest and unceasing pursuit of truth and upon free and unrestricted communication of truth.
2. Faculty members shall be free to exercise academic freedom, including freedom of investigation, freedom of discussion in the classroom, freedom to select texts and other instructional materials, freedom of assignment of instructional exercises, and freedom of evaluation of student efforts.
3. Faculty members acknowledge that in the exercise of academic freedom they have a responsibility to be accurate and comprehensive in making reports, to be fair-minded in making interpretations and judgements, to respect the freedoms of other persons, to exclude irrelevant matters from classroom discussions and instructional exercises, and to make appropriate distinctions between statements of fact made as faculty subject matter specialists and opinions made as private citizens.
4. The college recognizes the fundamental right of the faculty member to be free from any censorship or restraint which might interfere with the faculty member's obligation to pursue truth and maintain his/her intellectual integrity in the performance of his/her teaching functions.

Academic Integrity

Bakersfield College has the responsibility to ensure that grades assigned are indicative of the knowledge and skill level of each student. Acts of academic dishonesty make it impossible to fulfill this responsibility, and they weaken our society. Faculty, students, administrators, and classified staff share responsibility for ensuring academic honesty in our college community and will make a concerted effort to fulfill the following responsibilities.

Any test, paper, or assignment submitted and that bears BC students' name is presumed to be the own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from the instructor.

In all of the assignments, including homework or drafts of papers, students may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper citation. As a general rule, if citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses. If a student is not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from the instructor beforehand.

Finally, students should keep in mind that as a member of the BC campus academic community, students are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on their own merits. Students should be proud of their academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Bakersfield College. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty – including a formal written warning, possible loss of grade – are simply not worth it.

Definition of Plagiarism (KCCD Board Policy Appendix 4F7D)

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving credit to the source. Such an act is not plagiarism if it is ascertained that the ideas were arrived at through independent reasoning or logic or where the thought or idea is common knowledge.

Acknowledgement of an original author or source must be made through appropriate references, i.e., quotation marks, footnotes, or commentary. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following: the submission of a work, whether in part or in whole, completed by another; failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another; in written work, failure to use quotations marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even a part thereof; close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing or programming. A student who is in doubt about the extent of acceptable paraphrasing should consult the instructor.

Students are cautioned that, in conducting their research, they should prepare their notes by (a) either quoting material exactly (using quotation marks) at the time they take notes from a source; or (b) departing completely from the language used in the source, putting the material into their own words. In this way, when the material is used in the paper or project, the student can avoid plagiarism resulting from verbatim use of notes. Both quoted and paraphrased materials must be given proper citations.

Definition of Cheating (KCCD Board Policy Appendix 4F7D)

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining, or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain academic credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Examples of cheating during an examination include, but are not limited to, the following: copying, either in part or in whole, from another's test or examination; discussion of answers or ideas relating to the answers on an examination or test unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the instructor; giving or receiving copies of an examination without the permission of the instructor; using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other information or devices inappropriate to the prescribed test conditions, as when a test of competence includes a test of unassisted recall of information, skill, or procedure; allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the same. Also included are plagiarism as defined and altering or interfering with the grading procedures.

It is often appropriate for students to study together or to work

in teams on projects. However, such students should be careful to avoid the use of unauthorized assistance, and to avoid any implication of cheating, by such means as sitting apart from one another in examinations, presenting the work in a manner which clearly indicates the effort of each individual, or such other method as is appropriate to the particular course

A student charged with cheating or plagiarism is entitled to appeal that charge by means of the college's Student Code of Conduct. For more information, visit the Office of Student Life or visit www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/studentconduct.

Academic Standing

A student whose last completed semester GPA and cumulative GPA are 2.0 or higher and whose accumulated units of 'W' (Withdrawal), 'NP' (No Pass), and/or I (Incomplete) do not reach or exceed 50 percent shall be in good standing.

Academic Probation

Students who have attempted 12 or more semester units and who then earns a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 during the Fall, Spring, or Summer semester shall be placed on Academic Probation for the following semester and will not be able to register until an Academic Success Probation Workshop is completed (a hold will be placed on their registration). A student shall be removed from probationary status when the cumulative GPA reaches 2.00 or higher.

In addition, students on academic probation will be limited in the number of units for which they may register. The academic status of each student is available under Academic Standing in the Registration Status section, on the online transcript in BanWeb, or printed on the student transcript updated at the conclusion of each semester.

Progress Probation

Student who have attempted 12 or more units shall be placed on Progress Probation when the percentage of all units attempted for which entries of 'W' (Withdrawal), 'NP' (No Pass), and/or I (Incomplete) reaches or exceeds 50%. Students will be unable to register for classes for the next semester until an Academic Success Probation Workshop is completed (a hold will be placed on their registration). Students shall be removed from probationary status when the percentage of all the units a student has attempted with entries of 'W', 'NP', and/or I are recorded is below 50 percent.

In addition, students on progress probation will be limited in the number of units for which they may register. The academic status of each student is available under Academic Standing in the Registration Status section, on the online transcript in BanWeb, or is printed on the student transcript updated at the conclusion of each semester.

Subject to Disqualification

Any student who has been placed on Academic and/or Progress Probation for three consecutive semesters of enrollment shall be disqualified for admissions to classes the following semester unless, during the last semester of enrollment, the student earned a GPA of 2.0 or higher or did not receive additional Ws, Is, or NPs, in which case the student shall be placed on Continued Probation.

Counseling for Probationary Students

Each student who is on probation and/or subject to disqualification should attend a face-to-face or online Academic Success Probation Workshop each semester under that status. These workshops are designed to assist students with understanding the reasons for their poor performance and help them to take steps to succeed. Contact the Counseling Department, 661/395-4421, or access the Counseling Department website at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/counseling for more information.

Reinstatement

A student who is disqualified is ineligible to attend Bakersfield College and may be conditionally readmitted the following semester upon petition to the Counseling Department. A readmitted student will be limited in the number of units in which he/she can register. Students must make a counseling appointment to fill out a Reinstatement Petition and make a plan for future success. Contact the Counseling Department at 661/395-4421.

Academic Renewal

Previously recorded substandard academic performance may be disregarded if it is not reflective of a student's demonstrated ability. The District Chancellor shall establish procedures that provide for academic renewal.

At least two years have elapsed since the coursework to be alleviated was recorded; at least eighteen (18) units of satisfactory coursework with a GPA of 2.5 have been completed subsequent to the coursework to be alleviated; and the student would initiate the request for academic renewal. This written petition will go to the Vice President or designee.

Educational Options

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's Degrees are awarded after completing at least 120 semester units of study, including major, general education, and graduation requirements. This is the basic degree awarded by "four-year" colleges and universities. Units earned at community colleges count toward the total units needed for a bachelor's degree if they are transferable. A bachelor's degree is usually earned in arts (BA) or sciences (BS), although other more specialized options exist, such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Associate Degrees for Transfer

California Community Colleges are now offering associate degrees for transfer to the CSU. These may include Associate in Arts (AA-T) or Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees. These degrees are designed to provide a clear pathway to a CSU major and baccalaureate degree. California Community College students who are awarded an AA-T or AS-T degree are guaranteed admission with junior standing somewhere in the CSU system and given priority admission consideration to their local CSU campus or to a program that is deemed similar to their community college major. This priority does not guarantee admission to specific majors or campuses.

Students who have been awarded an AA-T or AS-T are able to complete their remaining requirements for the 120-unit baccalaureate degree within 60 semester or 90 quarter units.

To view the most current list of Bakersfield College Associate Degrees for Transfer and to find out which CSU campuses accept each degree, please go to A Degree with a Guarantee's website at www.adegreewithaguarantee.com. Current and prospective