

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - A PRIMARY MISSION  
OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**TITLE 3. DIVISION 5. PART 40. CHAPTER 2. Article 2.  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Introduction:** Since 1996, Economic Development has been one of the primary missions of the California Community Colleges (section 66010.4. (a)(3)). Below is an excerpt from the California Education Code that describes the mission and functions of the Community Colleges.

66010.4. The missions and functions of California's public and independent segments, and their respective institutions of higher education shall be differentiated as follows:

(a) (1) The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school. Public community colleges shall offer instruction through but not beyond the second year of college. These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.

(2) In addition to the primary mission of academic and vocational instruction, the community colleges shall offer instruction and courses to achieve all of the following:

(A) The provision of remedial instruction for those in need of it and, in conjunction with the school districts, instruction in English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level are reaffirmed and supported as essential and important functions of the community colleges.

(B) The provision of adult noncredit education curricula in areas defined as being in the state's interest is an essential and important function of the community colleges.

(C) The provision of community services courses and programs is an authorized function of the community colleges so long as their provision is compatible with an institution's ability to meet its obligations in its primary missions.

**(3) A primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement.**

(4) The community colleges may conduct to the extent that state funding is provided, institutional research concerning student learning and retention as is needed to facilitate their educational missions.