State Board of Community Colleges Code

Title 3 – RULEMAKING PROCESS AND CODIFICATION SYSTEM

CHAPTER A. GENERAL

SUBCHAPTER 100. GENERAL

3A SBCCC 100.1 Purpose
(a) All rules in Title 3 of the SBCC Code govern the SBCC process for rulemaking and the system for codifying rules in the SBCC Code. The SBCC rulemaking process is designed to maximize the efficiency with which it takes to amend, adopt, or repeal a rule while simultaneously retaining a reputable, transparent rulemaking process that involves the public. The codification system is designed to provide clarity, consistency, and uniformity in the SBCC Code.
(b) The SBCC Code is available on the NCCCS website at http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/SBCCCode.
(c) SBCC rules that are not adopted in accordance with Chapter B of this title shall be unenforceable.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

3A SBCCC 100.2 Definitions
The following definitions apply throughout this Chapter and to all forms prescribed pursuant to this Chapter unless the context indicates otherwise:
(a) "Action" - The adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule.
(b) "Adopt" - The SBCC takes action to approve a new rule with a new rule number.
(c) "Amend" - The SBCC takes action to modify an existing rule with a deletion, addition or other change to that existing rule. “Amend” does not mean the deletion of a rule in its entirety.
(d) "Citation" - A reference to a rule by title and chapter or subchapter and section number.
(e) "NCCCS" - The North Carolina Community College System.
(f) "SBCC" - The State Board of Community Colleges.

(g) "SBCC Code" - The State Board of Community Colleges Code.

(h) “Permanent Rule” - A rule that the SBCC adopts in accordance with Title 3, Chapter B, Subchapters 200 and 300 of the SBCC Code.

(i) "Publication" - Publication on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section or entry into the SBCC Code.

(j) "Repeal" - The deletion of the entire text of a rule. When a rule is repealed, that rule number shall not be used again. The number, rule name, and final history note remain in the SBCC Code permanently for publication and reference purposes.

(k) “Rule” - Any SBCC regulation, standard, or statement applicable to any community college or proprietary school subject to Chapter 115D of the North Carolina General Statutes that implements or interprets an enactment of the General Assembly or Congress or a regulation adopted by a federal agency or that describes the procedure or practice requirements of the SBCC. The term includes the establishment of a fee and the amendment or repeal of a prior rule. The term does not include the following:

(1) Statements, policies, or procedures concerning only the internal management of the System Office if the statement does not directly or substantially affect the procedural or substantive rights or duties of a person not employed by the System Office.

(2) Nonbinding interpretative statements from the System Office that merely define, interpret, or explain the meaning of a statute or rule.

(3) Statements that set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by System Office staff in performing audits, investigations, or inspections; in settling financial disputes or negotiating financial arrangements; or in the defense, prosecution, or settlement of cases.

(l) “Substantive change” - The SBCC has amended language of a proposed rule after the comment period and the public hearing, if any, has taken place, and the amended language does one or more of the following:

(1) Impacts the interests of persons who, based on the proposed text of the rule published on the NCCCS website could not have reasonably determined that the rule would affect their interests.

(2) Addresses a subject matter or an issue that is not addressed in the proposed text of the rule.
(3) Produces an effect that could not reasonably have been expected based on the proposed
text of the rule.

(m) “Temporary rule” - A rule that the SBCC adopts without prior notice or hearing or upon any
abbreviated notice or hearing in accordance with Title 3, Chapter B, Subchapter 400 of the
SBCC Code.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

CHAPTER B. RULEMAKING PROCESS

SUBCHAPTER 100. INITIATING RULEMAKING PROCESS

3B SBCCC 100.1 Petition for Rulemaking
(a) Any person, organization, or entity requesting the SBCC to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule has
the authority to submit a written petition requesting such adoption, amendment, or repeal to
the NCCCS President.
(b) For a petition for rulemaking to be approved for initiation of the rulemaking process, all
written petitions for rulemaking shall include the following information from the requesting
party:
(1) The requesting party’s name;
(2) The requesting party’s e-mail address;
(3) The requesting party’s proposed language for the adoption or amendment;
(4) If the requesting party proposes the repeal of a rule, the requesting party shall identify the
rule by title, chapter, subchapter, and rule section; and
(5) The requesting party’s rationale for proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal.
(c) On behalf of the SBCC, the NCCCS President or the NCCCS President’s designee must
communicate the President’s decision to grant or to deny the rulemaking petition in writing
to the requesting party within 120 calendar days from receipt of the rulemaking petition. The
NCCCS President’s decision to grant the rulemaking petition means that the SBCC will
initiate the rulemaking process to adopt, amend, or repeal the substance of the rule proposed
by the requester.

(d) If the NCCCS President denies the rulemaking petition, the NCCCS President or NCCCS
President’s designee shall provide the requesting party with the rationale for denying the
rulemaking petition. If the NCCCS President denies the rulemaking petition, the NCCCS
President or NCCCS President’s designee shall report the denial of the rulemaking petition to
the Policy Committee of the State Board of Community Colleges for information.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014

3B SBCCC 100.2 State Board Review

(a) If the NCCCS President approves a rulemaking petition, consistent with SBCC Bylaws, the
SBCC will evaluate the proposed rule adoption, amendment, or repeal for the first time on
the SBCC agenda “For Future Action.” The SBCC shall evaluate the proposed rule adoption,
amendment, or repeal for initiation of the rulemaking process on the agenda “For Action” at
the SBCC meeting following the SBCC’s first review of the proposed rule, unless the SBCC
determines otherwise.

(b) The SBCC shall initiate the rulemaking process when it is satisfied with the language of the
proposed rule adoption, amendment, or repeal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014

SUBCHAPTER 200. PUBLIC INPUT

3B SBCCC 200.1 Publication of Proposed Rule

(a) The text of the proposed rule adoption, amendment, or repeal (Notice of Proposed Rule) shall
be published conspicuously on the NCCCS website within two business days of the SBCC
voting to initiate the rulemaking process.
(b) The text of the proposed rule adoption, amendment, or repeal shall comply with 3C SBCCC 200.1.

(c) The Notice of Proposed Rule shall have an explanation detailing the basis for the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

3B SBCCC 200.2 Public Comment Period

(a) The SBCC will accept oral or written comments on the proposed rule for at least 30 calendar days after the Notice of Proposed Rule is published on the NCCCS website or until the date of the public hearing, whichever is longer.

(b) To ensure receipt, written comments shall be submitted via one of the following methods:

(1) Electronic mail to publiccomments@nccommunitycolleges.edu;

(2) Postal mail to NCCCS Rulemaking Coordinator, 5001 Mail Service Center; Raleigh, NC 27699-5001; or

(3) Facsimile to (919) 807-7171.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

3B SBCCC 200.3 Public Hearing

(a) If the SBCC receives a written request for a public hearing via one of the methods specified in 3B SBCCC 200.2(b) within 15 calendar days of publication of the Notice of Proposed Rule on the NCCCS website, the SBCC must hold a public hearing and publish notice of the hearing conspicuously on the NCCCS website. There must be at least 10 calendar days between the notice of hearing and the actual date of the hearing.

(b) If the SBCC does not receive a written request for a public hearing, it is within the SBCC’s discretion to determine whether it will hold a public hearing.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
SUBCHAPTER 300.  STATE BOARD APPROVAL PROCESS

3B SBCCC 300.1  Changes Based on Public Comment
(a) The SBCC, consistent with its Bylaws, will review all comments received at its meeting immediately following the end of the 30-day comment period, or at its meeting immediately following the public hearing, whichever occurs last.
(b) If the SBCC makes any substantive changes to the proposed rule after the end of the 30-day comment period, the changes shall be posted to the NCCCS website within two business days of the meeting wherein the SBCC amended the proposed rule.
(c) The public will have five business days from the date the amended proposed rule is published on the NCCCS website to provide written comments on the amended proposed rule. Written comments on the amended proposed rule shall be submitted in accordance with 3B SBCCC 200.2(b).
(d) After the conclusion of the five-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 300.1(c), the SBCC will review all additional comments at the meeting immediately following the end of the five-day comment period.

History Note:  Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff.  June 1, 2014

3B SBCCC 300.2  State Board Rule Approval
(a) If the SBCC does not receive any public comments after the 30-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 200.2(a), or if the SBCC determines that the comments received do not warrant modification of the proposed rule, then the SBCC has the authority to adopt, amend, or repeal the proposed rule at its meeting immediately following the 30-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 200.2(a) or at its meeting immediately following the public hearing, whichever occurs last.
(b) If the SBCC does not receive any additional public comments after the five-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 300.1(c), or if the SBCC determines that the comments received do not
warrant further modification of the proposed rule, then the SBCC has the authority to adopt, amend, or repeal the proposed rule at its meeting immediately following the five-day comment period.

(c) The SBCC shall adopt, amend, or repeal proposed rules within 180 calendar days after the end of the 30-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 200.2(a). If the SBCC does not adopt, amend, or repeal a proposed rule within 180 calendar days after the end of the 30-day comment period in 3B SBCCC 200.2(a), the SBCC shall comply with Subchapters 200 and 300 of this Chapter.

(d) All adopted, amended, or repealed rules shall be published on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section no later than one business day after the effective date of the rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5; Eff. June 1, 2014

3B SBCCC 300.3 Effective Date

The effective date of all rules adopted, amended, or repealed by the SBCC shall be the first day of the month following the SBCC’s adoption, amendment, or repeal, unless the SBCC specifies another effective date.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5; Eff. June 1, 2014

SUBCHAPTER 400. TEMPORARY RULES

3B SBCCC 400.1 Temporary Rule Standard

The SBCC has the authority to adopt a temporary rule to comply with federal or state law, and federal or state law requires adoption in a time period less than the rulemaking time period allotted by the SBCC Code.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5; Eff. June 1, 2014
3B SBCCC 400.2  Adoption of Temporary Rules

(a) The SBCC has the authority to adopt a temporary rule without prior notice or hearing or upon any abbreviated notice or hearing the SBCC finds practical at the SBCC meeting immediately following the event precipitating the need for a temporary rule.

(b) The SBCC shall publish the temporary rule on the NCCCS website within five business days after the SBCC adopts the temporary rule. A statement specifying the basis for adopting a temporary rule rather than following the process for a permanent rule shall accompany the temporary rule when it is published on the NCCCS website.

(c) The temporary rule expires 60 calendar days from the date it was published on the NCCCS website. If the temporary rule is to be effective beyond 60 calendar days from the date it was published on the NCCCS website, the process for the permanent rule must be initiated at the same time the SBCC adopts the temporary rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014

CHAPTER C. CODIFICATION OF RULES

SUBCHAPTER 100. GENERAL RULE CODIFICATION PROVISIONS

3C SBCCC 100.1  Citation to Authorities

(a) The SBCC shall cite authorities according to the most current edition of the rules of citation contained in "A Uniform System of Citation" except as listed in Paragraph (b) of this Rule. "A Uniform System of Citation" is hereby incorporated by reference and includes subsequent amendments and editions.

(b) The SBCC shall cite:

(1) the General Statutes of North Carolina as "G.S. #";
(2) the Session Laws of North Carolina as "S.L. 20xx-xxx, s. #";
(3) an Executive Order issued by the Governor as "E.O. # ((Governor's name) (year))";
(4) the North Carolina Administrative Code as "(Title #) NCAC (Chapter or Subchapter #)
(.####)"; and
(5) the North Carolina Register as "(Vol. #) NCR (Issue #), (page ").

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 100.2 Illustrations and Notes
The SBCC may include material in the text of a rule which is an illustration of something in the rule. Illustrations shall be examples or clarifications which, when not read, do not change the meaning of the rule. The material which is meant only as an illustration shall be set aside by preceding it with the word "Note: ".

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 100.3 Codification System
(a) All rules shall be codified within the system described in Chapter C.
(b) The SBCC shall arrange its rules in titles. Within each title, there shall be chapters. Chapters shall be divided into subchapters and subchapters shall be arranged in sections.
(c) SBCC Code rules shall be cited "(Title #)(Chapter #) SBCCC (Subchapter #)(.Section ")".
(d) The SBCC may reserve in writing a specified chapter, subchapter, or section for future use.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
Eff. June 1, 2014

SUBCHAPTER 200. RULE FORMATTING

3C SBCCC 200.1 Rule Formatting Specifications
The SBCC shall format each rule submitted to the SBCC for initiation and adoption as follows:

(1) Paper Specifications:
(a) 8½ by 11 inch plain white paper;
(b) one side of the sheet only;
(c) black ink;
(d) Times New Roman font face;
(e) 12 point font size;
(f) portrait print (8½ x 11);
(g) numbered lines on the left margin with each page starting with line 1;
(h) 1.5 line spacing;
(i) page numbers centered at the bottom of the page for each rule that has more than one page of text; and
(j) no staples.

(2) Tab and Margin Settings:
(a) tab settings for all rules shall be set relative from the left margin at increments of 0.25; and
(b) text shall have one inch margins on all sides and be justified.

(3) There shall be a brief introductory statement summarizing the status of the rule in the process of initiation and adoption placed in the header and italicized on the first page of any rule.

(4) Chapter, Subchapter, and Rule Section Names:
(a) When a new chapter is proposed for adoption, the chapter letter and chapter name shall be in bold print, underlined with all letters capitalized, and centered with one tab following the chapter letter. Two lines shall be skipped between the prior rule and a new chapter name. One line shall be skipped between the chapter name and the subchapter name.
(b) When a new subchapter of rules is proposed for adoption, the subchapter name shall be in bold print with all letters capitalized, and centered with one tab following the subchapter number. One line shall be skipped between the prior rule and a new subchapter name.
(c) When a new section of rules is proposed for adoption, the section name shall be in bold print with the first letter of each word that is not an article capitalized. One line shall be skipped between the end of one rule section and the beginning of another rule section. No lines shall be skipped between the rule section name and the text of the rule.
(5) The first digit of the title number shall be placed in position 1. One tab shall be between the rule number and rule name.

(6) Body of the Rule:

(a) the body of the rule shall start on the line immediately following the rule name with the following markings:

(i) adoptions - new text shall be underlined;

(ii) amendments - any text to be deleted shall be struck through and new text shall be underlined; and

(iii) repeals - text of the rule shall not be included;

(b) there shall be no lines skipped in the body of the rule except before and in tables;

(c) the first level of text shall be flush left and with one tab after the closing parenthesis if the paragraph is identified by a letter;

(d) the second level of text shall start with one tab and one hanging indent after the closing parenthesis;

(e) the third level of text shall start with two tabs and one hanging indent after the closing parenthesis;

(f) the fourth level of text shall start with three tabs and one hanging indent after the closing parenthesis;

(g) the fifth level of text shall start with four tabs and one hanging indent after the closing parenthesis; and

(h) the sixth level of text shall start with five tabs and one hanging indent after the closing parenthesis.

(7) The smallest unit of text to be struck through or underlined shall be an entire word with any punctuation that is part of the word or block of characters separated from other text by a space on each side. Punctuation shall be considered part of the word when there is no space between the punctuation and the word.

(8) History Note Specifications:

(a) shall be in italic font;

(b) shall start on the second line following the body of the rule;

(c) the first line of the History Note shall start in the first position; all lines following shall be two tabs;
(d) the first line shall start with the words "History Note: ", followed by one tab and the word "Authority". The SBCC shall then cite the authority(ies) in numerical order for that rule;

(e) the effective date of the original adoption of the rule shall be the next line following the authority. The abbreviation "Eff." shall be followed by this date;

(f) on the line following the "Eff." date, the amended dates shall be preceded with the words "Amended Eff." and the dates shall be listed in chronological order, with the most recent amended date listed first;

(g) the repealed date of a rule shall be the last line of the history note and start with the words "Repealed Eff." followed by the date;

(h) all items in the history note shall be separated by semicolons with the last line ending with a period;

(i) all history of a rule shall be in chronological order following the authority for the rule; and

(j) all dates in the history note shall be complete with the month spelled out, and shall not contain any abbreviations.

(9) Numbers within the text shall be as follows:

(a) numbers from one to nine shall be spelled out;

(b) figures shall be used for numbers over nine; and

(c) if a phrase contains two numbers, only one of which is over nine, figures shall represent both.

(10) Monetary figures within the text shall be spelled out followed by the numerical figure in parenthesis. Decimal and zeros shall be used only for even dollar amounts of sums less than one thousand dollars ($1,000).

(11) Once the SBCC has adopted a rule, the rule shall be published on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section without complying with 3C SBCCC 200.1(1)(g) and (h) and without complying with 3C SBCCC 200.1(6)(a).

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 200.2 Rule Formatting Specifications for Substantive Changes
(a) The SBCC shall prepare for publication on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section any permanent rule that does not differ in any way from the proposed rule published on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section according to the general format instructions in 3C SBCCC 200.1(6).

(b) If a permanent rule differs in any way from the proposed rule published on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section, the following applies:

(1) The SBCC shall identify changes in an adopted rule by striking through deleted portions, and underlining added portions. The unchanged text shall not be underlined.

(2) The SBCC shall identify changes in an amended rule as follows:

(A) when text has been added, the text added shall be underlined and highlighted;

(B) when existing text has been deleted, the text deleted shall be struck through and highlighted;

(C) when text that was proposed to be deleted has been restored, the restored text shall be highlighted, but not underlined or struck through;

(D) when text that was proposed to be added has been deleted, the deleted proposed text shall be enclosed in brackets, struck through and highlighted; and

(E) when text is required to be highlighted, the highlighting shall be by highlight marker or shall be computer generated. The text shall show through the highlight and be clear and legible when reproduced.

(3) If the SBCC repeals a rule originally noticed to be amended, then the SBCC shall submit the rule as a permanent repeal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 200.3 Chapter Division

(a) The SBCC may use the chapter to divide titles into subject areas.

(b) When subdividing a title into chapters, the SBCC shall subdivide the entire title into at least two chapters.

(c) A chapter of the SBCC Code shall be represented by a capital letter. Chapter letters shall be lettered alphabetically.
3C SBCCC 200.4 Subchapter Division

(a) The SBCC shall place rules in the same subject area in one subchapter. The subchapter is the subdivision that contains rules.

(b) All subchapters shall be represented as the first three digits preceding a decimal. Subchapters shall be numbered consecutively starting with Subchapter 100. unless a subchapter number has been reserved.

3C SBCCC 200.5 Section Division

(a) The section shall be represented by the digits following a decimal. Sections shall be numbered consecutively unless a rule number has been reserved. The last digit of the first section shall be “1”.

(b) For rule sections adopted by the SBCC, the SBCC shall subdivide a section containing more than one idea into paragraphs labeled: (a), (b), (c), .... Any subdivided paragraphs shall be labeled: (1), (2), (3), ...; (A), (B), (C), ...; (i), (ii), (iii), ...; (I), (II), (III), .... All subdivisions of rules shall be represented by this order, and each label shall be in parentheses.

(c) For rule sections adopted by the SBCC when the section is not subdivided into paragraphs but contains a list, the sequence of labels for the lists shall be: (1), (2), (3), ...; (a), (b), (c), ...; (i), (ii), (iii), ...; (A), (B), (C), ...; (I), (II), (III), ....

(d) A rule shall not begin with a list. A list contained within a rule shall be preceded by some form of introductory material.

(e) If there is a list within a paragraph, the rule shall follow the sequence above in section (b).
3C SBCCC 200.6 History Note
(a) The SBCC shall include a history note for each rule submitted to the SBCC for publication in the SBCC Code, containing the following information:
   (1) the authority for the rule;
   (2) the effective date of the adoption of the rule;
   (3) the effective date of the amendments to the rule including the proposed amendment listed in chronological order with the proposed amendment first;
   (4) the effective date of the repeal; and
   (5) any other history references pertaining to the rule.
(b) Notwithstanding Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the SBCC shall combine repealed rules with a single history note if the rules are consecutive numerically in the same section and the effective dates and repealed dates are identical. The SBCC shall combine authority cites and any other dates.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
   Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 200.7 Changes to Title, Chapter, Subchapter, or Section Names and History Notes
The SBCC may change the name of a section, subchapter, chapter, or title and a history note without complying with Title 3, Chapter B by posting notice of the change on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section. The effective date of the change shall be no earlier than ten business days from the date of the notice.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;
   Eff. June 1, 2014

3C SBCCC 200.8 Recodification of Rules
The SBCC may recodify one or more of its rules without complying with Title 3, Chapter B by posting notice of the change on the NCCCS website in the SBCC Code section. The notice shall
contain the citation to the existing rule and the recodified citation, and the reasons for the recodification. The effective date of the recodification shall be no earlier than ten business days from the date of the notice.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5;

Eff. June 1, 2014