



Coastline College
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coastline College Pioneers Competency-Based Education in California Community Colleges

Fountain Valley, CA – March 25, 2025 – Coastline College has received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to launch the first direct assessment Competency-Based Education (CBE) degree program in the California Community College system. This groundbreaking initiative, known as Pace+, marks a historic milestone in higher education, offering students a flexible and personalized approach to learning.

CBE programs focus on measuring students' mastery of skills and knowledge rather than the traditional time-based credit system. This model allows students to progress at their own pace, demonstrating competency through assessments and real-world applications. Coastline College's new Pace+ program is designed to meet the needs of adult learners, working professionals, and those seeking an accelerated path to career advancement.

"We are thrilled to be the first community college in California to receive approval for a direct assessment Competency-Based Education degree program," said Dr. Vince Rodriguez, President of Coastline College. "This innovative approach aligns with our commitment to student success by providing a learning experience tailored to individual goals and schedules."

Coastline College will launch its first CBE degree with an Associate of Science in Management. Plans are actively underway to expand Competency-Based Education (CBE) offerings in response to growing student interest and evolving industry demands. Developed in collaboration with faculty, employers, and industry experts, the curriculum is designed to align with workforce expectations, preparing students for high-demand careers. "Coastline faculty are known for their innovation and forward-thinking mindset. The successful launch of Coastline's Pace+ program is a direct result of their creative approach to teaching and unwavering commitment to student success," said Academic Senate president, Professor Ann Holliday.

Coastline College's leadership team has worked closely with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, accrediting agencies, and industry partners to bring this program to fruition. The approval from the U.S. Department of Education highlights the institution's dedication to academic innovation and student-centered learning.

"Coastline's Pace+ Program removes barriers and empowers students to achieve their educational and career goals—on their schedule and at their own pace. I'm deeply

grateful for the collaborative efforts across our college, district, the Chancellor's Office, and our valued external partners who made this innovative initiative possible," said Dr. Isela Ocegueda, Vice-President of Instruction at Coastline. Pace+ enrollment is expected to begin on June 1, 2025.

For more information about Coastline College's Pace+ Competency-Based Education degree program, visit www.coastline.edu/paceplus or contact Albert Lopez at alopez503@cccd.edu.

About Coastline College Coastline College, a leader in distance learning and innovative education, is committed to providing accessible and flexible learning opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. With a focus on student success, workforce development, and academic excellence, Coastline College continues to pave the way for the future of education.

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