



AP 4027 Catalog Rights

References:

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Last Reviewed:

A student in continuous attendance in the Butte-Glenn Community College District will have the choice of completing the requirements for an award published in any catalog in effect at the college during that student's period of continuous attendance according to the following provisions. An award is defined as any associate degree, baccalaureate degree, certificate of achievement, certificate of competency, or certificate of completion.

Establishment of Catalog Rights

A student's catalog rights will default to the catalog in effect during their first primary term of attendance (fall or spring semester) at an institution of higher learning accredited by an entity formerly known as a Regional Accreditor. This includes enrollment in a credit course, noncredit course, concurrent enrollment, or dual enrollment program. This does not include Credit for Prior Learning courses. Students who have completed the prerequisites and applied for an impacted, application-based program at Butte College will also be considered to have established catalog rights to the academic year corresponding with the start date of that application cycle, except as excluded in this administrative procedure.

This single default catalog year will be applied to both major and general education/graduation requirements. A student who changes their program of study while attending Butte College will default to the current active catalog year. Exceptions to these default catalog years may be made with counselor approval, provided that the major requirements or general education/graduation requirements are within the student's period of continuous attendance.

Continuous Attendance

Continuous attendance is defined as attending at least one primary or intersession academic term during the calendar year at an institution of higher learning accredited by an entity formerly known as a Regional Accreditor. This includes the following provisions:

- Courses for which a letter grade P, NP, CR, UG, S, U, SP W, MW, or EW are awarded will count toward meeting the continuous attendance requirement.
- Absence due to an approved educational leave will not be considered an interruption in attendance if the absence does not exceed two years.
- Students who have completed the required prerequisites for an impacted, application-based program at Butte College, have continuously applied at every eligible opportunity, and are awaiting acceptance, are considered in continuous attendance.

Exclusions

Students will not retain catalog rights for degrees or certificates that have been discontinued or archived by action of the Board of Trustees, even if they have catalog rights for a year that includes those courses, degrees, or certificates. Students do not retain catalog rights for Career Technical Education (CTE) degrees or certificates that have been substantially modified by action of the Board of Trustees to meet labor market, employer, program accreditation, or licensure requirements and must fulfill the requirements in the current catalog year. A CTE program will be deemed substantially modified by the program director or department chair. This determination will be communicated to the Office of Admissions and Records and the Office of Counseling and Advising so that certificates and degrees are not retroactively awarded for that CTE program, effective as of the catalog year determined by the program.

Exercise of Catalog Rights

The college will evaluate a student's eligibility for an award using the student's declared program of study and applied catalog year of record. Students who wish to invoke catalog rights to a program or catalog year other than their current declaration may do so by submitting a Catalog Rights Review Request form with documentation. The college will honor any such invocation that is consistent with this administrative procedure, subject to verifiable documentation of qualifying continuous attendance and program eligibility under the exclusions section above. Counselor approval is required for invocations involving an alternative catalog year within the student's period of continuous attendance.

Application of General Education (GE) and Graduation Requirement Courses

A course is typically applied to the GE area and graduation requirement that it was honored for at the time it was completed. Due to systemic changes in the structure of both local GE (starting in the 2024-25 Butte College Catalog as per Title 5 § 55061) and transfer GE (starting with Cal-GETC as per AB 928 in the 2025-26 Butte College Catalog), the following provisions are given to students who possess catalog rights that overlap with these transitions:

- Students who retain catalog rights to an award with CSU GE, IGETC, or the local (pre-2024/25) GE as the designated GE pattern may continue to use those patterns toward their degree or certificate, even if they complete courses in fall 2025 and beyond when those patterns are no longer published.
- Courses completed fall 2025 and beyond may be applied to historical GE patterns under catalog rights for their pre-2025/26 major, provided that they were on the corresponding GE pattern in the 2024-25 Butte College Catalog.

Students who transfer to another institution should be advised that their catalog rights may not be honored by this same standard. They are subject to the catalog rights policy of that institution.

Interpretation

The dean of instruction serves as the catalog rights officer and is responsible for day-to-day interpretation of this administrative procedure. Novel or contested interpretations are referred

to Academic Council. Academic Council interpretations are documented in writing and serve as precedent for subsequent cases.

Effective Date

This administrative procedure is effective fall 2026. Conferral decisions issued prior to the effective date remain governed by the administrative procedure in effect at the time of decision.