

Skyline College

Experimental Course Guidelines

(680 & 880 Courses)

Circumstances arise in which all aspects of a course cannot be judged without offering it on a trial basis. Departments may use the course numbers “680” or “880” to offer a course on an “experimental basis” before proposing its adoption, if successful, into the departmental curriculum with a regular course number.

Courses that are intended for transfer should use the number 680. The California State University accepts courses numbered 680 as elective credit for transferring students. Some campuses of the University of California may, at their option, accept Skyline courses numbered 680. Courses with a 680 number are also degree applicable for AA or AS degrees as electives and, therefore, must meet Title 5 regulations for degree-applicable courses. It is essential that experimental courses maintain the same standards and rigor as established curriculum. Experimental courses are not accepted to meet general education requirements or program major requirements for associate degrees or certificates.

Courses numbered 880 are non-transferable and not applicable to the associate degree. However, 880’s must also meet Title 5 requirements for non-degree-applicable courses.

Reasons for offering an experimental course might include

- The appeal or need for a course is unknown, and the only way to ascertain potential enrollment is to offer the course on a trial basis.
- New curriculum to meet business or community educational needs must be developed quickly.
- A department wants to “test the waters” with a new direction in curriculum.
- An experimental approach to instruction, such as collaborative instruction or service learning, can be assessed.

Experimental courses are submitted to the Skyline Curriculum Committee as new course proposals on CurricUNET.

Courses using a 680 or 880 number should be offered no more than three semesters. Moreover, after an experimental course has been offered more than once in the same year, it must be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for approval as a regular course, or the college must discontinue offering the course as experimental.

If a department wishes to offer the course on an ongoing basis, a regular departmental number must be assigned, necessary modifications must be made on CurricUNET, and Curriculum Committee approval for a new, ongoing course obtained.